

GE G Mr. Gladstone



COMMON SENSE.

DIFFERENCES have arisen between Great Britain and the United States, which are rapidly drifting the two nations into a war. I am confident that the American Government and people not only all desire no such result, but will look upon it as the greatest calamity which can befall them. I am equally confident that the issue will be unanimously accepted if forced upon them.

In the hope of contributing even in the smallest degree, towards averting what would be a catastrophe to the civilized world, I submit for candid consideration a few facts.

I am sure that it will be conceded that the language of the Treaty of Washington is ambiguous. If it be claimed with Mr. Gladstone that there is no ambiguity, and that therefore the American claims are absurd, that is an end of both reasoning and reason. For the position assails the good faith of the American Government in presenting a statement which it