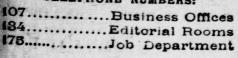
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London, Monday, March 21, 1898

Will Britain Hold Her Own? Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, M.P., one of the leaders in the British Conservative party, has written a pamphlet on the position of Great Britain at the present time, which has caused profound sensation in the old country. Sir Ellis, in describing Great Britain's foreign relations during the last five years, points out that there Russia, with Turkey, with Germany, difficulties and misfortunes in the Transvaal, in Siam, in West Africa, in East Africa and on the upper Nile, in Madagascar, in Tunis, in Venezuela, in Northern and Southern China, and on the northwestern frontier of India. Most of these difficulties, he asserts, especially in India, has been exasper- friendship and cordiality. It gives them ated by the British. The result has been the destruction of British influ
Save the Queen" is sung by audiences in sympathy with Spain and hostile in United States theaters, and that into America." Mr. Davitt retorts with ence at Constantinople and the sub. fluential Americans advocates an allistitution of other influence in its place, great misery and ruin to the Christians cause such a coalition is clearly premathe aristocracy" during the Venezuela in Armenia, in Crete and in Greece, ture. The times are too critical to adand terrible suffering to Cretan Mus- mit of definite discussion of the expedi- reconciled with the present "hypocritsulmans as well, and, perhaps worst of The truth is recognized that the chief the republic." Continuing, Mr. Davitt all, a general sense of dissatisfaction function of the present era of good asserts the right of Irishmen to voice against Britain among the Mussulmans in India, accompanied by a tre-

This is a severe arraignment, but Sir Ellis points out that Britain's relations with European nations have also brought her humiliation. In 1893, England for the promotion of the highhe says, "a treacherous attack upon a British force by the French at Weima was allowed to go unatoned for and even without an apology. Three trate the spirit and tone of the dis-British officers were slaughtered at Weima in 1893; the Anglo-Congo treaty regarding the upper Nile was deliberately and insolently torn up by the French Government and flung in our faces, yet nothing was done. Step by feeling, which is general in the United step France was allowed to seize the States, with regard to the condition whole hinterland of Sierra Leone and Gambia and to encroach on the Logos, ent state. I also gladly recognize the Gold Coast and Niger districts. The recent general admission in the United pected. Imagine, then, the amused result is the present impasse in West Africa. There the French, encouraged by our unbroken and uncompensated China, and many portions of the world. trust as affording even an approximate retreat, have made a general advance It must be a hope in all our minds guess at the real state of things all along the line into British territory, and the two nations are on the very verge of war."

ern frontier.

An alliance of Britain with France Sir Ellis considers to be out of the question. The republic is fickle, it has changed its governments 35 times thy for each other, as well as a sense in 26 years, and it has shown itself to of essential duty in the two great and the growing American navy. All this be capable of the frenzy and injustice of the Dreyfus crusade. Moreover, Britain's interests clash with those of France all over the world. Britain cannot got on without allies, reasons Sir Ellis, and he illustrates this view by a reference to the disadvantages under which Great Britain labored when in 1893 the French were permitted to annex a third of Siam and to chase British men-of-war out of the Gulf of Bangkok. Then in 1894 Great Britain was compelled to stand aside and see Japan, which ought to have been regarded as her friend, deprived of the fruits of her victory in China, and made possible the present crisis in the Northern Pacific.

Thus Sir Ellis sets up groundwork for the assertion that the "splendid isolation" upon which some have congratulated Great Britain is "an epigrammatic folly whose emptiness and error are fully demonstrated by the events of the past twelve months." | dawn. This isolation, in his opinion, is only an incitement to the other great Powers to combine against

This is a rather sombre outlook, if the views of this representative Conservative statesman have good foundation. It would indeed be an alarming situation if things were to come about as Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett is inclined to prognosticate. We are of us holds out a hand I hope the more hopeful of the future. Never in other will clasp it." modern times has the fundamental prowess of the British race failed at the critical moment, even when all Europe has been against the motherland. And it will much surprise us if it fails her now. Britain will have allies, too. She has never lacked them the furtherance of her policy. Were the effect of making men who, up to

It may happen that at times, in the international land hunger scramble

of the world, would be heard from in But who will say that the Englishdefense of the center of the greatest speaking race has not a fair share of sufficiently interested in the West Afsection of it? Every now and again some one raises the question, as Sir for points of vantage, that John Bull Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett does, "Will has been over-reached by a competitor. Britain be able to hold her own?"

European Topics

Cable Correspondent's Views-Popularity of the Suggested Anglo-American Alliance-Davitt Sounds the One Discordant Note.

