

We would like to believe that the two great English speaking nations are "bound together by ties of peculiar sanctity and firmness, ties closer than those that unite any other nations on earth." Yet the report of the meeting in question is calculated to make us pause before placing absolute reliance upon the sympathy and friendship of our republican neighbours.

However, if the "great heart of the American people" is the only thing that "goes out" to the Boers, we have nothing to fear. The presence at this meeting of an Illinois senator with a reputation for having a long tongue and an empty head engenders a suspicion that "the great heart" referred to is the same one that "goes out" to poor Aguinaldo, leading him to believe that the foolish folk who abuse all countries but their own are really "the American people."

**Boers are not Barbarians.** The constant repetition of stories recording instances of treachery and disregard of the rules of war on the part of our enemies in South Africa is likely to lead a large number of people into accepting such incidents as proof that the Boers are cruel, savage, brutal and destitute of pity or humanity. That such is not the general character of the people is pleasingly illustrated by an agent of the New York Equitable Assurance Society, who has just returned from Pretoria. He says that the thousands of spectators at the Pretoria railway station when the British prisoners captured at Nicholson's Nek arrived were ordered by the Boer commandant to uncover their heads. The astonished British returned the salute.

Such an exhibition of "tenderness for the feelings of others" will astonish more than the captured soldiers. It is safe to deduce from such an incident that, following the carnage, misery and wretchedness of this war, there will come a better understanding by the world of a people hitherto regarded as semi-barbarians.

They will make good British colonists.

**Trial by Jury.** Insurance journals on both sides of the Atlantic have been discussing a curious case, and one likely to gain converts for those who advocate the abolition of trial by jury. A youthful Pittsburg widow has been suing various life assurance companies for about \$22,000, which the most interested parties refuse to pay, alleging that her husband committed suicide. But the claimant has so many graces of form and feature that

"All the admired beauties of Verona"

cannot have pleased the senses and delighted the esthetic faculties of the gallants of their day to a greater degree than this pretty Pittsburg widow does the impressionable jurymen. The men impaneled and sworn to enquire into the facts, and to declare the truth on the evidence given them in this case, absolutely de-

cline to believe that the husband of such a beautiful woman could volutarly exchange her warm kisses for the cold embrace of death. They cannot credit that any man could commit suicide when he had so much loveliness in his possession on earth.

Altogether the case is likely to strengthen the growing objections to trial by jury. Under the circumstances prevailing in this curious case, it would certainly seem to be desirable, when the appeal of the companies is next heard, to veil the charms of the claimant from her admiring countrymen, who are evidently just as impressionable as soft-hearted Britishers when beauty enters the witness box.

**Professor Bell on Canada.** Professor Alexander Graham Bell has placed humanity under such a load of obligation to the inventive skill or ingenuity which gave the world an original contrivance for annihilating distance that we hesitate to quarrel even with his statement that "the real feeling of Canada is towards annexation" with the United States. Professor Bell, when expressing his opinions about Canadian loyalty at a recent interview at Boston, was not speaking through the telephone, but he will pardon us for saying he was talking through his hat. Although he has been for many years the owner of a delightful summer retreat in beautiful Cape Breton, and passes long days of recreative idleness floating about the Bras d'Or lakes in a house-boat, he has evidently failed to catch "the real feeling" of the people of Baddeck, Whycomagh, Boularderie Island and the two Sydneys. We regard this with the greater pity, because he and his family have done much for the improvement of the kindly folk who so delighted Charles Dudley Warner. If, as he says, the Island of Cape Breton only furnished one recruit for the first Canadian contingent, it was not due to want of loyalty. It is quite likely that very few of the men in the counties of Inverness, Victoria, Richmond and Cape Breton understood the call to arms. It is quite certain that the Gaelic speaking people did not. But, if Professor Bell wishes to test the loyalty of the fishermen, farmers and traders of Cape Breton, he cannot do better than exhibit his ignorance of the nature and "real feeling" of these Highlanders at a gathering of the clans to be held in front of his lovely summer home near Baddeck. But, before questioning the loyalty of Cape Breton at any such meeting, he would do well to pause. It is difficult to comprehend how Professor Bell can have formed such erroneous opinions about Canada.

**Canada Also:**

Regarding some ironical observations of the "Baltimore Underwriter" respecting British fire companies, the "Policy-Holder," an excellent English journal, says the same is reproduced in its columns "on the principle of seeing ourselves as others see us." We now reproduce the remarks of our American contemporary, so that