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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 a profound sensation in the old country. Sir Ellis, in describing Great Britain's foreign relations during the last five years, points out that there have been troubles with France, with 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, have been accompanied by considerable loss of British influence and credit, and even in some cases with no little humiliation. The result, in the opinion of this Conservative leader, has been the isolation and helplessness of England, an isolation and helplessness which seem to have been of late increasing with geometrical progression. Great Britain, he further holds, cannot fight Russia without the support of the Ottoman army. With that magnificent soldiery against the British, Sir Ellis asserts that the motherland could not hold India. To make matters worse, he says Mussulman feeling throughout the world, and especially in India, has been exasperated by the British. The result has been the destruction of British influence at Constantinople and the substitution of other influence in its place. Great misery and ruin to the Christians in Armenia, in Crete and in Greece, and terrible suffering to Cretan Mussulmans as well, and perhaps worst of all, a general sense of dissatisfaction against Britain among the Mussulmans in India, accompanied by a tremendous outbreak among the valiant Mussulman tribes on our northwestern frontier.

This is a severe arraignment, but Sir Ellis points out that Britain's relations with European nations have also brought her humiliation. In 1893, he says, "a treacherous attack upon a British force by the French at Welma was allowed to go unatoned for and even without an apology. Three British officers were slaughtered at Welma 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 step France was allowed to seize the whole hinterland of Sierra Leone and Gambia and to encroach on the Logos, Gold Coast and Niger districts. The result is the present impasse in West Africa. There the French, encouraged by our unbroken and uncompensated retreat, have made a general advance all along the line into British territory, and the two nations are on the very verge of war."

An alliance of Britain with France Sir Ellis considers to be out of the question. The republic is flimsy, it has changed its governments 35 times in 26 years, and it has shown itself to 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 get 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."

This isolation, in his opinion, is only an incitement to the other great Powers to combine against Great Britain. 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 more hopeful of the future. Never in 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 when they were really necessary for the furtherance of her policy. Were Britain in real danger, it would be found that her offshoots, in every part

of the world, would be heard from in defense of the center of the greatest empire the world has ever known.

It may happen that at times, in the international land hunger scramble for points of vantage, that John Bull has been over-reached by a competitor.

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—Millenary of King Alfred—The Queen's Stocking Worker—The All-Round Home Idea.

London, March 21.—The remarkable unanimity of the approval of all classes of the mere suggestion of an Anglo-American alliance compels belief in its sincerity. The fact that most of the cable dispatches from the United States have proclaimed that the question has been seriously discussed is heartily welcomed here, and is regarded as extremely important and gratifying, 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 issuing identical notes to all opposed to their common interests." The diplomatist continued: "It is not any stretch of imagination to say that such a union has been longed for by the best men in Great Britain for many years, 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 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 cable letter, refers as follows to the changes 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 friendship and cordiality. It gives them a new sensation to hear that 'God Save the Queen' is sung by audiences in United States theaters, and that influential American writers are in alliance with England. Leader writers are cautious, almost non-committal, because such a coalition is clearly premature. The times are too critical to admit of definite discussion of the expediency of an Anglo-American alliance. The truth is recognized that the chief function of the present era of good feeling is to create an atmosphere for a community of interests in the near future. The fact that a formal defensive alliance does not for a moment enter into the immediate problems of diplomacy does not put any restraint upon the satisfaction which is felt here that the United States opinion is setting strongly in the direction of cordial cooperation and intimate association with England for the promotion of the high interests of Anglo-Saxon civilization. Since generalizations are unsatisfactory I repeat a few expressions of prominent Englishmen, which illustrate the spirit and tone of the discussion 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 feeling, which is general in the United States, with regard to the condition of essential duty in the two great and free English peoples on the opposite sides of the Atlantic. For the stories which seem to be put in circulation of British designs regarding Hawaii and 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—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. The two nations have long parva fui who have long believed that the United States of the future will include every man who speaks English. This is the first faint streak of dawn."

