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### BRITANNIA AND HER CRITICS.

You have many enemies that know not  
Why they are so, but, like to village curs,  
Bark when their fellows do. Shakspeare.

The foreign critics of Great Britain, emboldened by the reverses her troops have encountered in South Africa, have been yelping at her like the hounds surrounding a stag at bay. The first failure of General Buller's force to ford the Tugela and advance to the relief of Ladysmith was made the occasion for such joyful barking at Berlin and Paris that timid and thoughtless people became uneasy and excited. Yet a brief period spent in reflection has sufficed to restore calm and confidence throughout the Empire. From two of the most rabid of the hostile journals, we quote the following jubilant expressions of satisfaction with the situation in South Africa. Although neither of the papers may be regarded as exponents of the views entertained by the majority of the best men in France and Germany, the opinions expressed doubtless find favour with the mob, "the mutable, rank-scented many," of both countries. "La Patrie" (Paris) tells us that the British army "has lived a century on the reputation of the Duke of Wellington, and perhaps the navy also lives solely on the reputation of Nelson. The war in the Transvaal has demonstrated the weak points of the British army, the weakness of the British empire, the incapacity of its military chiefs, and the fictitious strength of its troops, who only had to fight savages."

The "Kruz Zeitung" (Berlin) contents itself with a caustic comment on the Tugela affair, and then adds:

"What, however, means more is that England's decadence, long ago apparent to far-sighted statesmen, has thus become visible before the whole world."

Of course, the sympathy of Vienna and Buda Pesth is calculated to allay any feeling of irritation aroused by the barking at Berlin and Paris, and if we really need evidence of the good understanding now existing between the two great English-speaking nations, whose moral, political and material interests are identical, it may be extracted from the candid admissions made by the New York "Times" in the excellent leading article of Monday last from which we now quote:—"The two nations sustain relations to each other which forbid that we should be indifferent to the

calamities that befall her. Bound together by ties of peculiar sanctity and firmness, ties closer than those that unite any other nations on earth, these two peoples of the English speech have an influence in the world's affairs that would be lamentably impaired by the abasement of either. They have a work to do which neither might be able to perform alone, and which the world can ill afford that they should leave undone.

"England stood by us. Let us stand by her. We had the great help of her moral support. Let us give her our sympathy and good wishes. The envious and watchful knew that she was our friend. Let all the world know now that we are hers."

Let those who harshly criticize the foreign policy of Great Britain only recall what has been done for the people of the provinces subjugated by her, and they will understand why a Buda Pesth paper, after expressing sympathy with the British army in South Africa, adds:

"Every liberal nation in the world would deeply regret if the position of Great Britain, the standard-bearer of civilization, were shaken."

Who among her enemies will dare to deny her the credit due for the civilization and enlightenment in India, Egypt, and other countries she now holds and guards by right of conquest. It is useless to discuss whether Christianity or commerce has wrought the greater change in the condition of the world. A marvellous change and improvement has been wrought, and but for the subjugation of these countries by Great Britain neither one nor the other of these influences could have been brought into play. What has been done elsewhere by "the standard-bearer of civilization" in the cause of freedom and enlightenment will be done in South Africa. The task may be a difficult and dangerous one, and its accomplishment may involve an appalling sacrifice of blood and money; but the "far-sighted statesmen" who regard our recent reverses in South Africa as failure, and see in the situation signs of the "decadence" of Britain are evidently not familiar with the history of the Anglo-Saxon race,