

many as it does in Great Britain and the United States. That is the duty of the hour; that is the duty of every public man. I regret that we have not made as much as we should have made of that appeal, and I regret also that our friends in the British Parliament have failed to see the great importance of it. There is now opportunity for us all to embark in this missionary work, and to endeavour to educate the Germans along these lines. The speech of my hon. friend from Waterloo (Mr. Weichel) to-day was along that line, and the Germans of the Fatherland must be impressed when they hear the Germans of Canada saying that they value above all things parliamentary government such as we have it in this country. The glory of England to-day is that after a struggle of three hundred years parliamentary government has been established, although it is perhaps right to say that it has only seen its full fruition in very recent years.

I believe that our friends in the United States are sympathetic with us; I believe that the great majority of them are with the Allies, although sometimes people think they should have declared themselves a little more emphatically on this struggle than they have done heretofore. The President of the United States seems to take the position that they should be strictly neutral; but let me point to a certain

document, bearing on the history of the United States, which

9 p.m. I have been reading very carefully of late, and which is interesting in view of the present situation. The most significant thing in this publication of the historical documents of the United States, apart from the Gettysburg speech, is this resolution, which was passed in Congress in 1898:

Whereas the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a United States battleship, with two hundred and sixty-six of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbour of Havana, and can no longer be endured, as has been set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress of April eleventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, upon which the action of Congress was invited, therefore,

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, first, that the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

Second, that it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States does hereby demand, that the Government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

Suppose that were paraphrased to read: Whereas the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than six months in Belgium have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, have been a disgrace to civilization and should no longer endure, be it resolved that it is the duty of the United States to demand and it does demand that Germany at once relinquish its government and authority in the Kingdom of Belgium, would not that be a grand stroke for democracy and civilization? I am making no charge against our neighbours to the south of us, and I want specially to avoid that, but I believe, in view of their past record, it would not have been out of place if the American people through their Government had already expressed their dissidence from what is taking place in Belgium, and their condemnation of the abhorrent conditions that have prevailed in that country since the war started. I believe, Sir, before the war is over, the United States will have to join with the Allies, and Canada, and Australia, and South Africa, and the whole English-speaking world, in asserting the principle that whatever is abhorrent to parliamentary government will not be permitted to continue in any country, whether in Europe or America, because of the danger there is in it to free parliamentary institutions.

When I have said that, I have said practically all that I have to say to the House to-night. If we wish to help the cause of peace, if we wish to stop war, to prevent it being again the menace it has been in the past, I believe we must seek to make more prevalent parliamentary institutions and democratic government. The great military systems that have been built up since nations first existed have been built up by autocratic rulers and irresponsible assemblies associated with them. Where there is democratic government, especially where there is parliamentary government in its fullest sense, such military systems are impossible. England is the world's leader in parliamentary government, and there is no menace there to human rights. That is the whole case. We may talk of the war, and of how we are to uphold the men in the trenches—and we must do everything in