

CHAPTER IV.

OUR INTERESTS IN MANCHURIA.

THOSE who have done me the honour of even glancing through the preceding pages, cannot fail to have been struck by evidences of the extraordinary richness of Manchuria, the salubrity of its climate, the fertility of its soil, the magnificence of its forests, and the many indications of its mineral wealth. And when the observant reader remembers also what has been said in regard to the intelligence, the industry, and the energy of the inhabitants, and hears that these number not less than twenty millions, he will be able to agree with Mr. James and me, that we acted wisely in making so promising a country the field of our explorations. The events of the twelve years which have passed since we made our journey, the pressure which the Japanese have exerted on the one side, and the Russians on the other, and the