

Justice to England =



A Country Which is Entitled to Respect
= and Worthy of Admiration =



MONG the many pleasant and gratifying circumstances arising out of the Jubilee demonstrations last month none have been more agreeable than the changed attitude of the press of the United States towards the grand old mother-land—their mother as much as ours—and particularly towards the noble woman whom all have delighted to honour. Of course there are still a few unfortunate exceptions, but these are lost sight of in the general chorus of congratulatory appreciation, for even the *New York Sun*, which in the past has made itself supremely ridiculous by its senseless and inane screeching, as purposeless and absurd as the baying of a dog at the moon, even the poor foolish old *Sun* has shown signs of sanity, and as for the more respectable papers, the journals that honestly represent the true manhood and womanhood of the great daughter-republic, these have without exception spoken editorially in the most kindly manner, often to a degree that is even filially affectionate, and in so doing have done honour to themselves and those for whom they speak.

At such a time it is even more pleasant to recall a letter which appeared in the *Boston Herald* a year ago last October, at a time when praise of the dear old mother was not as popular as it is now. This letter has the right ring about it; it states the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and in doing so sets forth the position of England to-day in words that will awake a thrill of joyous endorsement in the heart of each Barnardo girl and boy. We offer no apology for reproducing the article here.

The letter was originally addressed to the *Boston Journal* under the heading "Justice to England; a Country which is Entitled to Respect and Worthy of Admiration." The *Journal*, unfortunately for its own reputation for square dealing, refused to publish it, and the *Herald* manfully came to the rescue and gave it place in its columns. It reads as follows:—

"*Editor Boston Journal:*

"DEAR SIR,—I read your paper, appreciate its push and cleanliness, and, believing that the best and most intelligent element of society should rule, agree in the main with its politics. I do not fancy, however, your continuous sneer at England, and, indeed, at almost everything English. There is scarcely an edition of the *Journal* printed which does not contain one or more sarcastic and unseemly allusions to England, her government, her policy or her people.

'According to the *Boston Journal*, England in the past has been a most brutal bully, and is at present a most craven coward, a nation incapable of unselfish thought, whose friendship is to be feared, and whose diplomacy is a tissue of deceit and duplicity. And such vile abuse of a friendly people, linked to us by so many ties of blood and kindred, you 'a moulder of thought,' deliberately designate 'intense Americanism.' Pardon me, I hardly think it is; for it is simply inconceivable how the 'real American,' bright and brainy men and women who give tone to society and energy to enterprise in every portion of this most favored land, men and women to whose culture and character we

are indebted for the splendid civilization we enjoy, and who can trace an unbroken descent to the Mayflower and to the Conqueror, could entertain a proposition so monstrous, by endorsing your untruthful and always insulting comments on the character of the country and of the people from whom they fortunately sprung.

"It is unfortunately true—as you repeatedly assert—that England, during her long and marvellous career as a 'land grabber,' if you will, has at times been unjust and perhaps tyrannical, but you must admit, in her great and daring undertakings in every part of the globe, as the pioneer in civilization and consequent trade—her main object—often with savage tribes and nations who only respect force, such a course was, in the misty past, unavoidable, and is even so now. It is also very true, indeed, as you say, that at no time in the records of their wondrous advance have Englishmen been faultless, nor are they now, but you will, I am sure, on reflection allow that such is true of every country and of every people. England never had, and has not now, a monopoly in 'land grabbing'; it is common to all countries, savage and civilized; nor has any country or people an exclusive claim to fair dealing and propriety. Nor is she, as you assert, the modern bully of the world, ever pouncing upon a weak neighbour. History has no record of England's fear of foes, great or small, and to-day, despite the significant alliance of France and Russia, she promptly stops the latter's advance on the Pamirs of Afghanistan with the same quiet determination with which she exacts tribute at Corinta, quite heedless of the Monroe doctrine, and why? Because in both cases she is right, and in all cases will be found 'ready.'

