

aware himself that there are some very nasty chinks in his armour. And he knows, too, that there are others around him who would be only too glad to trip him up from behind.

If Russia absorbs China bit by bit, and at the same time regards our interests, we should be only too thankful; for the substitution of Russian for Mandarin government could in that case be nothing but advantageous. If Russia comes with an ally and attempts to absorb China for herself, regardless of our interests, as she at present seems inclined to do, then we also must bring up an ally on our side, to assist us in the protection of common interests. There are other nations besides ourselves interested in seeing that China does not become exclusively Russian, and among them it ought to be possible to find an ally. All I would urge from my experience of Asiatic countries is that the ally should be white, and not yellow; that we should not expend our resources in supporting a party who is incapable of supporting himself; that we should rather spend these resources in strengthening ourselves.

Perhaps, then, we may be permitted to hope