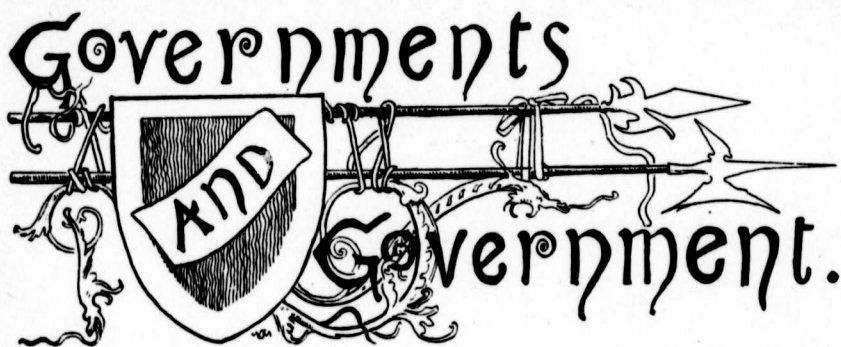


Governments AND Government.



As a means of exciting the expression of genuine sentiments the Venezuela dispute has developed into an immense success. Doubtless it has served to arouse in some cases those primeval passions which make for war as the quickest and best method of settling all disputes, but public opinion, where it is expressed with due soberness tends on all sides for the preservation of peace. Henry M. Stanley, who has fallen into the evil way of remembering always the society to which he has been more or less reluctantly admitted, sees, or fancies he sees a considerable likelihood of war, and argues not so much from the message of President Cleveland, portentous as it is, as from the state of the public mind as he found it long prior to the issuance of the presidential threat.

Doubtless Mr. Stanley lives in high hope of Imperial honors to come, else why should he turn his back upon the country that gave him his chance for fame and insist in every sentence of his article on his being a representative Briton?

"If we are attacked, we must resist those who attack us with all our might. We believe our Premier to be right in his contention that, after fifty-five years of possession of the territory, we ought not to be molested in our occupation of it."

If Mr. Stanley's first personal pronoun is somewhat disagreeably persistent, what is to be said about Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who makes his fortune in the United States, spends it in England, devotes his spare time to righting the universe and proclaiming the virtues of the North of Ireland race, and enters this controversy to insist that a sufficient excuse for the United States going to war would be that it might thereby uphold the principle settling all international disputes by arbitration. In other words, he does not care whether the territory actually in dispute is adjudged one way or the other, but if the President says there is room for arbitration, arbitration there will be or war for arbitration's sake.

There is something about the point of view of both these gentlemen which smacks of the professional and more or less insincere patriotism of which Canadians have had some experience. On the other hand, there are the views of nearly all the real representatives of public opinion on both sides of the water that there must be no such insanity as war between the two peoples. American writers will not hear of war unless the country is ready to spend a decade in preparation to invade Britain and