"I assert with confidence England is to-day without a peer in history, and for the following reasons entitled to the respect and admiration of mankind. The British empire is the greatest, because it is the richest, the proudest, the bravest, the most powerful, the most peaceful, the best equipped and the best governed on which the sun rises, and because it is the only empire on which that luminary never sets; for more than a thousand years her flag has braved the battles of every country and the breeze of every clime, and now, at the end of that long and trying ordeal, during which most countries have changed their boundaries and many have disappeared from the maps, England, though often deserted by friends and always surrounded by foes, has not only held her own, but has steadily increased her proportions, her power, her prestige, her wealth, her influence, the material welfare and happiness of her people, and directly and indirectly the peace, progress and prosperity of the whole world.

"Wherever England has hoisted her flag and planted a colony, her people have prospered as the people of no other nation ever have. India, Africa, Australia, North and South America, and, permit me to add, 'this glorious land of ours,' are living and model examples of the courage, energy, skill and indomitable perseverance of the English race. She has, as the result of ages of toil and trial, evolved and matured a civilization unequalled in the universe, has carried it to the uttermost ends of the earth, and has there maintained it against all odds and against all enemies. Though not much larger than Massachusetts, Britain

is to-day envied by all and feared by most nations, not one of whom would, single-handed, dare attack her, and no two could subdue her in the life of an average man. She steadily employs and feeds nearly forty millions of people, she is the money centre and financial barometer of the whole world, and her trade and commerce nearly equals that of most other nations combined.

"Though the most Protestant, yet, confident in her strength, she is the most tolerant of nations; without question or price, the refugee of any and of all countries finds shelter in England. There the socialistic Gentile, the hunted Jew or the persecuted Jesuit can flee and find a home and protection; none have ever been proscribed because of their 'poverty,' their politics, their race or religion. Can any other nation boast a like freedom? Only one condition is exacted, 'obey the law,' for England is governed by law, not by mood or sentiment. Her seats of learning are now, as they have been for centuries, storehouses of the rarest and choicest lore, and mentally and morally the best equipped in Christendom. From their portals have come forth the broadest, most learned and fearless divines, the ablest jurists, the soundest and most prolific writers, the most profound thinkers, and the sweetest poets the world has ever seen, men whose opinions and decisions are standard and are quoted unquestioned wherever civilization prevails, and whose melody will last as long as our language.

"England has produced from Somers to Pitt, from Canning to Salisbury, a long line of the most far-seeing and most incorruptible statesmen on record, and from Marlborough to Clive, Wellington and Wolesley, from Howard to Rooke, Blake and Nelson, the most renowned warriors. She has fought from Agincourt to Cressy, from Blenheim to Ramilles, from Waterloo to Inkerman, from the Armada to La Hogue, from Camperdown to Copenhagen, and from St Vincent to Trafalgar, and has never yet met a disgraceful defeat. And to-day, with Europe an armed camp envious of her greatness and anxious for her downfall, and America—men of her blood and brawn—showing its unjust, unwarranted and unnatural spleen, England, proud of her traditional greatness, her loyal and prosperous possessions, and of the pluck and policy that have won them, and confident of her ability to safeguard every interest, serenely contemplates her 'magnificent isolation,' and with the modest admonition, 'Ready, aye, ready,' calmly awaits the result.

"That England did not subdue her rebellious colonies of 1776, to which you so frequently and triumphantly refer, is not at all surprising; the English people voiced by the great Chatham had little heart in that war or in fighting or downing their own kindred, 'nor would they succeed if they had,' for the men who resisted the tyrant act of a stupid Dutch king, and on the green of Lexington and of Concord defended their rights, liberties and homes, were Englishmen in everything but name. They were more: they were the lineal descendants of that famous God-fearing band of Puritanic heroes who, in a hundred fights, followed the 'Protector' to sure victory; 'Men,' says the historian Macaulay, 'who always shouted with joy on coming in sight of the foe, who never failed, not only to conquer, but to crush every force brought against them, and whose backs no enemy had ever seen.' Defeat by the grandsons of such men was no disgrace to England.

"In the arts, science, poetry, letters, law, learning, England has no superior to-day, and never had one. Wherever her flag flies life and property are secure, civil and religious liberty respected, and law and order are sure to prevail; and, though her hundreds of millions of population are separated by thousands upon thousands of miles, yet the stern justice and certain discipline of that 'tight little isle' is so