

purely illusory, at all events far short of a grant even of real local independence. It certainly falls short of fulfilling the description of being a reproduction of the constitution and status of Canada. Still the new constitution contained the seeds of better things. It would have given the Cuban people (if they had proved worthy of their opportunities), an excellent standing-ground for working towards larger developments.

The bona fides of an autonomic constitution, however, can never be fairly tested in the presence of an overawing foreign army. The law of England enacted that garrisons should be withdrawn during an election. It was not illogical or unreasonable that the United States Congress should demand that Spain should make good her pretensions by withdrawing her army, so that the native Cubans might be able to put their new constitution to a free test. But it seemed to be also required, by the same logic, that the demand should be accompanied by a bona fide undertaking on the part of the United States to restrain their own people from interference, equally prejudicial to the experiment.

But at this moment, as if an extraneous demoniac hand had intervened, occurred the overwhelming disaster of the Maine. In the presence of a tragedy, men are not in the mood for business methods. The primitive passions of humanity were appealed to and thenceforth inevitably governed the action. The conviction of foul play was but disputably founded on the facts in evidence. But the *prima facie* bearing of the facts supported the conviction. At all events it took irresistible possession of the minds of the American people. Assuming that conviction, there would have been something ignoble in a nation accepting money damages as compensation for such a villainy perpetrated upon its defenceless sailors. It was a more chivalrous determination that nation should answer to nation; that the offender's flag should be torn from the spot where such a crime had been permitted under its protection; that the scene of the tragedy should be made a deodand to the Manes of the victims.

The mass of the American people cannot be blamed for following the unanimous judgment of their experts, even if the judgment was in fact not well founded; still less can they be censured for insisting on the only adequate and dignified remedy. The people obeyed their hearts and are blameless. But it is the duty of Governments to control the heart by the head; it is their proper office to make passion conform to justice. Crime calls for punish-