

that the great American Republic is afraid of a possible arrangement between Spain and England, whereby Cuba would become another outpost of British commerce, whether as a direct dependency of Britain or by some other means. There are those in the United States who go so far as to advocate a British occupation of Cuba, but the sentiment is not at all likely ever to be popular with the American people.

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The gigantic preparations England is making for possible war are exciting the envy and admiration of the world. As a supplement to her enormous navy she is building a new fleet which in itself looks large enough to protect almost any country. It is evident that if the supremacy of the seas is to be challenged, the contest will not be child's play. Russia and France are both equipped with navies of the first-class, but so far as can be seen into the mystery of European politics, there is no immediate likelihood of any clash with either of them. There are too many advantages that England can concede to them. But it must restore financial and commercial confidence everywhere to see the immense efforts that are now put forth by the mightiest of trading nations to secure the freedom of the seas to her own and neutral ships.

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This critical period has evoked a renewal of the old time sentiment, "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity." It is a sad commentary on the English admiration of Ireland, and many of the more liberal of English statesmen doubtless recall with hearty emphasis the anathema of George the Second upon the law that deprived him of such subjects as they who turned the tables at Fontenoy. The British schemes of colonization and conquest are of that imposing character which appeal to the easy swelling emotions of the Celt; upon him indeed the brunt of the work has fallen in most of the successful exploits; but ever before his mind is the cause of the weak and oppressed, the world-wide sufferers of which is own race is the unhappy type.

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That venerable survival of New England as it was in the olden day, the blue-blooded Atlantic Monthly, has begun a series of studies of race traits and race influences in the life of the American people. The Irish in America are the subject of the first article, which contains a little of appreciation, some unpleasant truths, and a great deal of narrowness and injustice. When an Irishman reads a criticism of the Irish by an outsider, he reads with impatience. As a rule, he knows before beginning that the other's point of view will be different from his own, and that for every sentence of what appears to him sympathetic observation there will be ten bearing the stamp of old time prejudice. The author of the article now under consideration acknowledges this divergence of thought on most subjects of discussion, but does not deem that the same may apply to his own case. At times he strives to place a just value upon certain traits of the Irish character which are new to him because not to be found in the hard-headed New England race, for surely of all men the Irishman is farthest removed from the Puritan. But at other times he mistakes the situation utterly, assuming malice where there is only misfortune. It surely argues a lack of perspective