

SOME GOOD THINGS FROM THE WORLD OF PRINT

British and American Rivalry.

THERE is a tendency in this country to regard America and her progress from a mistaken point of view. We have positively given way to something like a panic of late years at our cousins' successes and their investments in the United Kingdom. This is as ridiculous as it is unmanly. Thoughtful Americans take a very different view. America is a marvellously successful nation, but she is honeycombed with problems which make her future a matter of some uncertainty. The colossal aggregations of capital under individual control, for instance, organized into huge "combinations," under laws practically conferring limitless power upon them, constitute a great national peril, and nobody yet sees how it is to be averted. These enormous aggregations of capital upon which dividends must be paid, and which will certainly in many cases collapse like a house of cards at the first sign of bad times, leaving wreck and ruin behind them, form an eminent danger from which we are free. The negro problem is more insistent than ever, and further from a solution. The relations of capital and labor, harmonious now because of the high wages and bonuses which good times enable the employers to pay, may become very strained when highly paid employment is restricted—and passion and bloodshed are never far off when "labor troubles" break out in America.

"The Old Country must wake up"—by readiness to adopt American methods, when these are better; by promptly profiting by American experience; by enforcing economy in national expenditure; by seeking a more efficient Government, in which, for example, the great offices con-

trolling trade should be filled by men of the highest business capacity, and the widest business experience; by pushing forward the education of all classes upon wiser and more practical lines; by pursuing a simpler and better informed foreign policy, with peace as its chief aim. It might be rash to prophesy that Great Britain will be hard at work and as prosperous as of old when the United States is torn from side to side by the most terrible labor conflict the world has ever seen, but it would not be a whit more unwise than the alarmist forecasts which hand over our commercial position in the world to the United States in the near future, and reduce us to "an overcrowded and discontented little island in the North Sea." There is every reason for strenuous efforts, for a wakeful outlook, and the abandonment of some of our old indifferent acceptance of things as they are; there is not the slightest ground for rushing from the one extreme of self-complacency to the opposite extreme of self-depreciation.—*World's Work* (English edition).

Successful Assurance.

AS I gradually improved in skill of reasoning, and in confidence of address, I found I was writing larger policies. From policies of \$25,000 it was not a great step to a habit of getting policies of \$50,000. I was now in Milwaukee, where my society put me in charge of their business covering two States. Here I wrote my first \$100,000 policy, and the story of how it was obtained may illustrate the combination of qualities which are required in any one who aspires to write assurance in the larger amounts.

Among the big lumber operators of the