

ourselves in the social scale, which makes us apathetic, nay at times even hostile, to those who, if we knew them better we should on occasion admit to our Council, if we did not invite them to our board.

The great popular educator referred to, is the daily, weekly, and monthly serial press.

We know there are thousands of good people on both sides of the Atlantic, heads of families, principals of great public institutions, who consider the cheap daily papers a curse to the community, people who would, and do as far as they can, shut them out of their houses, and while boastfully admitting "they never read the papers themselves, they are demoralising"; endeavour to prevent those for whom they consider themselves responsible from doing so also. Possibly they may be demoralising according to certain schools of impracticable ethics but they are great popular educators all the same, and though it is obvious that like human designs, and devices, there is yet much room for improvement in the conduct of many newspapers, yet since the days when in England the duty was taken off paper, and the Stamp Tax abrogated, the penny, and half-penny, daily papers have done their work of breaking up the nepotism of class distinction in regard to keeping public offices as an exclusive feeding ground for those within the pale of certain Family Compacts. Without them the people would never have had Civil Service, or any other competition, which ensured a certain average at least of educational attainment on the part of public officials.

This subject is merely referred to here as illustrative of one, of many other reforms, quietly and unostentatiously brought about by the pressure of public opinion disseminated through the columns of the newspapers.

Now, it is often supposed that newspapers lead Public Opinion, that they are the instigators of it. But surely this must be a mistake. Were it so, all government would be a chaos. A nation ruled by a diplomatic policy of disintegrated, conflicting, and unorganized coterie of newspaper literateurs must of necessity become a pandemonium within its own boundaries, without time to spare thought as to what may be proceeding in other countries. Such we must admit has to an extent been the history of the United States newspapers of the past, but the acknowledgment of the fact that Public Opinion merely goes to show that in the Great Republic, local issues have hitherto been of far greater importance to the people than trade, commerce, and foreign relations.

That this revulsion of feeling on the part of the people of the United States towards Great Britain is not of sudden inception nor the mere outcome of events of the Americo-Spanish war, but is a feeling which has been growing downwards from the leaders of the people, to the rank and file of the whole community, ever since the days that steam first solved the problem of international intercourse both social, and commercial, between the two great branches of the Briton family.

In the past, America in its comparative isolation had nothing outside its own boundaries with which to compare its already gigantic, and ever increasing proportions.

Verily, "We Are a Great People," was the burden of the average Fourth of July orators annual panegyric—little was thought of any Other Great People—unless perhaps it was England, and then the consoling logic would rise up in the mind of the exuberantly enthusiastic patriot, "We beat England, and England licked the world"; therefore, We are the Greatest People on The Whole Earth. The very school books taught this creed by the fact of retailing stories of a century old without comment to the young and yet unsophisticated minds of the present rising generation. That the England of To-day was in the statu-

quo of the era of George III, while America had advanced with giant strides, in point of fact that England or rather Great Britain was the great black beast, the National Enemy. But while all this was going on their was a strong undercurrent steadily working upon American public opinion. Commerce between the two countries was ever increasing. As in England during the days commencing with the reign of the Great Queen Elizabeth, and after, wealth from foreign sources was rolling into the coffers of the trading community. The small capitals with which the earlier traders had entered into the business of importers—capitals which often had only been accumulated at the expense of such severe self deprivation that not only the bodies, but the minds also, of these founders of commercial families had been warped. But while the capital remained, the founders in course of time were succeeded by their natural heirs who in their youth and adolescence revelled in a liberal education entirely removed from sordid surroundings, and who as they took up their position in the commercial world quickly had their eyes opened not to the fact of the wonderful manner in which their country had advanced, but to the neglected opportunities of cultivating trade, and trade relations, with a nation which they had at every lull in domestic strife kept their hand in by abusing a nation proud enough, and somewhat prone to be dictatorial at times, but, ever treating the United States like a blustering spoiled boy, whose mother regretted that she had once done an injury to in his earlier years.

And not only was the commercial world stirred, but the religious and educational also. Paternoster Row in London has long been responsible for the Sunday School literature of the Evangelical denominations of Christianity, while the interchange of pulpits, and lecture platforms, by the native orators of the two countries has in itself done much to teach the master the real community of spiritual interest, for America can never forget that the martyrs who sealed the compact with their blood, that man should worship God in spirit and in truth, from the aspirations of his own soul, and not through the medium of any being save the Lord Jesus Christ, were our common forefathers. But perhaps the event which did most to bring the public mind of both countries towards a more just estimate of their relative position was the Venezuela boundary embroilment, and the masterly diplomacy of Mr. J. Chamberlain, (himself a man of the English people) is shown by him in his official position pledging England to the acceptance of the Monroe doctrine. Doubtless he had long seen the approaching increase of amicable relations between the two great tribes of the Briton family and in common with all thinkers on political subjects had seen that the Monroe doctrine was just what England required, for argued out to a logical conclusion, it pledged the United States to a defensive alliance with England at any time when her possessions in North America might be threatened by a foreign invader.

The climax has however been reached by the Americo-Spanish war. By that war the United States has learned more of its true position in regard to the rest of the nations than by any other it could have received.

It has learned for instance that while at little expense comparatively, it could render itself invincible against any foreign power so far as its own territory was concerned, yet, that against any European foe with a navy of strength, it must always be at a disadvantage having no coaling stations there, and if that difficulty were surmounted by purchase, or treaty, yet would the cost of maintenance be so great that at time of war such possessions would but serve

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