The War Scare Abated—Salisbury's Illness—Mil- rule its destinies. lenary of King Alfred-The Queen's Stocking Worker-The All-Round Home Idea.

American alliance compels belief in its sincerity. The fact that most of the pressed perhaps without the sentidispatches from the United States have proclaimed that the ques- stration, useful not only as proving tion has been seriously discussed is heartily welcomed here, and is regarded as extremely important and gratifying, English bias of the day. At the back as evidencing a friendly spirit. "They are," as a diplomatist put it, "inspiring hope that the differences of the past will be buried, and that Anglo-Saxons in the near future will be found is no such touting on either side, issuing identical notes to all opposed to their common interests." The dipstretch of imagination to say that such suspicion, founded on facts, which a union has been longed for by the best men in Great Britain for many out difficulty, that should the threatyears, not only because of the genuine wish for closer bonds of friendship, but because it is a known fact that all the statesmen of Europe realize that a and take definite and hostile action, close alliance between America and Great Britain would afford proof that the reign of law and individual liberty is to be extended, for the benefit of mankind.

IN THE SAME STRAIN. Mr. Ford, in his cabled letter, refers as follows to the change in American feeling toward Great Britain: Englishmen are not insensible to the marked change in American feeling toward their own country. They are highly gratified by the evidences of American

a new sensation to hear that "God feeling is to create an atmosphere for independent views of Great Britain's mendous outbreak among the valiant Mussulman tribes on our northwestdiplomacy does not put any restraint ment that Irishmen, Germans, French-upon the satisfaction which is felt here men, Dutchmen and Norwegians constrongly in the direction of cordial co-operation and intimate association with these races "will not permit their isfactory I repeat a few expressions of prominent Englishmen, which illus- unique moral influence she exercises

cussion everywhere. SIR CHARLES DILKE.

Sir Charles Dilke writes: "I am not at all given to the utterance of what are called sentiments, but I am a strong sympathizer with the of Cuba, and the proceedings by which it has been brought to its prestween the United Kingdom and the States in regard to trade facilities in sane observing man can for a moment about closer and closer relations be-

tween our countries." have always believed that beneath the respect when he poses as the intera deep and strong current of sympasides of the Atlantic. For the stories British designs regarding Hawaii and of British sympathy with Spain on the Cuban question there is not a shadow of foundation. We seek nothing in either quarter. We only wish that you should take the course which will make for your own peace and well-being. We are divided among ourselves on many questions, but are all united in one-in the desire to maintain the most friendly relations with your republic, and in the belief that your interests in the world at large are substantially the same as our own, so that co-operation between the two countries will be as practically beneficial to both as it will be in accord with the genuine feelings of our people."

CONAN DOYLE. Dr. Conan Doyle writes: "It is very pleasant to read of the present good feeling between the United States and Great Britain to those quorum pars parva fui who have long believed that United States of the future will include every man who speaks English. This is the first faint streak of

ANTHONY HOPE HAWKINS. Mr. Anthony Hope Hawkins writes: My recent experience in the United States have immensly increased both my eagerness and my hope for the increase of feelings of cordiality and friendship between your country and mine. I have no title to speak except for myself, and that I venture to do only on your invitation. But I greet every step by which England and America draw nearer to one another with real and sincere joy. Whenever either

MR. FREDERIC'S COMMENTS. Cabling on the same subject, Harold peror has said so many gorgeously silly things in his time that the late private after-dinner indiscretions in favor of Spain were at first believed to have been genuine utterances. There is good reason to doubt this. The reporten they were really necessary for ed words, whether spoken or not, had Britain in real danger, it would be now had been restrained by the deli-cate nature of the situation, talk very found that her offshoots, in every part | freely of their hopes for an Anglo-

London, March 21 .- The remarkable American alliance. Nor should the unanimity of the approval of all class- deep feeling be ignored, which showed es of the mere suggestion of an Anglo- Honorable Artillery Company to the itself this week at the banquet of the mental emotions of feverish Frenchmen in like circumstances a demonthe good-will of a certain number of well-intentioned men, but as correctly reflecting what really is the strongest of it all there is a comfortable conviction that either nation is quite strong enough to fight its own far battles, and that neither is in any frame of mind to tout for help. There whatever idiots may say who are trying to cook up ill-feeling between the "It is not any two countries; but there is also the even a half-blind man may see withened combination of European powers, possible and even probable from day