ANTHONY HOPE HAWKINS.
Mr. Anthony Hope Hawkins writes: "My recent experience in the United States have immensely 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 of us holds out a hand I hope the other will clasp it."

MR. FREDERICK'S COMMENTS.
Frederic says: "The German emperor has said so many gorgeously silly things at this time that the late private after-dinner indiscretions in favor of Spain were at first believed to have genuine utterances. There is good reason to be restrained by the delicate nature of the situation, talk very freely of their hopes for an Anglo-

But who will say that the English-speaking race has not a fair share of the good things of the earth in every section of it? Every now and again some one raises the question, as Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett does, 'Will Britain be able to hold her own?'

American alliance. Nor should the deep feeling be ignored, which showed itself this week at the banquet of the Honorable Artillery Company to the American artillery corps. It expressed perhaps without the sentimental emotions of feverish Frenchmen in like circumstances a demonstration, useful not only as proving the good-will of a certain number of well-intentioned men, but as correctly reflecting what really is the strongest English bias of the day. At the back of 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 is no such touting now either side, whatever idiots may say who are trying to cook up ill-feeling between the two countries; that there is also the suspicion, founded on facts, which even a half-blind man may see without difficulty, that should the threatened combination of European powers, possible and even probable from day to day, even assume concrete form and take definite and hostile action, 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 United States, replied to Mr. Davitt by cable message to a New York newspaper, saying: "It will ill-serve the cause of the world by declaring that it is 'absolutely untrue' that the English ruling classes are in sympathy with Spain and hostile to America. Mr. Davitt retorts with a letter, buttressing his statement that the ruling classes are hostile to America. He quotes the 'hypocritical professions of friendship towards the republic.' Continuing, Mr. Davitt asserts the right of Irishmen to voice their own opinions on the subject of foreign policy, 'in spite of the wishes of English friends of home rule,' and asserts that the Anglo-Saxon in America is a myth, and makes the statement that Irishmen, Germans, Frenchmen, Dutchmen and Belgians are all government to form an alliance with that power which is distrusted by 'these civilized people—an alliance which would seriously impair the unique moral influence she exercises among all nations owing to her pacific and non-aggressive international policy.'"

VERY SHALLOW.
The utterances of Michael Davitt as to the possibility of Anglo-American alliance are surprising, even by his singular shallowness. Everyone, of course, knew that sooner or later Mr. Davitt would try his best to wreck any entente cordiale between the two countries, and the strong burst of vitriolic indignation was daily expected. Imagine, then, the amused contempt with which people have read the poor but pompous sallies which no sane observing man can for a moment trust as affording even an approximate guess at the real state of things here. All who know Davitt well are touched by the pathos of his past sufferings and gentle personality; but as a public character he appears singularly inadequate, and loses all title to respect when he poses as the interpreter of the symptoms of the English ruling classes and describes England as being shaken by nervous terror at the crisis in West Africa and China, and whose sight of the one available old-fashioned chart is blinded by his tears.

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 peace. England certainly wants nothing else, Russia is not prepared for a

naval war in the Pacific, nor is France sufficiently interested in the West African swamps to fight about them. The principal question of diplomacy is whether Lord Salisbury's retirement from the foreign office may not be permitted with the necessity for a re-organization of the cabinet.

PROSPECTIVE CABINET CHANGES.
Lord Salisbury's illness caused a great flurry in European foreign offices than at home. Of course, there has been a flood of sympathy poured out here for the over-worked, over-worried statesman, yet the strongest note really discernible is the fear lest Mr. Chamberlain gets hold of the reins, and the fervent hope is freely expressed 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 personal estimate of Mr. Chamberlain himself, and studying his record since the retirement of Salisbury, it is difficult to conceive of a greater danger for the peace of England at the present moment than that he should rule its destinies.

HOME RULE.
That this is a quaint moment for making proposals to revise the British constitution is the subject of much talk 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 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 MILLENNARY.
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 great mayor, Mr. Horatio Davis, presided. The mayor of Winchester expressed the belief that all the English-speaking 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. The United States ambassador, Col. John Hay, has been placed on a committee appointed to promote the movement.

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