

proud waves be stayed." The advent of steam-propelled vessels and of manufacturing machinery revolutionised these old conditions.

EUROPE IS NOW A VAST FACTORY.

The home markets are no longer able to absorb all the home products. Hence has come a time when all the nations are seeking outlets for their industrial products, and competing with each other for territorial possession or for political power from and by which they hope to enlarge their foreign trade. Great Britain has played the most distinguished part in this movement which is remarkably illustrated by her relations with China. The Chinese have ever been exclusive. In 1604 and 1653 they refused to trade with the Dutch. It was nearly a century later before trade was allowed with England through the East India Company, which up to 1834 conducted all British commerce with China. Later efforts to enlarge trade led to the war of 1840-42, which resulted in Hong Kong being ceded to Great Britain, and the ports of Shanghai, Canton, Amoy and other places being opened to European traders. Although Christian missions were established in China five centuries ago, the resources of the Empire were little known. Specimens of its silks and porcelain of superb quality were held rather as curiosities than articles of commerce. Persons now living remember this. As late as 1857-58, even in 1870, serious conflicts arose between the Chinese and Europeans, caused by the dislike of China to foreigners and to foreign trade, the possibilities of which then began to be realized by England, France, and the United States. Where the carcass is there will the eagles and the bears gather.

THE RUSSIAN BEAR CLAIMS ITS SHARE.

Russia in 1860 compelled China to allow her Siberian railway to be extended through the Province of Manchuria, the objective point being Corea, which hangs down at the North West of the Yellow Sea, much as the Florida peninsula does in the Gulf of Mexico. By Russian diplomacy Corea became a protectorate of Russia, and by Treaty was enabled to enjoy an eastern port open all the year round. Corea was meant by Japan to be its prize of the war with China; naturally, therefore, its practical seizure by Russia was a very sore experience for Japan, which it will resent if ever an opportunity offers. The possession by Russia of Corea, and of a port in China, has aroused the jealousy of Germany. France also has had a visit from the "green-eyed monster," as her interests in China are in some peril from Russian intrigues and German movements. To placate the French a scheme was concocted to give up to France the Province of Yunnan, which lays to the extreme south west of China. This was not an agreeable prospect for Great Britain. It threatened a serious disturbance of British interests in Burmah. Its effect, if consummated, would have led to the practical exclusion of Great Britain from the trade of a large

part of the Chinese Empire, as Germany, Russia and France would have monopolised the entire commerce of two-thirds of the Provinces of China, and they would have established strongholds, menacing to all other powers, especially Japan and Great Britain.

POSITION OF JAPAN.

To Japan these European intrigues and movements were, as they yet are, highly offensive. The Japanese would declare war with Russia and Germany with enthusiasm, as they consider themselves robbed of the recompense of reward, for which they fought with China so gallantly, but at such an enormous cost. Japan ran down the game which a stronger dog is threatening to devour. "To the victors belong the spoils" says Japan, to which Russia replies: "Those spoils are ours by superior might, which, on your own principle, constitutes right." While all this manoeuvring is going on, looking to the partition and distribution of China like a Christmas turkey, the Empire which contains one-third of the world's population seems either unconcerned or paralyzed at its threatened fate. The Chinese always hated war; they were a vast "Peace Society," to their infinite honour; but, as this world is now constituted, a love of peace which leads to unpreparedness for war in self-defence is certain to invite aggressive attack.

CANADA IS VITALLY INTERESTED

in the aggressive designs of Russia, Germany and France in regard to China, so also are the United States. If the trade of China were to come under the control of those three powers to the extent threatened, the commercial intercourse of this continent with that Empire would be cut down to narrow limits. Other European nations also have their interests in Chinese trade threatened by the present movement. The drama just opening is one of stupendous possibilities. If there is a struggle over the partition of China, as is on the cards, it will be on a scale of greater magnitude than any recorded in history. The thunder of the war vessels on the coast of China would shake the world.

FIREPROOF BUILDINGS.

The conflagration in London by which one of the most valuable areas in the world was devastated, afforded an illustration of the saying: "for want of a shoe the horse was lost." When the buildings thereon were erected, and in their subsequent alterations, there seems to have been an entire absence of any intention to protect them from fire. Extensive blocks were so connected by "tunnels," or passage ways, as to render them practically one building without any means of isolating any individual warehouse in case of a fire. It is desirable that not only architects and builders should be fully informed as to the requirements of a building, to render it as far as possible fire proof, but that private proprietors who own, or propose to erect warehouses