

Boer and Briton.

That strange element in human nature which makes some people rejoice in the dangers and difficulties which beset others, has been exhibiting itself lately in Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, etc., over the temporary set-back experienced by the English in their conflict with the Boers. Americans do not sympathize in these rejoicings, knowing well that England's cause, in the highest and broadest sense, is our cause, and that if disaster or defeat threatened us, we, in our turn, would be held up to scorn and derision.

The early triumphs of the Boers have no special significance as regards the outcome of this struggle. A stream does not rise higher than its source, and the Boers are a century or more behind the English in natural development and powers.

The Boers are unreasonable, blindly selfish and tyrannous in their exactions and policy. The American people would never submit to the kind of government the enlightened Outlander is expected to content himself with. The latter has no representation in the law-making body of the Transvaal. While the Outlanders represent three fifths of the population, and pay nine-tenths of the taxes, yet they have not a word to say as to how this money shall be spent. Poor and feeble as were the American Colonies in 1776, they would not stand such tyranny as this.

The Outlanders have no constitutional guarantee for life, liberty and property, the courts being subject to coercion by the Boer Government, and the Constitution to whimsical and capricious changes on a simple motion of the legislative body. The other demands of the Outlanders for the wiping out of monopolies, the putting of English and Dutch languages on an equality in the courts, better civil service, freedom of press and religious opinion, suitable schools and a more liberal trade policy, are all in the line of civilization, and merit the hearty endorsement of enlightened men everywhere.

The attitude of the Irish, in this difference between Boer and Briton, is characteristic. Their sense of belligerence overpowers their logic. Although the Boer policy is decidedly antagonistic to the interests of the Irish in the Transvaal, prohibiting them from voting, yet the Irish everywhere are loud in their sympathies and hopes for Boer victory.

There can be but one termination to this war. The English have right and justice on their side. Their demands are all in the interests of a higher civilization. The Boers want to use arbitrary power to dam back progress when it conflicts with natural propensities and inclinations, regardless of the great principle fundamental to all human societies—the greatest good to the greatest number.