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**Relations With the United States.**

The Quebec Conference, after having been occupied for a fortnight with questions of international interest as between the United States and this country, has adjourned until the 20th inst. As the deliberations of the Conference have been private, the public has little opportunity of knowing what progress has been made, or what prospect there may be of an agreement being reached by the commission in reference to the difficulties with which it has undertaken to deal. Senator Gray, of the United States, a member of the joint commission, is reported as expressing a favorable opinion as to the result of the Conference. The very friendly feeling now existing in the United States toward Great Britain, makes the time opportune for endeavoring to arrive at a settlement of all actual or probable causes of friction between our neighbors and ourselves. It has been repeatedly stated, and it is probably quite true, that the three great European Powers were only prevented from entering into a coalition against the United States on behalf of Spain by the determined position taken by the British government, which declared that if the European Powers persisted in such a movement, Great Britain would at once join forces with the United States and declare war against all Powers hostile to that country. Alluding to this matter, the New York Tribune says that the United States "will remember the friendship of Great Britain in this emergency with gladness and with gratitude that no lapse of time will diminish. There have been many occurrences this year which Americans will cherish as precious memories, but nothing, perhaps, superior to or more significant than this, that the old Mother Country was ready to stand with us, and for us, against a world in arms. Whatever else may be forgotten that will be vitally remembered."

**Great Britain and Germany.**

For a week or two past reports have been current to the effect that a treaty, involving some sort of an alliance between Great Britain and Germany, has been negotiated. Several things indicated that there might be truth in the report. It seemed evident that the representative of Germany in London had been charged with business of unusual importance. Then there was the altered tone of the German press toward England, and the rather demonstratively friendly attitude assumed by Emperor William, whose message of congratulation on General Kitchener's great victory at Omdurman was the first to reach Cairo from Europe, and who, about the same time, addressing a body of Prussian soldiers within sight of the historic field of Waterloo, reminded them of the comradeship in arms of the British and Germans at Waterloo, alluded to the fact that an English army had just won in Africa a victory over a much stronger foe, and concluded his address by calling upon the troops to give three cheers for the Queen of England, who is honorary Colonel of the Mecklenburg Grenadiers. Any doubts that existed as to the fact of the treaty having been made, seem to be set at rest by the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, who is now in America, and who is reported to have stated to a New York Tribune reporter that the treaty had been signed. Just what are the provisions of the treaty, the public of course is not informed. It is surmised, however, that it means among other things that Germany will favor the aims of Great Britain in Africa by consenting to the purchase by the latter of Delagoa Bay, and by favoring British policy in Egypt, while Great Britain will allow Germany a free hand in respect to certain plans of colonization in Syria.

**Mr. Gladstone's Will.**

The will of Mr. Gladstone, which has been probated, shows that his personal estate is valued at £59,506. The will, written by Mr. Gladstone himself, in an ordinary memorandum book, is a document of about two thousand words and is said to be a remarkable specimen of penmanship. The second clause of the will has reference to the general arrangements, and says: "Commending myself to the infinite mercies of God in the incarnate Son as my only and sufficient hope, I leave the particulars of my burial to my executors, specifying only that they be simple and private, unless there be conclusive reasons to the contrary. And I desire to be buried where my wife may also lie. On no account shall a laudatory inscription be placed over me." After appointing his sons as executors the will charges the future possessor of Hawarden to remember that as the hand of the family, it will be his duty to extend good offices to other members thereof according to his ability and their manifest needs and merits. The rest of the document leaves souvenirs to servants and bequeaths to his grandson, William, as heirlooms all patents of Crown offices held by the testator, and books and prints presented to him by the Queen, etc. The will bears date November 16, 1896.

