

admit Germany's claim, were they not afraid of being overshadowed by her. That fear would be dispelled by Anglo-American reunion. If this were offered, Britain would at once give Germany a free hand. (pp. 10 et 11.)

Tout ceci se passe de commentaires. Le plus pur des pangermanistes ne dirait pas mieux. Sans aucun doute, personne ne voudrait s'opposer à ce que l'Allemagne ait une "adequate sphere of influence" à condition qu'elle s'établisse sans empiéter sur l'indépendance des autres et conformément aux règles du Droit et de la Justice. D'autre part, personne ne sera disposé à se dépouiller, et cela pas plus entre Etats qu'entre particuliers, "in order to live with the most comfortable neighbor."

Mais là où Herr Robert Stein va jusqu'au sublime, c'est quand il parle de la Belgique! Si ses connaissances sont maigres en politique internationale et en Droit public, il possède au moins un grand savoir: celui de dire beaucoup de sottises, en peu de mots. Nous reproduisons intégralement ce passage, publié p. 13, sous le titre charmant de "BIRDS OF A FEATHER", car de si belles pensées doivent passer à la postérité, pour l'ahurissement des générations futures:

To discuss the conditions of peace would be premature. Two conditions, however, are so essential to the permanence of peace that the opportunity of calling attention to them must not be neglected.

To restore such an artificial political structure, such an apple of discord, as the kingdom of Belgium, merely to keep up the name, would be a monumental absurdity. If King Albert must have a kingdom, let him be king of Poland, with three times as many subjects as he had before. The French-speaking Belgians wish to be French; let them be French. They cut loose from Holland in 1830 for the express purpose of joining France, and would have done so but for British opposition. The Dutch-speaking Belgians wish to be Dutch; let them be Dutch. According to the "Vlaamsche Volksraad," their slogan is "Weg met Belgenland! Leve de Scheiding!" (Away with Belgium! Cheers for separation!) If Flemish Belgium, with the Belgian Congo, be allowed to combine with Holland into a Greater Netherlands, united with Germany in a customs union, Britain will not feel that a pistol is pointed at her heart from Antwerp. Germany, on the other hand, can calmly wait till Greater Netherlands, as genuinely German as Germany herself, grows tired of her separation from the rest of Germandom, and till Britain, under the sedative influence of the Quadruple Alliance and of Anglo-American reunion, recovers from her nervous alarms at Germany's supposed designs, and returns to her millennial affection for the "Older England." This, therefore, is an arrangement to which both parties can safely agree. Render unto France the things that are French, and unto Holland the things that are Dutch.

Et le morceau relatif aux Balkans peut faire le pendant!

En lisant ces lignes, on ne sait que supposer! Est-ce écrit par erreur? Est-ce une fumisterie? Est-ce...? Mais passons. Beaucoup estimeront que Herr Stein devrait avoir sa place parmi les plénipo-