

NEW JAPAN.



INTERIOR OF ASAKUSA TEMPLE, JAPAN.

THE wonderful change which has in the last few months taken place under our very eyes in the status of Japan has excited the wonder of the world. That a plucky little nation, which only yesterday, as it were, emerged from a mediæval feudalism, should challenge the oldest and most populous Empire in the world, with a population ten times its own, and in a few weeks, by an unbroken succession of victories, capture its strongest fortresses and many of its great cities, has excited the astonishment of mankind. We purpose giving a *resumé* of the opinions of expert authorities on this remarkable phenomenon and some of its probable consequences.

In an article on "New Power in the East," the *New York Outlook* says: "The most remarkable event of this end of the century has been the agreement upon terms of peace between Japan and China. The result of this event is not only to open China to commerce and civilization, but also to establish Japan as the leader of Asia, and on a par with any European State. Never in the world's history has there been such a sudden and satisfying manifestation of a new power.

"After the first encounters the low organization of the forces on the one side was convincingly contrasted with the high organization of those on the other: the resistance was but