

British-Israel's Friends and Foes.

Oxonian in December Covenant People.

That we possess, as was predicted of Israel, the "gates" of them that "hate" us has been long emphasized by our veteran Anglo-Israel editor, as a prominent item of the identification of Great Britain with that Israel. An equally cogent argument may be derived from the undeniable fact that they (the continental nations) do "hate" us.

It will be remembered that, when our whole national energies were taken up with the effort to rescue Gordon, Russia took that step on towards Herat which brought her so much nearer us in Asia. So now, at the moment of our national emergency in the South, the nations are anxiously watching their opportunity to inflict some humiliation upon Great Britain.

Russia, we learn in a despatch from St. Petersburg, to the *Daily Mail*, dated November 2nd, is hurrying up her railway schemes in Persia. A Russian engineer of eminence has been nominated chief of the future Russian State Railway in Persia, and has started, with thirty assistant engineers, for the purpose of completing the already commenced survey for the line from the Caspian to the Persian Gulf. The consolidation of Russia's iron grip upon Persia is one of the predicted preliminaries to her launching her war hosts against that rival Power which is the object of her perpetual jealousy.

A *Globe* correspondent reported on "the struggle for Persia," under date October 19th, as follows:—

"It is a noteworthy fact, and one which is particularly typical of Russian methods, that scarcely a day is allowed to pass at present without the Russian Press calling the attention of the authorities to the fact that now is the time for Russia to set to work with regard to Persia. The recent construction of what may be regarded virtually as a Russian military road from the Caspian Sea to Teheran, and the announcement that a Russian colonel has just been appointed by the Shah to reorganize the Persian cavalry, are in themselves sufficient evidence of Russia's fixed intention to set to work openly with a view to establishing its power throughout the Shah's territory.

Russian sympathy with the Transvaal is demonstrated by the news telegraphed from St. Petersburg on November 4th, that the Russian administrative authorities have granted to the students of the University of St. Petersburg and to the officials of the different Governmental and public institutions, authorisation to open subscriptions in aid of the Boers.

On the 6th the Paris *Figaro* intimated a sudden rise in the premiums charged for the insurance of British transports against war risks, arising from

a possible conflict between Great Britain and Russia, and it regards this as showing that the English insurance companies regard a rupture between the two countries as not improbable. The journal remarks that while Great Britain has nothing to fear from European action in Africa, there are on the other hand several points on the Indian frontiers where Russian armies would have nothing to fear from the British fleet.

It is not only Russia that is on the alert. "All Europe," says a Vienna paper (as reported by the *Globe* of November 3rd) "is anxiously awaiting an opportunity of taking advantage of England's weakness at the Cape to hit her elsewhere." Sir Charles Dilke, in the first number of the *Review of the Week*, while discrediting the possibility of any general coalition against us at present, yet admits that it might be formed secretly, and avers that at the present moment we are more generally hated than ever. It is a case of "all Europe" associated as "them that hate us."

We take the following from a lucid article in the *Daily Telegraph* of November 3rd, headed

"FOREIGN PRESS AGAINST ENGLAND."

"The persevering way in which most Continental newspapers mistake the acts of our Government, distort its aims, and falsify its policy surpasses belief. In France and Russia in particular, the grotesqueness of their caricatures verges on the impossible. As for the 'facts' with which they satiate the curiosity of their readers, they sound to us who know them like the ravings of a patient in the second stage of typhus. Here is an instance taken from the most popular paper in France, the *Petit Journal*. Describing the 'horrors' perpetrated by the 'treacherous English,' this pillar of fire throws light on our crimes for the edification of its countrymen; 'The English paralysed the Sultan by the war with Greece, which was likewise their handiwork. In France where we were on the look-out for English tricks, they actually got up the whole Dreyfus affair, as well as several of its side issues.

... In Abyssinia they first cajoled Menelik and then egged on Ras Mangascia to march against him. In Uganda these hypocrites went the length of provoking the massacre of their own missionaries in order to acquire thereby the right of annihilating the whole aboriginal race and making themselves masters of Matabeleland. And those are but a few of the horrors perpetrated by these civilizing shopkeepers! Such are the stories which are repeated day after day by most of the journals in France."

We need not be surprised to find Russian newspapers chiming in, to the same tune.

"For instance, the *Novoye Vremya* writes (Oct. 16-28, 1899): 'Russia's sympathies have ever been on the side of the weak and oppressed. To stand up for such is ever the historic mission of our fatherland. Hence it is nowise strange that Russians should express their sympathy for the Boers, and that subscriptions for medical aid to the Boers