

is to be carried on as a trial, in which the Students are plaintiffs and the Authorities defendants, it would be obviously unjust to permit either to have a decided advantage over the other by being able to use public funds for its purposes.

England and  
France.

The reply of M. Hanotaux, in the French Senate, to interpellations concerning the points raised by Sir Edward Grey's speech in the British Commons, which was waited for with so much anxiety, while both courteous and clever, was vexatiously indefinite. M. Hanotaux dexterously evaded the main point, which is whether the alleged expedition of a French exploring party into the region of the Upper Nile has or has not actually taken place, while he put his finger upon the weak spot in the logic of the British case, as hypothetically put by Sir Edward, by calling upon him to define the exact limits of the African territory in the Nile region claimed as being within the sphere of British influence. It is very true that the British Government may retort by saying that the claims of France and other Powers engaged in the partition are equally indefinite. But so long as these Powers do not attempt to warn other nations off from given districts they may reasonably enough maintain that they are under no obligation to define their claims. Great Britain, on the other hand, having given such warning to France, in distinct and unmistakable terms, the demand of the latter for a definition of boundaries becomes logical and pertinent. Were it not for the danger arising from the intense anti-British feeling which, from some cause not clearly understood, or perhaps from no definable cause, has of late taken hold of the excitable and mercurial French mind, the situation would be rather amusing. "It is said that you are poaching upon my preserves," cries Albion. "I do not believe the rumour, but if it is true, look out. I can't prevent it!" "If you will have the goodness to tell us where your preserves are and how far they extend I may be able to find out whether any of my brave explorers have crossed their boundaries," replies France, with one of her most graceful courtesies. It cannot be denied that the British Government is cleverly caught between the horns of the dilemma. It must either boldly claim the whole valley of the Upper Nile and face all the ugly issues which such a claim will precipitate, or decline with the best grace it may to follow up the warning conveyed in Sir Edward Grey's strong words.

Great Britain and  
Venezuela.

Nothing could be more reasonable or conciliatory than the terms of the statement which the British Government is said to have made to the Ambassador of the United States, in respect to the Venezuela affair. No new territory is desired, no interference with Venezuela's rights or liberties contemplated, but redress is demanded for the hauling down of the British flag and the expulsion of a British Consul. Reparation for such an insult is one of the things which no nation can afford to dispense with. It is the pride of Britain, as it was that of ancient Rome, and has been that of all great nations, that the persons and rights of her citizens, and with even stronger reason, of her representatives, must be protected at all costs and hazards. The indemnity asked for will, no doubt, have to be paid, and paid as a preliminary to further negotiations of any kind. If there is any one kind of dispute which a great nation cannot afford to submit to arbitration it is an offence against the person of her representative or subject. In the presence of this frank and dignified statement, all rumours of aggressive boundary demands, or arrogant disregard in any way of the rights of a weak state, fall to the ground. Weak states are sometimes

tempted to rely upon their very weakness to save them from the consequences of their own misdoings in their relations to the more powerful. Obviously it would never do to overlook such misdeeds through a mistaken magnanimity.

"Tawdry and  
Barbaric."

These are the terms by which *The Outlook* fittingly designates the policy, if it may be regarded as such, proposed by Senator Frye, in a speech in true Fourth of July style, made a week or two since at Bridgeport. Lest some of our readers may have failed to see this oratorical masterpiece, let us string together, for their amusement, a few pearls taken almost at random from the dazzling collection:

"For the last two months a member of the English House of Lords, backed by a substantial majority of the English House of Commons, has been in the halls of Congress, begging us in the future to refer all difficulties which may arise to arbitration. Would England have done this thirty years ago? Is she doing it now with Venezuela? No! She only does it with a nation she is afraid of."

"We received this nation of ours so far behind in industrial art that we could hardly see England. We restored it so far ahead of all others that we can see England only by looking back with difficulty through the dust raised by the wheels of our own progress."

"We will place our flag on all the seas of the earth, restore the merchant marine to its place, and will increase our white, strong-armed squadrons so that they shall command the respect of all nations. We will annex the Hawaiian Islands, fortify Pearl Harbour, build the Nicaragua Canal, and marry two great oceans. We will show people a foreign policy that is American in every fibre, and hoist the American flag on whatever island we think best, and no hand shall ever pull it down."

If these were the words of some half-fledged local politician, they would be, as *The Outlook* intimates, unworthy of comment. But they are the utterances of one who is a member of the highest legislative body of the country, and a leader of the party which may shortly come into power again. Hence they are worthy of a certain amount of attention and ridicule. The latter, it is reassuring to see, is being freely bestowed by influential and sensible journals in the United States. So far as the position of the man who uses them makes these inflated periods worth answering, they are well answered by the journal we have quoted: "The true way to maintain the dignity of the flag and command the respect of the world is not to set out upon a career of indiscriminate annexation; it is to make republican institutions synonymous with honour, honesty, and human happiness. We have been grossly unfaithful in our custody of the great idea of free Government. We have identified it in the mind of the world with corruption, inefficiency, and general wastefulness. Our first mission is to rescue that idea from the dirt in which we have trailed it. . . . Before we have acquired another foot of territory let him show us a sound government of the country we already control. Let him inspire his party to break the bondage in which it is now bound hand and foot to corporations in New Jersey, throw off the moral incubus which has crushed the moral life out of it in Pennsylvania, and unseat the boss of Albany, who is making a by-word of the party in this State. Let him show one American city honestly, economically, and efficiently governed, and then the country will be in a condition to turn its attention abroad." These are sensible words and it is well and hopeful that the rebuke is so promptly administered by the better class of journals of Senator Frye's own country that it is hardly necessary for those of other countries to add a word.