

turbulent population. Havana is blockaded and a more or less effective blockade has been established of all the Cuban ports; and with Admiral Cervera and his crew prisoners of war and his ships destroyed, and the third division of the Spanish fleet, under Admiral Camara, in a state of dilapidation, so that it is scarcely seaworthy, much less in a condition to meet a stronger and well-equipped foe, the Spaniard is on his last legs and in a truly pitiable plight. On the verge of bankruptcy and civil war at home; his colonies in revolt against misrule and oppression; a discontented soldiery fighting his battles abroad, ill-fed, ragged and their pay in arrears; his ships and forts unable to withstand the terrific fire of modern ironclads, and their ordnance of a type obsolete in the warfare of to-day; only the pride of the Don and his sensitiveness to the humiliation of defeat, warrant the prolongation of a war that has so far been almost wholly in favour of the Yankee, to whom a cheap and certain victory is already assured. The American arms have certainly received a check at Santiago, where the belligerents were more fairly matched than elsewhere; still, as the outcome of the fight, the troops of the United States have captured the outworks of the city, which must soon capitulate or be taken by assault. In the meantime Uncle Sam is going about with a swelled head and it is not because the Spaniard punched it, either

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As the progeny of John "A Chip off Bull, Uncle Sam bids the Old Block," fair to resemble his father in so many traits of character, that the other powers are doing all they can to circumvent an Anglo-American alliance. One England is enough for this world, they think; two, and these two united for co-operative action, would

make the Anglo-Saxon an impossible dictator as to what shall or shall not be. For some time the attitude of the United States has been an aggressive one as to the extension of its commerce, while it has refrained from territorial aggrandizement and declined to meddle with the politics of Europe. But, having developed into a populous, wealthy country, of immense internal resources, it has dared to interfere with the rule of Spain in Cuba, and dictate to that nation the alternative of freedom for Cuba or war. In the war thus precipitated, the United States has astonished the world with a brilliant naval victory at Manila, and shown such skill, courage and enterprise, considering its unpreparedness, in the general prosecution of the war, that it is now conceded that this young and virile people are worthy descendants of an illustrious stock, and are now a power to be reckoned with should their interests be infringed upon. This war will teach them their weaknesses as well as reveal their strength, and if it should result, as anticipated, in their raising a large standing army and the strengthening of their navy, the introduction of this new factor into the problem of statesmen cannot otherwise be viewed than as a serious menace, made trebly ominous by the prospect of an alliance with Great Britain. The Philippines have already become a bone of contention, around which the dogs of war are beginning to snarl, in order to frighten the United States to drop it. Will the United States become a colonizing power? That is the moot point which is vexing many statesmen in Europe just now. And how to keep Uncle Sam at home, instead of picking up eligible sites for coaling stations and acquiring a few centres of trade in the Pacific and Caribbean Sea, is another problem which the German Emperor, for one, is seeking to solve

