

**THE STORY OF RUSSIA AND
THE FAR EAST, BEING A SERIES
OF PAPERS CONTRIBUTED TO
THE "SHANGHAI MERCURY"**

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The Story of Russia and the Far East, Being a Series of Papers Contributed to the "Shanghai Mercury" by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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A SERIES OF PAPERS

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*During the latter part of the year 1899,
with Five additional Chapters .
added in OCTOBER, 1902.*



With a Table of Chronology and a Map.



SHANGHAI:
OCTOBER, 1902.

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PREFACE.

IF a long residence in the Far East, a constant watching of the course of events, an intimate acquaintance with Far Eastern opinion, and plentiful reference to the latest writings on his subject in volumes and reviews are amongst the qualifications necessary to the preparation of even so modest a little volume as this, the writer may fairly lay claim to them all.

His object has been to provide the busy man with a story so short as not to trench too

heavily upon his time, the "man in the street" with an easily consulted summary of events up to date, and the student of contemporary politics with a condensed view of what is perhaps the *via media* between the two extremes of opinion held even in the British communities in China and Japan.

As the final pages are passing through the press, there is evidence that *The Story of Russia and the Far East* may speedily need new chapters. Great Britain is at war with the South African Republics, and Continental sympathy is with the subject, not with the suzerain. Taking advantage of this, it is said that Russia contemplates action at Herat, and in Persia. She is, also, almost at daggers drawn with Japan over Korean coast ports. The United States have declared for

the "open door" in China, and, with the Philippine rebellion as an excuse, are practically doubling their naval strength on this station. Japan is pressing forward her new construction with the utmost haste, while Russia is adding to hers.

That there has been a partial *rapprochement* between Japan and China is certain: how far it has gone is a profound secret at the moment. The Korean cloud is ominous, but it may not burst.

So far as the Siberian Railway is concerned the latest information points to continued activity in its construction. It is said to be certain, however, that long sections already "finished" will have to be relaid more solidly before regular traffic can begin.

Amongst the more recent works which the writer has

consulted may be mentioned *Russia on the Pacific* by "Vladimir," Curzon's *Problems of the Far East*, and *The Far East* by Henry Norman, together with most of the contributions bearing on the subject in all the recent English and American Reviews. The first is, however, by far the most important issued up to the present, and may confidently be recommended to all who have the time to spare to read it. On the importance of its subject the writer says: "For the future history of the world, the conquest of Siberia will be more important than most of the modern history of Russia." And, it may be added, on the immediate future of China and the Far East generally hangs the destiny of half the human race.

SHANGHAI, December 1899.