

ment would by now have found this out and profited by the discovery. If, on the other hand, they had conducted our affairs with the arrogance which would have pleased their jingo friends, foreign Governments would have lacked the power, even if they had the will, to keep under the ever smouldering hostility felt by Continental populations for Great Britain. Even as it is, there have not been wanting signs that some foreign statesmen are not above turning to Parliamentary account the prevalent anti-British feeling.

Though we may fairly congratulate ourselves upon the success with which we have got through a rather difficult passage in our history, there is one aspect of the present situation which may well cause some anxiety. There is no doubt that the widespread hatred felt for England is disquieting. In Russia, Germany and Austria, in Italy, Spain and France, in Belgium, Holland, and even in Switzerland, there seems to be a considerable body of popular opinion vehemently hostile to this country. It is true, as we have pointed out, that on this occasion the friendliness of foreign Governments has sufficed to keep in check the Anglophobia of their subjects. But will it always be so? Can we be secure that our affairs will always be conducted with moderation and discretion? And even if they are, may not the excitable elements of foreign nations prove too strong to be restrained, and hurry some or all of the Governments of Europe into a war of extermination with the British Empire? Questions such as these seem to be exercising the minds of certain well-known public writers, and though we hold that the danger may be very easily exaggerated, it is certainly worth while to consider what are the causes of the hatred felt for us, and what measures, if any, should be taken to guard against its results.

The principal cause of our unpopularity is the general tendency to hate foreigners. The feeling exists in every people for every other people. But among Continental nations reserve is necessary. They live so close to one another that if they habitually spoke their thoughts about their neighbours with the same