

mands that such reprobates be suppressed, and any Government which fails to do its plain duty in this respect earns the just censure of all honourable men. In regard to Mr. Chamberlain's allusion to a German alliance, it is highly significant that it was made only a few hours after he had been in conversation with the Emperor at Windsor Castle. Touched though it was with a characteristic audacity of frankness, many regard the recent speech of the Honble. Mr. Chamberlain as statesman like. Happy results would certainly follow a cordial good understanding between Great Britain, Germany and the United States.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Message delivered to Congress on the 5th inst. though interesting has no sensational feature. It ranges, as is usual in these deliverances, over a variety of topics, which are treated much after the style of a newspaper editorial. The opening passages are devoted to the public finances and the Banking Act. The condition of the Treasury is said to be "most gratifying," as it may well be when the available cash balance is 278 millions, of which 229 millions are in gold coin and bullion. A surplus is predicted for current fiscal year of \$41,000,000, the one ended on 30th June last having had a deficit of over double that sum. The banking Act is condemned as an insufficient avenue for providing needful circulation. The President urges the establishment of national banks with a capital of \$25,000, which would be a very doubtful change. Certainly no adequate currency system could be based on such petty organizations. Enlarged powers for the Treasury to issue bonds is said to be desirable on long or short time at a lower rate of interest than fixed by the Act of 1895. We are glad to find Mr. McKinley so emphatic in desiring to ensure a continuance of the gold standard as the basis of all the financial transactions of the Government. The trade combinations or trusts which stifle competition, limit production and determine prices to the disadvantage of consumers are declared to be "obnoxious, not only to law but to the public welfare." The President, however, offers no opinion as to the best mode of checking such evils. A number of foreign questions were alluded to in an optimistic tone. The Alaskan boundary dispute was said to show an irreconcilable difference of opinion between the States and Canada, in view of which a temporary agreement had been arrived at, of which we are all aware. In this, as in several other matters, the President confines himself to the merely narrative form, no personal views being expressed. In remarks on the Boer war, it is noticeable that the President skilfully avoids recognizing the Transvaal as a beligerent State. In regard to Cuba he maintained that the United States still disclaimed any intention of exercising sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over that island, except for its pacification, when that is secured the Government of Cuba is to be left to Cubans. The accomplishment of "pacification" is, we may say, a

condition respecting which the United States will be the sole judge, so Cuba may remain many years under American control, and not the "Free Cuba" for which the islanders fought during the greater part of this century. The Pan-American Exposition to be held on the Niagara frontier in 1901 was spoken of hopefully as an occasion suitable for a conference to consider the political relations of the South and Central American Republics. In expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the peace congress at the Hague, the President said, "the historic position of the States anent the Monroe doctrine had been carefully guarded." Guarded the Monroe doctrine may have been theoretically, but, as a live question it is out of practical politics. This passage was followed by a glowing compliment to the army in the Philippines. We are somewhat surprised to find the President saying that "he has reason to believe that the transfer of the sovereignty over those islands from Spain to the United States is as in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the great mass of the Filipino people." It is difficult to credit this assertion in view of the stubborn resistance made by the Filipino people to the authority of the States. It is also to be deemed questionable because a very large part of the inhabitants of the Philippines, which number over 9 millions of people, many of whom are quite uncivilized, have not been consulted about the transference of sovereignty from Spain to the United States. However this may be, we wish our neighbours a good and early deliverance out of the difficulties they are struggling against in pacifying the Filipinos, as, whatever may be thought of the consistency of such a contest with the Monroe doctrine and the Declaration of Independence, we are satisfied that the entire control of the Philippines by American authorities will be in the interests of civilization, and conducive to the highest interests of the people of those Islands. We should have welcomed some expressions from the President of satisfaction at the good understanding prevailing with Great Britain, but the whole Message bears evidence of its being an effort to avoid any word that could be picked out by his political opponents for adverse criticism, as a Presidential election is coming on when Mr. McKinley will need every vote he can muster to secure another term.

LAW AND WAR FROM AN ENGLISH POINT OF VIEW. — An English law periodical, with considerable sarcasm, thus compares the nation's readiness for war with the conduct of legal business in the English Courts.

There is a marked resemblance between our military and our legal administration. We are never prepared. The Lord Chief Justice, delayed in the Court of Appeal, arrives, after the sittings have begun, to meet a formidable array of special jury cases. He ought to have three Judges to help him; but the only Judges available are skirmishing in the provinces, where the enemy is weak and scattered. The Courts in the Strand are our perpetual Ladysmith; besieged by overwhelming forces, which, however, cannot be dominated by one big gun.