

that of the mollusk to the mammal. The Chinese have therefore suffered an unbroken succession of defeats. We have come to the end of the war only to find that China lies prostrate, an invertebrate mass—a weak and vitiated dynasty, a corrupt and tyrannical mandarinat, and a leaderless and peculating people. The humiliation of China is a matter which no one except a partisan of savagery can for a moment regret. China now enters upon a far greater future for herself, with greater profit to England.

"It may be said that the Chinese are cowardly as well as corrupt; but it must be remembered, after all, that the dominance of Confucianism has something to do with the matter, and Confucius held all violence to be unbecoming. To this must be added the power of disintegration. The Chinese are not one people, but a collection of peoples. The people in the south cannot understand the speech of those in the north. Every province is independent, and its only real connection with its neighbour lies in a common submission to the Emperor. There has thus been no real, united, virile China. When Talleyrand said that Italy was only a geographical expression, he might have applied that saying with greater force to the Flowery Kingdom.

"The crushing of China and the rise of Japan have not been exactly simultaneous events. The one has occupied a few months, the other a number of years, but an incredibly small number; for the steps to this eminence have all been taken within the life of the present Mikado. It is a wonderful history, that of less than fifty years. Following Commodore Perry's expedition came the realization in Japan itself that feudalism must be broken down. With it were also broken down those inveterate superstitions which surrounded the person of the Mikado. To his credit be it said that in this

respect the present Mikado has done everything to show that he is infinitely more worthy of his rank than any of his predecessors. His steps, and those of his accomplished ministers, have ever been upward. These steps have been the humbling of insolent and grasping viceroys, the reduction of the rebellious Samurai, the establishment of a representative government and of a constitution, and, generally, the introduction of foreign methods of life and progress. Within the past year we have seen a semi-official recognition of Christianity, the abolition of extra-territoriality, and the assertion of Japan's right to regulate her own tariffs ratified by treaties, and now comes the conquest of China.

"This last event is far greater and more significant than one country's mere triumph over another. For the first time since the decline of Tamerlane's power we see an Oriental State rise to hegemony in Asia. This is accomplished without any intervention or assistance from Europe or America. A year ago such a transformation—above all, such an unaided transformation—would have been deemed impossible. We find, nevertheless, that the new power which has thus suddenly dazzled the world proposes to be not only conqueror but leader, that it will undertake single-handed the reconstruction of eastern Asia, and thus become a propaganda of what has already been attained by Japanese progress. Should this propaganda succeed, a whole hemisphere will arise out of the sloth of ages. As has been shown in Japan, so in Chinese countries Confucian civilization alone will be no match for a combination of that civilization with the broader, more practical, more intelligent, more moral progress of Christian nations. Yet, while paying full credit to everything gained from outside, the Japanese yield to none in self-respect