

THE CANADA  
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY  
AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

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APRIL, 1896.

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TWO WAR-SCARES IN ENGLAND.

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SPENDING the last three months in England I witnessed the effects upon the English nation of Cleveland's declaration and the German Emperor's telegram to the Transvaal government. I was immensely struck with the two incidents, because it is oftentimes asserted that the martial character of the British is in decline; and truly the British as a people are languid and apathetic, resembling more than anything else the demeanour of the royal animal which the race has chosen for its symbol. But this languidness and apathy is very deceptive, the blazing wrath of a great people slumbers beneath it, and I saw the flames leap up and illuminate the national character with the fierce red light of war.

The reception of the American President's manifesto was moderate; the people realized that scarce a gun need be fired to admonish the United States of North America. A blockade of the ports of the British Isles against American produce, whether carried in British or American bottoms, appeared the proper and least costly solution of the problem of war with the States. This would be followed by the most complete and active demoralization of American securities and finances in the history of the United States. Although the United States is a great

country in theory, it is weak actually; its external liabilities are enormous. The history of all nations with a vast external debt makes it clear that they are vulnerable and weak to a degree that minimizes and practically removes the danger of aggressive war on their creditors. The English realized all this and on the whole, treated Cleveland's manifesto as an eccentricity. I imagine that there is in some degree an analogy between this action of the American President and the past tactics of some of the crowned heads of Europe. The Emperor Napoleon III. and many European monarchs before him were masters of the art of turning the national eye from internal corruption, and the chaos of national finances by demonstrations or even war-like declarations against neighbors. The internal condition of the States; its scandalous and improper laws relating to sound money, the enormous pressure of debt upon the toiling populace, the subtle transition from a home-owning, free and independent people to a tenant-holding people, the creation of a class of large land-owners, and the revival of the old European feudal baronies and lordships of the manors in an altered guise, but equally as grinding and