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Mr. Chamberlain's Speech. Both Lord Salisbury and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, have

recently made speeches which seem to indicate an apprehension on the part of the Imperial Government that the resources of diplomacy may prove insufficient to afford a solution for some of the problems in international politics with which Great Britain is confronted. The attitude of the European powers as to the situation in eastern Asia and the disregard which is being shown by France for British rights in West Africa are matters which evidently create uneasiness. Mr. Chamberlain's speech mentioned above was delivered at Birmingham. After deprecating the assertions in certain quarters that Lord Salisbury was "discredited" and the Government "weak and vacillating," he said: "If foreign countries believe and act upon those statements, they will find themselves much mistaken, and that courteous diplomacy and graceful concessions are not incompatible with a firm maintenance of the country's honor and interests." Referring to the policy of strict isolation that England has pursued since the Crimean war, he remarked that this had been "perfectly justifiable, but the time has arrived when Great Britain may be confronted by a combination of Powers, and our first duty, therefore, is to draw all parts of the empire into close unity, and our next to maintain the bonds of permanent unity with our kinsmen across the Atlantic. "There is a powerful and generous nation speaking our language, bred of our race, and having interests identical with ours. I would go so far as to say that, terrible as war may be, even war itself would be cheaply purchased if, in a great and noble cause, the stars and stripes and the union jack should wave together over an Anglo-Saxon alliance. It is one of the most satisfactory results of Lord Salisbury's policy that at the present time these two great nations understand each other better than they ever have done, since, over a century ago, they were separated by the blunder of a British Government." Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to draw a gloomy picture of the situation in China, "where we have to count with Russia, as in Afghanistan, except that we do not possess an army or a defensive frontier in China and cannot, therefore, injure Russia without an ally. The fate of the whole Chinese empire is involved, and our interests are so enormous that no more vital question was ever presented for decision to the British nation and a British government. Unless the fate of China is to be decided without England's voice, we must reject the idea of an alliance with those Powers whose interest are similar to ours." The various points of Mr. Chamberlain's speech were greeted with prolonged cheers.

Anglo-Saxon Alliance. The idea of an Anglo-Saxon alliance which Mr. Chamberlain advocates in his Birmingham speech is receiving not a little attention on both sides the Atlantic. The London correspondent of a prominent New York daily paper asserts that the British Cabinet has definitely and unanimously committed itself in principle to an Anglo-Saxon alliance, if it can be made on terms honorable and advantageous to both countries. Whether this is strictly true or not, there appears to be plenty of evidence, besides that afforded by Mr. Chamberlain's speech, that such an alliance is look upon by many of the leading men of Great Britain with strong favor. In view of present complications and the present or prospective combination of forces inimical to the interests of the British Empire in Africa and Asia, there are probably a large number of English statesmen who are disposed to welcome

the appearance of the United States in the Pacific as a world power and to hold with Mr. Chamberlain that a firm alliance of the different branches of the English speaking people offers for the British Empire the best available defence in view of whatever hostile powers may attempt against its interests. For years past the British Government appears to have recognized very clearly the immense importance of cultivating friendly relations with the United States. If Britain were forced into a war with Russia or France or both combined, the attitude of the United States toward the conflict would plainly be of the greatest importance. It seems plain too that Mr. Chamberlain at least has no faith that Britain can very long avoid a conflict with these envious European powers, except by effecting an alliance which those powers must respect. There is no possible alliance which would seem so natural and so mutually advantageous as one with the people of the United States. The Government of that country must be keenly sensible of the value of England's good-will in connection with the war with Spain. If Britain would have consented, the powers of Europe would have stepped in at the outbreak of the war to protect Spain from the power of the American republic. And very recently, if the despatches are to be believed, the veto of the British Government saved the United States from being confronted with the very embarrassing question, whether to withdraw its ships from the Philippines or to fight the combined powers of Europe. If therefore, the United States intends to hold on to this new possession in the Orient, as seems to be its present purpose, it will find an alliance with a sea power like Great Britain a matter of great importance, if not of necessity. It is to be considered too that the interests of the United States in China are identical with those of Great Britain. It is not colonial possessions, spheres of influence, millions of people to govern and to be responsible for, that they desire, but the free development of the country, with an open door for trade and commerce. There are many considerations of a higher character than those of mere material interest, which should draw the whole English speaking world together in cordial fellowship. Their standing together would make for peace and it should make for the cultivation of all pure fruits of peace and righteousness.

