

beneficial to the commerce of the other members of the League—all these considerations would give this association immense power. Hitherto Germany has often forced herself into this or that favourable position in Africa, Asia, or the Pacific by playing on the rivalry between France and England—in other words, by threatening to reopen the Egyptian Question or by dragging France into intervention in the affairs of South Africa. The terror of offending France by the temporary occupation of Delagoa Bay (through friendly arrangement with Portugal) alone hindered us greatly in bringing the South African War to a rapid conclusion. It was doubtless Germany that inspired France with the idea (when France was sounded before the South African War broke out as to what her attitude would be) to impose on Great Britain (out of respect for French susceptibilities in Madagascar) the condition of not occupying any point whatever on the Portuguese coast of South-East Africa, even by agreement with Portugal. Britain, however, herself has learnt much during the last ten years: amongst other things, that she has more to gain by preserving the friendship of Portugal and the integrity of the Portuguese possessions than by outraging the susceptibilities of that little Atlantic Power for the purpose of adding to the already vast dominion of Great Britain on the African continent.

H. H. JOHNSTON.