

United States where their true friends lay. They know right well, and many of their leading public men have admitted to me, that had England not acted as she had done, there was great danger of that war being prolonged, and not only prolonged, but of intervention by many European States, who looked with jealous eye on American policy, and they expressed to me a desire, if opportunity was given them, to repay in kind the great service we had thus rendered them.

GREAT TEMPTATION RESISTED.

The third incident was the conduct of the United States, and the course that Government took during the recent Boer war. I desire to express here publicly in the most emphatic manner my deep sense of the highly honorable conduct of the Congress and Government of the United States, as a whole, towards the people of Great Britain and the British Empire on that occasion. Sir, the temptation was great, there is not the slightest doubt about it, all of us who know anything about American politics know right well that there are very considerable sections of the community in the United States who were ready to acclaim the action of the United States had it interfered on behalf of the Boers, either directly or by extending to them moral sympathy and encouragement. Had the United States Government done so there is no doubt they would have greatly embarrassed the English Government, and possibly prolonged the war. It is only doing common justice to the Americans to say they repaid us honorably and well for the friendly assistance and countenance which had been extended to them on the part of our Government during the Spanish-American War. Sir, some may say that it is strange that under these circumstances I should talk of promoting good feeling with the United States by levying taxes on their food imports. Sir, it is a paradox, but it is not so strange a paradox when you come to consider the real position of affairs in the United States. First of all you want to establish permanent friendly relations with the United States you must show them that their interests are really and absolutely identified with those of the British people.