

WHY THE UNITED STATES

citizens, and as her Government has again and again interpreted it. Pressed, she will insist upon rights, will even declare herself the champion of other nations' rights. But so long as she is left to her own devices, she will stand apart and offer herself as a golden example to a bitter world."

But while this has not been wholly untrue of the United States in the past, it is apparent that it was less than true in 1898, when the national spirit demanded action for the emancipation of Cuba. No doubt this determination was partly due to the feeling that the opportunity might be conscientiously seized for further conserving the interests of the Monroe Doctrine, beside satisfying the dictates of humanity, but those who know America and consider the course she took with her "conquests" on that occasion believe that her guiding principle—the service of humanity—perhaps never before so strikingly controlled her morals and her decisions.

That brief flash of war, however, was merely symptomatic of the widening ideals of the maturing Republic. Despite her relative unfamiliarity with European conditions and despite her traditional aversion to assuming an active partnership in the proceedings of European nations, she has now actually made what Kipling rightly calls

" the eternal choice
Of good or ill

" In the Gates of Death rejoice!
We see and hold the good—
Bear witness, Earth, we have made our choice
For Freedom's brotherhood."