

**ANGLO-SAXON SUPREMACY.**

It is not surprising that, in so large a country as the United States, considerable sympathy should be expressed with the Boers, nor that meetings for the purpose of giving vent to this feeling and incidentally denouncing Great Britain should attract a large number of descendants of the Dutch and Germans. No fair-minded man will deny these people the right to fling whatever they feel into words. The Boers have won the admiration even of their enemies by showing splendid fighting capacity, marvellous if somewhat reprehensible strategy, and artillery resources that were not dreamed of. But the rabid supporters of the South African Republic who are holding meetings to enable them to pass resolutions of sympathy with our enemies are not likely to succeed in their self-appointed task of educating "the press of New York and the rest of the country" to tell the truth as to the feelings of the American people by asserting that their newspapers are subsidized by Great Britain to convey the impression that there is an extremely friendly feeling between the United States and Great Britain. Yet a certain Judge George M. Van Hoesen, of whose existence Canadians were probably hitherto quite ignorant, has brought this terrible charge against the press of the neighbouring Republic, and, worse still, he wants President McKinley to tell Queen Victoria that she cannot dictate to the people of the United States, and that their policy will not be determined by the gilded lordlings of Downing Street. But Judge Van Hoesen cannot surely complain if we decline to subscribe to his belief that Lord Salisbury has subsidized the American press to say nice things about Great Britain. We have just as much right to assume that Sousa, the great composer of exhilarating march music, was secretly employed by the British Government to set Anglo-Saxon pulses tingling with brotherly love by his stirring composition "Hands Across the Sea." We fear this legal friend of the Boers has no evidence to support his charge against the American press.

At the same time we are glad that these meetings are being held, as it has encouraged us to read the offending newspapers more closely for the purpose of ascertaining what they pronounce to be public opinion in the States. We frankly admit that there is no sign of subsidized "gush" in these New York papers. It is true that some of them praise the people of the United Kingdom for showing calmness, resolution and self-restraint under reverses of a particularly galling kind. But when the question of what should be the attitude of the United States in the event of any unfriendly demonstration against the British Empire is discussed by the American press, sentiment and sympathy play a small and insignificant part as compared with the arguments advanced by a nation of shrewd practical business men. There is a world of common-sense in the editorial request of the New York "Commercial Bulletin" of the 19th inst. for a frank popular recognition of the fact that "a blow to British prestige could

hardly fail to react on the material prosperity and political influence of the United States."

And even if we think there is no good reason for the under-current of anxiety noticeable in these expressions of fear for the future of the great and glorious Empire whose responsibilities and duties we now share, it is pleasing to our national pride to have the best journals in the United States incurring the enmity of Judge Van Hoesen and other Boer sympathizers by the following candid admission of the strength of the ties that bind two great countries together:—

"Should Great Britain cease to be the power she is, Germany would be compelled to go over to the other side, and the United States would have to be content with whatever the great military powers might concede to her of trading privileges or treaty rights. There can be as little question that the continued existence of the British Empire in its present form is necessary to the progress of humanity toward the reign of freedom and equality before the law, as that it is necessary to the unimpeded development of the United States. England and her colonies and dependencies buy from us now 60 per cent. of all we sell abroad. Wherever British power goes, the commercial enterprise of all nations may follow on equal terms. Whatever may be the future of the outlying divisions of the Empire, none of them, except by international sufferance, is yet strong enough to stand alone, and it is only as parts of that Empire that they can continue to present the commercial opportunities which they now offer to us. If we have no generous emotion to spare for our most sincere friends, we may at least feel some concern for the future of our best customers."

The material prosperity of the United States combined with concern for the welfare of "customers" will lead many of our neighbours to follow with favouring sympathy the progress of our arms in South Africa, even if those whose sympathy with the Boers makes them denounce Great Britain have already forgotten that, but for the attitude of the British Government at the beginning of the Spanish-American war, there would have been an intervention of European powers on behalf of Spain.

We have no quarrel with a public sentiment among our neighbours that regards the struggle of the Transvaal as that of a free Republic against an aggressive and unscrupulous foe. On the contrary, it is gratifying to note the signs of this sympathy with the Boers, tending as it does to extort an acknowledgment from far-seeing journalists that Anglo-Saxon supremacy means an influence tending to progress and civilization, and the consequent expansion of the trade and commerce in which our neighbours are so greatly interested.

**MUTUAL RESERVE FUND LIFE ASSOCIATION.**

Members of the Mutual Reserve are being notified by circular signed by the Vice-President that the general opinion of those interested favours the adoption of a uniform rate of premium, and that the interests of the Association will be advanced by the change to stable rates with reserve for maintaining same.