

peace would be then patched up and a native reserve formed. But as the wave of settlement spread the reserve was again invaded and the process of stopping the settlers' advance had to be repeated. There was no settled plan of conquest or absorption—the Home Government had to interfere in spite of itself. The process is still going on, and just as the Anglo-Saxons in America drove back the savages from the shores of the Atlantic into the bush, and then cleared the bush away and exterminated the savages, so in Africa the native tribes have been and will be similarly dealt with. There is no use in arguing about the propriety or impropriety of such a movement. All that can be done is to guide it and keep it within reasonable bounds as far as possible.

The Anglo-Dutch Problem.

The situation in South Africa, as far as the English were concerned, was complicated by the European contingent of Dutch settlers who had preceded them. These people had been at the Cape for a long time before the conquest and were after it many of them quite irreconcilable. One feature of their internal polity was their cruel treatment of the natives. The English people as a rule were not cruel. They took the land, but they left the natives their liberty. The Boers took away the natives' land and liberty both and were cruel and harsh task-masters. The English authorities tried to prevent their cruelty and so much friction arose that the Boers, seeing they were outnumbered, resolved to seek fresh fields and pastures new. They retreated more than once to escape the ever-increasing rush of British settlement. They are now making their last stand. Unfortunately, the genius of their institutions are unprogressive and they themselves are slow and backward. They have occupied a part of Africa which is both fertile and rich, and they refuse to allow those settlers whom they have both permitted and invited to enter the country to be anything more than hewers of wood and drawers of water. These people, who are busy, progressive, and energetic, are expected by the Boers to develop the country and get nothing for it. The new settlers have long been dissatisfied and Dr. Jameson's raid was made at their request. The intended combination failed and for the moment the new settlers are non-plussed. But the impulse has been given and if the Boers do not grant liberal concessions the tide of South African feeling will be too strong to hold back. There will be more fighting and there can be only one result. If the Boers insist on the *ultima ratio* they will get it. But probably their knowledge of their own relative weakness will prevent their placing further obstacles in the way of progress. Ultimately, they will learn that it will be for their own benefit. As for the German Emperor, he is like Mrs. Partington. He is trying to keep out the waves with a broom.

The German Emperor.

No more astounding or uncalled-for event has happened in this century than Emperor William's message to President Kruger. The Dutch were not German subjects. They had no alliance with Germany. On the contrary there are many Germans among the dissatisfied Uitlanders. These men are just as discontented with the Dutch rule as the English, Canadians, or Americans who are out there. The European situation is not so simple that the German Emperor can afford to trifle with it. England has every wish to stand by Germany. The German army and the British navy could dominate Europe. What have they to quarrel about? They have every incentive to hold together. Personally, the German Emperor has

been well treated in England. He has been *feted* and most hospitably received. If he seriously contemplates any active assistance to the Dutch Republic or diplomatic intervention on their behalf England will not suffer. Where she will have the whip-hand is here. All she has to do is to offer an alliance to France on the terms of aiding her to recover Alsace and Lorraine and the offer would be jumped at. The French would ally themselves with his Satanic Majesty if they thought he could secure them their *revanche*. Probably England would have to fight France afterwards, but at all events in the first place she could checkmate Germany in this obvious manner. But England and Germany have no quarrel. Englishmen and Germans agree well enough and of late years have been drawing much closer. This act of the Emperor's seems to have been from his own personal impulse. It is almost on a par with Cleveland's message, and that is saying a good deal. These two war-lords sing a strong duet. It reminds us of Mephistopheles' serenade in *Faust*—discordant, harsh—not human.

Cuban Affairs.

The reports which reach us from Cuba are so bewildering in their contradictions that it is very difficult to know what is the true state of affairs in the storm-tossed little island. The character and colour of the reports depend upon who sends them. The correspondent who reflects the opinions of the Government generally maintains that the Spanish forces are rapidly gaining the upper hand and that the insurgents will soon be swept from off the face of the earth. He who sympathizes with the rebels maintains the opposite. It seems pretty clear now that a vigorous onslaught has been made in General Campos' line, and that several towns in the neighbourhood of Havana have been captured by General Gomez, the commander of the rebel forces. In the Province of Pinar Del Rio, to which the insurgents are now marching, lie the finest of the tobacco plantations, and these will soon be at the mercy of Gomez. The insurgents have practically no property to lose, because the owners are chiefly Spaniards, so the Cubans have little occasion to spare it, and in this fact lies their most terrible weapon of offence. The Spanish rule has been about as bad as it could be, and we should not be sorry to see it ended. The Cubans have grievances enough and to spare, and though we cannot commend their methods of rectifying matters there is much that can be said by way of apology. If victorious, Cuba will, of course, declare herself a republic, and the United States would, no doubt, claim to be a sponsor. Now as the Dominion is territorially more extensive than the United States, Canada might start a Monroe Doctrine of her own, and claim to be a second sponsor for Cuba. It is the age of scares.

American Friendship.

It is clear that Great Britain and Canada have some warm friends in the United States, in spite of all that would lead us to believe the contrary. We trust the wish is not the father of the thought when we say that, should England find herself alone and against a world in arms and in sore need, the United States might possibly turn and repent. Under great stress the forces which make for righteousness and wisdom in the Republic might be strong enough to cope with the hideous elements which appear now to dominate the political life of the United States. Already there are signs of a strong re-action against the wild outburst of spleen which disgraced the closing days of the old year. Some Americans are beginning slowly to recognize that Great Britain is their best friend, and that on her preëminence in Europe depends their own salvation.