

remove our ships from it before it was even theirs, and of their then walking into it in the face of a powerful British fleet, seems astounding beyond all expression.

With these facts before us, we cannot doubt that our rights *are* threatened, and that if some period is not put to the tide of Russian aggressiveness, all our privileges in Manchuria will be swept away. We may still enjoy those indirect advantages which the substitution of Russian for Chinese civilisation in Manchuria will bring about, just as we enjoy certain advantages from the substitution of Russian for Turkish rule in Batoum. But we will not enjoy the full advantages to which we are entitled. If the Russians continue to hold the same ideas of expansion, and to carry them out with the same audacity and determination as heretofore, in a score or so of years Manchuria will be absorbed by Russia, and British trade will be excluded.

And what if it is? some will say. After all, our trade with Manchuria never will be more than a small fraction of the total trade of the British Empire, and would it be worth while for the preservation of that to run the risk of a war with Russia?