

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

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THE following pages will present to the reader a clear and eloquent narrative of two nations which now occupy the attention of the civilized world. Unhappily this interest is awakened by the fearful penalty of war. In such a war Americans have no thought, but that it may end in a lasting peace. There are no real points of difference between China and Japan. They belong to the same race—they have no antagonisms invoking the arbitration of the world. Divided, they become the prey of the ravening Western powers which, for two centuries, have rended Asia, making implacable warfare upon venerable civilizations.

Those who study the progress of this unhappy war will read in the pages of this volume many interesting lessons as to its probable effect upon our civilization. I have had occasion to recite some observations and experiences on this theme, which I may, in a measure, repeat as my best thought upon the larger consequences of the war and the influence which China, no matter what the outcome of the contest with Japan, cannot fail to impress upon the destinies of Asia, and perhaps the Western world.

And in this connection it is well to remember that two events in the Christian era stand out from all others as the most momentous of modern history—the overrunning of Asia and the invasion of Europe in the thirteenth century by Genghis Khan, and in the fourteenth century by Timur, or Tamerlane. These conquerors came from the same Tartar race which now governs the Chinese Empire.

Genghis was a son of a small chief, who lived beyond the Great Wall, the head of one of those nomadic tribes which still lead a semi-pastoral, semi-warlike life on the endless stretches of Mongolia. He was to conquer and bring under suzerainty Northern China, overrun Persia, and invade Russia, going as far as the Dnieper. Timur was the descendant of Genghis Khan. A century later Timur crossed the Tigris, captured Delhi, Damascus, Baalbec, and, marching his standards to the very gates of Moscow, cut a wider swath in his conquests than any warrior of modern times. These invasions were suc-