

CHAPTER XVIII

SEVEN PERILS OF HUMANITY—NUMBER SEVEN.

THE WHITE PERIL

WHEN rulership begins in human affairs peril begins. Public servants come only with successful democracy, and are blessings. But rulers are always a peril. The white race is the ruler of the good ship *Earth* and is a world peril. Of all the seven, the white peril is the greatest.

Japan is the only nation which is not ruled in ways more or less direct by the white race. Ushering in the era of discovery, the white race, finding the peoples in weakness and ignorance, made it an era of conquest, extermination, enslavement and exploitation.

This has never ceased. The grabbing of Tripoli is the latest of a horrid catalogue of which the conquest of Mexico may be taken as the first. Africa has been subdued and en-

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slaved. South America went to Spain and Portugal, where the whites, after establishing their prestige in landlordism and aristocracy cut loose from Spain and founded mixed-blood "republics" ruled and ruined by whites. Northern Asia and Mongolian Finland and Lapland have yielded to Russia; England, France and Holland have seized the South Seas, Farther India and Hindustan. Britain took and peopled North America, save for poor Mexico which crumbled into slavery under the Spanish conquistadors.

Only in lucky valorous Japan, in the Arabian and African deserts, and in mountain eyries like Nepal and Abyssinia are found free nations of brown, black or yellow men. The white man is at present supreme.

Our race accepted in Christianity the perfect system of ethics. It took the headship in intellect when it unrolled the marvelous book of modern science. It had a sublime opportunity to uplift the colored races in the era brought in by Columbus and Da Gama. At the wheel of the good ship *Earth* stood the

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white man steering it whither he would. He was captain. He had the firearms. He alone knew invention and science. He had the chart in the command "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," and he had the Golden Rule as compass. He knew the form of the ship—none other knew. To him was given the greatest opportunity ever known, the most fearful responsibility, the most awful opening for service. He had the chance to remake a world!

He failed. He refused the opportunity. He, as captain, betrayed his trust. Accepting the cloak of Christianity, the white race has denied Jesus a million times each hour. False followers of the Prince of Peace, the white race took to pagan lands undreamed-of engines of murder and unheard-of efficiency in it. Professing the faith which began in a crude communism which gave to each as he had need from those who possessed, and under which none wanted, the white races have not only not tried to extirpate poverty among themselves,

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but they have impoverished, enslaved and extirpated whole empires for money.

The white races accepted Christianity, and paganized it. They threw away the democracy of the Sermon on the Mount, and quarreling over the theology of Paul, followed Mars, Thor and Moloch as of old. They have never developed a Christian nation. Feared and hated all over the world, the white race is largely responsible for the imminence of the other world perils. Our very physiognomy is repulsive to people of other races—we are the Great White Beasts of humanity.

And now, as if to give us another chance for redemption, there is being revealed to the white race—and to it almost exclusively—the vision of democracy. This is the real Second Coming of Christ. This vision comes to an intellect in which honesty and candor have been deified through the redemptive grace of modern science. So the crisis of the white peril is on, in the question as to whether the white race will be true to Christianity as re-

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vealed in democracy, or will be false to it as it was to its first revelation.

It is not too late for the white peril to be turned into the hope of the world. It may be. We have lost the confidence of the other passengers on the good ship *Earth*, and we can win it again only by bringing our governments up to our highest ideals and living down our past. Not until we have so lived our Christianity and our democracy that our purposes shall be known to be pure, and not until we have extirpated our unchristian poverty and oppression, can we expect our brother races to believe in us as true soldiers of the common good.