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EDITORIAL

THE MESSIANIC AGE.

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IT is doubtful whether at any other period of the world's history the Messianic fervor animated so many nations at once. Hardly a nation there is that has not some time in its history felt the Messianic fire. In these days of ours, however, the fire is breaking out simultaneously on several parts of the globe's surface.

In China a new national hymn, inspired, no doubt, by the Japanese victories over Russia, has sprung up during recent years. There is a sharp edge to it. A strophe thereof runs this wise:

“Oh, may our country, like a lion awakened, rise to its full might, and shake off the oppressor. May it take its place among nations, like a beautiful sister among her sisters in her father's house. May it be powerful like England and great like America. May its harvests shed plenty upon the toilers and its people's face shine with oil of contentment. May that day soon come. Oh, it is coming!”

Then, in connection with certain ominous recent happenings in South Africa, the news comes of a prophecy that is running like wild-fire through the valleys and the mountain slopes of the Zulus. It is this:

“A great war will come, and the spirits of your ancestors shall arise from the mists, and, led by those great chiefs, Mozelkatzie, Dingaan, Hilsa, Zanditi, and Masesh, they will aid their descendants to drive the white man into the sea.”

As a third nation, that is being moved by the Messianic afflatus, Russia naturally suggests herself. But the mention of Russia in this connection as naturally suggests a still vaster country, a country that embraces Russia, a nation that takes in a vast portion of the globe—THE PROLETARIAT. Its hymn is the Right to Labor; its prophecy the Emancipation of the Working Class from Wage

Slavery, and, with it, the redemption of the Human Race; the strain to which it marches keeps step with all the noblest aspirations of all ages—realizable only now.

This, truly, is the true Messianic Age.

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