

## WHAT CAN BE SAID FOR ENGLAND?

The position taken by the British Government has been grossly misrepresented in the press, and, I fear, often deliberately. But whether or not the result is the same.

Of such ridiculous charge as that England planned to acquire the Transvaal because of the gold fields no serious minded person need take notice. Mr. Chamberlain disposed of that theory in these words:

"I can hardly find patience to answer a slander so wicked and so stupid. These gentlemen—what do they know of England? What do they know of that great Colonial system which now for many years has precluded us from making any pecuniary gain from the possessions of the British Crown, from our fellow-subjects in our colonies and dependencies?"

"We ask no ransom; we exact no tribute; we have nothing directly to gain by a war which will transfer to us a territory not at present ours."

"And these critics of ours, what do they know of England? What do they know of the principles that govern our action if they think that there exists among us any Government or any Minister so base as to carry into their country an unjust and unnecessary war for some personal or even for some national interest? What do they know if they are not aware that the generous instincts of the whole people would intervene to frustrate his nefarious designs, and send him skulking into obscurity, discredited and dishonored by such a policy?"

It is said that England claimed the right to dictate to the Boers that they should grant the franchise to the Outlanders, and what sort of franchise it should be. Nothing could be more untrue. There is not a word in the despatches or the proceedings at Bloemfontein to warrant such a statement.

England, it is true, pleaded with the Transvaal to enfranchise the deserving Outlanders, as an act of justice, in the interest of peace, for the good of the Transvaal itself; *but her only demand was that before bidding her devoted subjects depart she should be satisfied that their cries for bread would not be answered with a stone.*

Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Alfred Milner are accused of adopting a bullying tone toward the Boers. I detect nothing of the kind in the despatches or the discussion at Bloemfontein. On the contrary the language of England's representatives was singularly forbearing under great provocation.

Listen again to Mr. Bryce, one of Mr. Chamberlain's bitterest opponents. More than two years ago he wrote:—