to day, even assume concrete form

the foreigners would have to deal with

two nations of English-speaking men.' A DISCORDANT NOTE. A lively controversy has been kindled between Michael Davitt and the Daily Chronicle by Mr. Davitt's attack on the suggested alliance between the United States and Great Britain. The Chronicle which, up to the present, has been the most friendly paper toward the Irish, rebuked Mr. Davitt for his cable message to a New York newspaper, saying: "It will ill-serve the Irish cause," and declaring that it is "absolutely untrue that the English ruling clas ance with England. Leader writers are that the ruling classes are hostile to a community of interests in the near foreign policy, "in spite of the wishes future. The fact that a formal defen- of English friends of home rule," and sive alliance does not for a moment asserts that the Anglo-Saxon in Amenter into the immediate problems of erica is a myth, and makes the statethat United States opinion is setting stitute three-fourths of the Americans government to form an alliance with est interests of Anglo-Saxon civilization. Since generalizations are unsated every civilized people—an alliance which would seriously impair the cific and non-aggressive international

policy." The utterances of Michael Davitt as to the possibility of Anglo-American alliance are surprising everyone by their singular shallowness. Everyone, of course, knew that sooner or later Davitt would try his best to wreck any entente cordiale between the two countries, and the strong burst of contempt with which people have read the poor but pompous sallies which no that this community of opinion on here. All who know Davitt well are various important subjects will bring touched by the pathos of his past sufferings and gentle personality; but as a public character he appears singul-James Bryce writes: "Personally I arly inadequate, and loses all title to sometimes troubled surface there was preter of the symptoms of the English ruling classes and describes England as being shaken by nervous terror at free English peoples on the opposite would be amusing were it not so pitiful. His words read more like the which seem to be put in circulation of hysterical utterances of the poorer kind of Parisian journalist than the well-weighed opinion of the responsible statesman. Without doubting this man's sincerity, it may fairly be said to be of the same deadly usefulness as the sincerity of a color-blind pilot navigating an unknown channel, and whose sight of the one available old-fashioned chart is blinded by his

> NO WAR SCARE NOW. Uneasiness over the relations of the powers in the Far East has abated. Leader writers talk ominously about the crisis in West Africa and China, but there are no war scares on 'change. The French demands upon China for political concessions are analogous in form to the concessions previously asked by England and Germany, and are discussed calmly by the press. What practical men perceive readily enough is the fact that with all the high-sounding talk about a possible war, Europe really desires a possible war, Europe really desires peace. England certainly wants nothing else, Russia is not prepared for a

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The principal question of diplomacy is whether Lord Salisbury's retirement from the foreign office may not be per-

PROSPECTIVE CABINET CHANGES Lord Salisbury's illness caused a greated flurry in European foreign ofpersonal estimate of Mr. Chamberlain himself, and studying his record disview, it is difficult to conceive greater danger for the peace of England at the moment than that he should

That this is a quaint moment for making proposals to revise the British constitution was shown last week in the House of Commons, where an elaborate scheme to establish home rule all round only succeeded in driving the members to dinner and then counting out the house immediately afterwards. Home defense all round would have been more to the taste of the honorable members, who are thinking at this moment of about everything but home rule. The job is too big for the present parliament at this late hour. Its successors will have the task of adjusting the rival claims of Scotland and Ireland, and of then persuading the majority that Wales is really worthy of serious consideration.

THE QUEEN'S STOCKING WORKER John Meakin, an old weaver of Derby, is the proudest man in the kingdom. He has just received from kingdom. Queen Victoria her autograph portrait in recognition of the fact that he has made her majesty's stockings for 40 years. She desired him to send her his portrait in return.

KING ALFRED'S MILLENARY. At a large and influential meeting, held at the Mansion House, a resolution was passed in favor of a national millenary commemoration of King Alfred the Great, who was born in 849 at Wantage, Berkshire, and who died in 901 and was buried at Winchester. The lord mayor, Mr. Horatio Davis, presided. The mayor of Winchester expressed the belief that all the Englishspeaking people ought to join in the movement. He said he had written to President McKinley, and had received a reply to the effect that he felt great individual interest in the celebration. Queen Victoria wrote a letter, approving of the movement, which is favored by the most notable public men in the country. The United States ambassa dor, Col. John Hay, has been placed on a committee appointed to promote the



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mitted with the necessity for a re-organization of the cabinet.

fices than at home. Of course, there has been a flood of sympathy poured out here for the over-worked, overworried statesman; yet the strongest note really discernible is the fear lest Mr. Chamberlain gets hold of the reins, and the fervent hope is freely express-ed that the arrangement which practically gives Mr. Balfour the working job of foreign secretary might become a permanent one. Lord Salisbury's illness is genuine enough, and the question arises whether he will ever be well enough to return. Putting aside any

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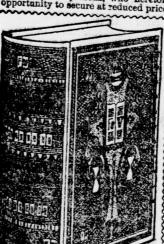
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