

of how good a thing it would be if some of our troops could only go over into the States and assist in the celebration of the birthday of the Republic ; but he confessed he hardly dared to hope for it. But still it had come to pass ; and the fact that it had come about in the way it did was reason for special gratitude and joy. For it was not the mere obeying of the mandate of some monarch—it was no trader's or hotel-keeper's scheme, nor the scheme of zealous railroad agents or plotting politicians—the mere politician was conspicuous only from his entire absence. Not that it had no political significance—it had. To those who can see the drift and bearing of natural human, social movements, it had great political significance, though not designedly so. It was the simple, natural carrying out of the friendly desire to fraternize of men who have no pecuniary or political ends to subserve ; men who, on the one side and on the other, if there were any soldierly work to be done, would be the men fearlessly to attempt it, and take all the risk.

It is remarkable how many great movements and events in history have their rise in small and apparently unimportant incidents. And I should not wonder if the men who inaugurated the pleasant international exchange of courtesies were building wiser than they knew. The tendency, at least, must be in the direction of a better understanding of each other as peoples. The men who came face to face the other day have *more* and not *less* respect for each other than they had before, and they have a more kindly feeling toward each other. Neither did the patriotism nor the self-respect of either party suffer loss. British subjects thought no less of their Queen and country because they witnessed the exulting patriotism of American citizens. I think we came back no less British if more cosmopolitan in our sympathies, and more hospitable to the ideas of our neighbors. I should be utterly ashamed of my nationality if I thought that the carrying out of its ideas, principles and policies meant anything less permanent than the Eternal Right, or anything less comprehensive than the rights of man. As my religious ideas and principles are broader and deeper than any denominationalism or sectarianism, so are my political sympathies more comprehensive than any merely national interests. I can hardly think that that soul has drunk very deep at the fountain of Eternal Truth and Love whose motto can be "Our Country, Right or Wrong." That, to my thought, is little short of atheism—surely a part of the greed of demagogism. GOD and the RIGHT are above, and greater than *our* country, or than all countries together ; and when my country is not in the right, I should consider myself a traitor to God, and, indeed, to my country's best interests, if I should stand by her in her policy of pursuing what was not right.