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## THE JAPANESE SITUATION.

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**T**HE Japanese situation is growing critical for this country. In the present crisis, it would be well for the working class to look the matter in the face, for their own benefit. One thing should be evident to them and that is, that the Japanese question is an economic, and not a race question. Senator Perkins may assert that the American and the Japanese are “two irreconcilable races”; others may declare the ancient fallacy regarding the non-assimilation of the Occident and the Orient, but it should be remembered by workmen that assertions and declarations are not facts, no more than affidavits are lobsters. It is admitted, in diplomatic circles, that the present demonstration against this nation is only made possible by the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. The Americans have always prided themselves upon their alleged Anglo-Saxon descent. To Great Britain they have turned as the land of their fathers. Were there any truth in the assertion regarding the irreconcilability of Americans and Japanese, on racial grounds, the Anglo-Japanese Alliance would be an impossibility. This alliance contains those elements of mutual interchange that show the theory of irreconcilability to be untenable. And so also with the theory of non-assimilation. Were this theory also well-grounded, this alliance could not endure; nor would we behold the wonderful assimilation of western culture by modern China and Japan. On the other hand, neither would we witness the marvelous reaction, as witnessed in the influences of China and Japan on western art, scholarship, science, industry and statesmanship; and the intermarriages that have grown out of them; all of which have so far proven of the greatest advantage to the civilized race. It was but a few short months ago, that this country was ringing with the praises of Japan, and its wonderful contributions to progress, according to western ideals. Are these contributions no longer valid? Are we to spurn them now on some theory of irreconcilability and non-assimilation?

Assertions and declarations must give way to facts. Neither of the former touches the essence of the present crisis. That crisis revolves around the question of commercial supremacy in the Pacific. This crisis was forced by the pro-Russian attitude of the United States, in the settlement of the Japanese-Russo war. This attitude was detrimental, in its logical development, to the expansionist interests of both England and Japan in China. Its one result was to force the present Anglo-Japanese Alliance, with its attendant conflicts. California is but the opportunity to bring the crisis to an issue. If war comes, as there is every indication to believe it will, it will be, like all modern wars, war for foreign markets. The blame then, must fall on the damnable capitalist system. This system, by robbing the working class of the greater part of its products, makes foreign markets and wars inevitable. With these facts clearly before them, the American working class will not be enmeshed by race prejudices. Their cry will not be anti-Japanese, but anti-capitalist. They will exclaim, Down with Capitalism! On with International Solidarity!

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