

### ALLIANCE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKERS, THE WORLD OVER.

In our young monthly, the *RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA*, December 1st, 1884, under the heading "Forearmed," we expressed the ardent wish that a Pan-Britannic alliance might be formed for various good purposes, and we copied the eloquent words of Colani in the *London Fortnight*, (Feb. 1884) urging fast friendship between the European democracies of Great Britain and France. There now seems foundation for the hope that negotiations for an alliance of English-speakers everywhere may soon become part of practical politics. First, we have Gladstone's hurried, but very clear, letter to the American people, published in the *New York Tribune*, and next an exhibition of genuine warm kinsmanship in George William Curtis's article in *Harper's*, from which, giving its heading, we subjoin an extract.

#### INTERNATIONAL GOOD FEELING.

"No doubt, as it was said that it took Dickens a long time to discover that Thackeray had written a great novel, it is true that English opinion was as reluctant as George the Third to acknowledge that there was another great English nation. No family quarrel which has been pushed to extremity is ever readily healed, and sister Britannia, in ruling the waves, has sometimes stopped and spattered sister Columbia in a very exasperating and unnecessary manner. It would have been much better if mother England had comprehended that when her son was of age he was no longer a child. He could not and he would not go to bed at nine o'clock and conform to the rules of the nursery. To attempt to thrash him into obedience was the sure way to drive him off and fill his heart with bitterness. But although she made that large mistake, and has not wholly forgotten sometimes to repeat it, England is still our nearest relation and our natural ally.

It is pleasant to remember that it is literature, not kinsmanship, which has soothed this bitterness of feeling. The first fully accredited ambassador of international good-will was Washington Irving. And what artless and kindly diplomacy it was! With a tender grace he painted the portrait of the common ancestor. It was poetic and traditional England as he described, the quiet rural life, the happy old customs, the places hallowed by genius or renown—before all old English Christmas, with its fond and faithful associations, until in the sweet and gentle all jealousies and animosities vanished, and as we sat with him on Christmas morning to the murmur of pattering little feet in the corridor, and attended through the happy hours of the holiday, we felt the common kindred, the long descent, the mysterious tinct of race, and in perfect sympathy our accordant hearts beat the refrain, We, too, are Englishmen. And if Englishmen of a Newer England, of a

Greater Britain, what then? Plymouth Rock is but a stepping-stone in the progress of English civilization. Our language, our traditions of liberty, our forms of securing and enlarging freedom, our literature, our prosperity—what are they, and upon what foundation built? If influences adverse to those which have fostered and developed America are to be successfully opposed, by what traditions, principles and spirit must they be encountered? If an alliance to secure the peaceful progress of liberty in Christendom were necessary—a true holy alliance—must it not be composed of the English-speaking races on both sides of the sea? Whatever draws them more intelligently together, whatever soothes little asperities, and reconciles petty differences, and cultivates mutual good-will, is a common benediction.—*George William Curtis, in Harper's.*"

Mr. Curtis was a principal leader of the Independent Republicans, who, at the late Presidential election in the United States for reasons satisfactory to themselves and to many others did not vote for the Republican candidate.

**BISMARCK'S REBUFF.**—The world in general and Germany in particular should be congratulated upon the legislative set-back that Bismarck has received in the ecclesiastical matter. The big dictator has cracked his whip once too often. In the start, years ago, when he first quarrelled with the Vatican, liberal men the world over were hearty in their commendation. Time showed, however, that Bismarck was not a man of one part, but was an unmistakable aristocrat, who was as ready to strike a blow against liberty when it so pleased his imperial purpose as in its favor. Between Germany and the Pope the mass of free men would choose Germany; but it is fair always to consider that even the papal powers in the persons of German citizens have rights that must be respected, and Bismarck's violation of these rights has brought him the present blow. There is no doubt but that the great premier has in some ways done good for his country has helped unification, substantially justified the revolution of 1848, and by a splendid fight with the papacy taught it more respect for the supremacy of government over foreign ecclesiasticism than it ever had before. But the people of Germany cannot be expected to tolerate anything Bismarck chooses to inflict simply because he has in some ways been a beneficent instrument. The time has come when the nation were well rid of him. To that end its present expression of nausea is healthful.—*Boston Commonwealth.*

**INDIANS.**—It is much to be regretted that more is not being done towards developing our Indians into various usefulness. The neighboring United States countries far outstrip us in this good work.