

THE UNION OF TWO GREAT PEOPLES.

A SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOOK.

I venture to put together a few definite suggestions. Put in your schools an elementary book about the United States—not a dull text-book, but a book written by a sympathetic man of accurate knowledge, which shall tell every child in Britain about the country, about the people, how they work, how they live, what results they achieve, what they aim at; about the United States Government, about our greatest men, about our social structure—a book that shall make the large facts plain to any child, and require that every child shall read it.

A perfunctory book will fail. Have a hundred books written if necessary till the right one is written. There is, as you know, one great book written by an Englishman about the United States—Lord Bryce's "American Commonwealth." I wish it were read by as many persons here as in America. But that is not a book for children; there ought to be a more elementary book. You have often criticised certain old text-books of American history on which American children were supposed to be brought up—I was brought up on them, and I was never brought up to hate the English. (Cheers.) You have properly criticised them for laying undue emphasis on our war of revolution and on the conflicts our forefathers had with your forefathers. Now prepare a proper book for your own children, correct any disproportions these old American school books may have had, and give the chief emphasis not to our old differences, but to our present likenesses, and to our necessary close understanding for the future. (Cheers.)

On the American side the disproportion and the wrong temper of these old books that have been so much criticised are fast disappearing. Newer text-books have corrected this old fault. On the American side I want to see a modern elementary book about Great Britain put into our schools