

But to be serious, let us for a moment see what the two nations have done in the way of acquiring territory for the last hundred years. During that period, while Great Britain has emerged from a kingdom into an empire and has risen to great wealth, standing and importance, I do not think she has cared to acquire more territory. None has been acquired in America, while in Europe she has only added the Island of Cyprus, and in Asia, Aden, part of Burmah, Hong Kong, and lately some additions surrounding this last place. In Africa she has added the colonies of Cape Town and Natal, with some other unsettled parts; in Australasia, part of Borneo and a few of the smaller islands. All do not exceed, I think, 1,500,000 square miles.

In the United States, in round numbers, it appears to be as follows: In 1800 the area of the United States was 850,000 square miles; then came the cessions by France and Mexico of 1,800,000, the cession from Spain of Florida and other territory of 60,000, then Texas of 266,000, then the Gadsden Purchase of 50,000, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands of 600,000, and in 1898 the conquest from Spain of 200,000; in all, 3,826,000 square miles. This is a conservative estimate of what the modest little nation on the shores of the Atlantic has done within the hundred years, while both ends of the century are crowded with startling events and masterly achievements. The stalwart young giant starting out one hundred years ago with 5,000,000 population will close the ledger of the century (including the colonies) with a population of about 90,000,000.

Standing on the summit of the Rocky Mountains, with one hand overshadowing the Atlantic and the islands of the Caribbean Sea, the other arm bends an elbow down on the Pacific coast, and with shut fist holds one thousand islands in the Pacific ocean—all the Aleutians, all the Hawaiians, all the Philippines and one of the Ladrões. Such an aggrandizement in a single century with so little loss of life has not been witnessed since the gray dawn of time. The United States contains more English-speaking people than all other countries combined. It is as much English as England, for language is the pivotal point of sentiment, emotion and inspiration to action. Americans are worthy children of the mother land. Yes, the United States has out-Heroded Herod. It has, by purchase, war and diplomacy, simply reached out and taken everything in sight. But, notwithstanding this, the small strip of land bordering on the Alaskan coast should go cheerfully to whoever really owns it; and should any person be found willing to try to get something not his own, he is no friend of either country.

The fourth article of the treaty provides for contingencies which