The Governor-General. The announcement that Lord Aberdeen has tendered his resignation as Governor-General of Canada, a year before the conclusion of his term of office, and that he will probably leave Canada at the close of the present summer, occasions some surprise as well as very general regret. It is explained that matters of much personal importance to his lordship, requiring his presence in the old country, afford the reason for his leaving Canada. Politically, Lord Aberdeen's course has not indeed, in some quarters, given unqualified satisfaction. As to the merits of the criticism to which in respect to certain matters the Governor-General has been subjected, it does not lie within our province to pronounce an opinion. But it is at least certain that by none who have represented royalty at Ottawa has so general and cordial an interest been manifested in the people of Canada and all that concerns their well-being, as by the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen. They have not held themselves aloof in aristocratic seclusion, but have mingled as freely with the people as it was possible for persons in their station to do, and they have unstintingly employed their time, their talents and their wealth for the country's good. Lord Aberdeen's service to Canada has not been of a merely perfunctory kind, as of one resolved to do his duty

while occupying the vice-regal office; it has rather been inspired by the interest which a man of noble character must necessarily feel in his fellowmen, and by a very genuine interest in this great colony of Canada and its people. As for Lady Aberdeen she has, with Christian and philanthropic spirit, given herself as earnestly to every good work on behalf of the country as she could have done, had she been herself a daughter of Canada. The people of this country, we are sure, know how to appreciate the untiring service of the Governor-General and his wife, and their departure from our shores will be the occasion of universal regret.

The War. So far as appears at this writing the Spanish-American war has proceeded with very little bloodshed during the past week. It is a full month now since hostilities began and the total loss of life has not exceeded what is sometimes caused by a single coal mine explosion. This would be gratifying but for the apprehension of what is to come. The conflict has hardly yet begun, and if Spain carries out her expressed determination to fight it out to the bitter end, the war is likely yet to cost the sacrifice of much life and treasure. The anticipated great naval engagement has not yet been reported. The fleets of the two nations appear to be playing a hide and seek game. The United States has felt it necessary to defer the projected invasion of Cuba until the Spanish fleet shall be disposed of, and the policy of the Spaniards appears to be to avoid any decisive naval engagement, and thus delay the invasion of Cuba until General Blanco has had time to perfect his plans and preparations for resistance and until, with the coming of the unhealthy hot season, the conditions shall become the most unfavorable for the invasion of the Island by American troops. The opinion expressed in these columns a few weeks ago, that the invasion of Cuba could not be expected to take place before the autumn, seems likely to prove well founded. The United States authorities are discovering that little dependence is to be placed in the Cuban insurgents as allies. If the island is to be taken from the Spaniards, it will be necessary to land there a formidable army, as it appears that the Spanish forces under General Blanco are strongly entrenched. To secure the results of Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila and to hold possession of the Philippines will apparently involve the sending of another considerable army across the Pacific. This is especially the case, if it is true, as reported, that Spain is about to send an army to the Philippines to hold the Islands against the Americans. If Admiral Sampson can succeed in bringing the Spanish Commander to a general naval engagement and in shattering the Spanish fleet, that might indeed have the effect of putting an end to the war. But, as we have pointed out, Spain's intention is apparently not to permit the issues of the war to be decided upon the results of such an engagement. Her policy is rather to prolong the war in hope of European intervention or the occurrence of something which shall be for her advantage.

—The death is announced of Mr. Edward Bellamy whose book entitled "Looking Backward" brought its author suddenly into prominence a few years ago. Shortly after the publication of a second book entitled "Equality," some eight months ago Mr. Bellamy was attacked with lung trouble which developed into consumption. He died in Colorado in his forty-ninth year.