**A Splendid Triumph.**

Sir Herbert Kitchener, the Commander of the Anglo-Egyptian forces in the Sudan, and the hero of Omdurman, is evidently a man who possesses that kind of genius which consists in a faculty for taking infinite pains. The military expedition which has so successfully accomplished the undertaking for which it was organized, has, from the outset, moved onward step by step with the precision of clock-work. Nothing has been done by guesswork or left to chance. All the difficulties of the undertaking had been duly considered in advance and fully provided for. The resistance which the enemy would make at different points, and the forces needed to overcome it, had been correctly estimated. Confidence, but not too much confidence, was placed in superior arms, equipment and discipline, so that when the stronghold of the Dervishes was reached and the decisive battle was to be fought, the British general had at his command just the forces necessary to capture Omdurman and Khartoum, and utterly overthrow the power of the Khalifa. On September 1, the Khalifa's forts in Omdurman and the island of Tuti had been effectively bombarded by the British gun-boats, and the next day occurred the great battle on the plains of Omdurman. The Khalifa's forces are said to have numbered 35,000 men, cavalry and infantry. The forces of "the Sirdar", Sir Hebert Kitchener, numbered about 8,000 British and 14,000 Egyptians and Soudanese, embracing infantry, cavalry and artillery. At dawn the Dervish forces were discovered to be advancing to the attack in battle array and singing their war songs. Their front extended for three or four miles, countless banners fluttering over their masses, the copper and brass drums of the savage warriors resounding through their ranks as they came on steadily in enveloping formation. Correspondents speak in the strongest terms of the indomitable bravery of the Dervishes. Their first attack was an impetuous charge down the hillside, with the design of rushing the left flank of the Anglo-Egyptian army. Failing in this they concentrated their attack upon the centre, and a large force of horsemen, trying to face a continuous hail of bullets from the Cameron Highlanders, the Lincolnshire and the Soudanese, was literally swept away, leading to the withdrawal of the entire body with their dead strewn on the field. The Dervishes having withdrawn behind a ridge in front of their camp

to reform, General Kitchener's army marched toward Omdurman, and as his troops surmounted the crest adjoining the Nile, the Soudanese on the right came in contact with the enemy who had massed beneath the black standard of the Khalifa in order to make a supreme effort to retrieve the fortunes of the day. A mass, fifteen thousand strong, bore down on the Soudanese. General Kitchener swung round the centre and left of the Soudanese and seized a rocky eminence; and the Egyptians, hitherto held in reserve, joined the firing line in ten minutes, and before the Dervishes could drive their attack home. "The flower of the Khalifa's army was caught in a depression and within a zone of withering cross fire from the brigades, with the attendant artillery. The devoted Mahdists strove heroically to make headway; but every rush was stopped, while their main body was literally mown down by a sustained deadly cross fire. Defiantly the dervishes planted their standards and died beside them. Their dense masses gradually melted to companies, and the companies to dribbles, beneath the leaden hail. Finally they broke and fled, leaving the field white with jibbah-clad corpses, like a snow-drift dotted meadow." The loss sustained by General Kitchener's army, which by some accounts is placed as high as 500 in killed and wounded, is itself evidence of the fierce fight made by the Dervishes. Two British officers were killed. A Mr. Howard, correspondent of the New York Herald, was also killed. Colonel Rhodes, brother of Sir Cecil Rhodes, and correspondent of the London Times, was seriously wounded. The great body of Dervishes which survived the battle, surrendered as prisoners, while the Khalifa, with a small body of his warriors, escaped.

**What Will Follow?**

Now that the mission on which Sir Herbert Kitchener was sent to the Sudan has issued so triumphantly, and the death of General Gordon has at last been avenged by the smashing of the Mahdist power and the capture of Omdurman and Khartoum, the question is naturally being asked, What next,—what is to come of this great victory? So far, Great Britain has been acting in this matter ostensibly in the interest of Egypt, her ward. The Sudan country belonged to Egypt, and was conquered by the Mahdist leaders of the Arab tribes, under whom its people have suffered cruel oppressions, from which they now rejoice to be delivered. The forks of the Nile, where the waters of the Blue and the White Nile meet, and where Omdurman and Khartoum are situated, is evidently a place of great strategic importance. This position, sufficiently fortified, is the key to the whole Soudan country, so that, with the base of operations now secured and the power of the Mahdists shattered, there should be no great difficulty in protecting the Soudan against the irruption of hostile forces. But Great Britain has vast interests in Africa, besides those immediately connected with Egypt and the Soudan, and much work to do in order to consolidate her African Empire. The position now reached, the strong and finely equipped force under the command of General Kitchener, the prestige which he has won, and his great ability for organization and military leadership, unite to make the present seem a very favorable opportunity for establishing orderly government under Anglo-Egyptian auspices throughout the great Soudan country, and also for establishing unobstructed connection between Khartoum and Victoria Nyanza in the Uganda country far to the South. It is possible that the king of Abyssinia, who seems to have laid claim to a part of the Soudan country, would give some trouble, and France will protest with added emphasis, if nothing more. But judging from the past, it does not appear to be England's intention that her African policy shall be dictated by France. The present time seems so favorable for Great Britain to secure a position of indisputable supremacy in all the Southern and central part of the continent as well as in Egypt, and the influences upon the government in that direction are probably so strong, that it is hardly to be supposed that the present opportunity will be allowed to pass unimproved.