

MONTREAL HARBOUR.

In a recent issue it was pointed out that the necessary improvements in connection with the Montreal Harbour were urgent, and that no unnecessary delay ought to take place in securing legislation for the purpose of enabling the Government to advance the funds required for the above purpose. We are, therefore, glad to see that something tangible has at last been done and there is now every prospect that improvements to the extent of \$2,000,000 will be carried out. The Finance Minister, on Wednesday evening, gave notice of the following resolution which he will move in committee of the whole, probably to-day: "That it is expedient to provide that the Governor-in-Council may advance to the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, in addition to the amount authorized by the 10th chapter of the Statutes of 1896, first session, to be advanced to the said Commissioners, a further sum not exceeding two million dollars for the completion and construction of certain works in the harbour of Montreal, the said commissioners thereupon depositing with the Minister of Finance their debentures to an equal amount in par value to the advance so made by the Governor-in-Council, repayable within twenty-five years from the date of their issue, and bearing interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum, payable half yearly."

ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

There is a great deal of talk on both sides of the Atlantic about an Anglo-American Alliance, and the cordial expressions of good will between the two English-speaking nations make very pleasant reading. But the discussion nevertheless is one that is admirably calculated to defeat its own object. Premature discussion will not only bring out good and bad reasons for the proposed alliance, but good and bad reasons against it. It has already stirred up some of the Anglophobic elements in the United States to angry denunciations intended to embarrass American politicians. The friendly feeling on both sides now amounts to enthusiasm, and bargaining over the terms of a treaty might easily produce a reaction in the public mind. There is no immediate need of a formal alliance. The great end is already achieved; each nation is friendly to the other and believes in the friendship of the other. Some English enthusiast has sent President McKinley a subscription of a sovereign towards the war fund of the United States and the gift has been courteously acknowledged; but if there is one thing that Uncle Sam does not want from John Bull or anybody else, surely it is financial assistance. The United States does not require help of any kind to fight Spain. It may be glad of British sympathy, and, in case of complications, might be glad of the help of British arms, but it does not need and is not likely to need money.

If the alliance is to come, it would be better for it to come as the result of the deliberate judgment of both peoples in time of peace. Meanwhile interna-

tional sympathy can find plenty of opportunities for expression in the modification of restrictions to commercial intercourse and in the abolition of purely hostile or retaliatory legislation like the Alien Labor laws.

One important result of the war will be to demonstrate to the world that the United States will have to be reckoned with soon as a first class naval power; and another will be to demonstrate to the people of the United States that the military system is a most extravagant and inefficient one for a nation with a vigorous foreign policy. A thoroughly cordial understanding between England and the United States would bring into immediate existence an enormous power for the promotion of universal peace. Neither country needs aggrandizement; their great naval forces would never constitute a menace to the liberties of their own peoples or to the rights of foreign nations. Safe from molestation, the two peoples could devote all their energies to the solution of the great domestic problems which threaten to demand the best thought of the greatest minds for them as for less favoured peoples. In Italy and in Spain we have seen of late, as before we have seen in France and elsewhere, that a man's worst foes may be of his own household. In both England and the United States great wealth and great poverty exist side by side. The problem of the classes and the masses has to be settled upon a basis of equity, humanity and enlightenment. Great moral, economic and educational questions have to be dealt with; the problems are nearly the same in both countries and are vital for both. The international cordiality now so happily inaugurated, combined with their vast commercial interests, will greatly facilitate the solution.

THE FATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

"This new rivalry of industry will tend to promote concord amongst civilized nations," said the Prince Consort, in effect, in the graceful speech with which he inaugurated the great international exhibition in London in 1851, the parent of all the international exhibitions which have been since held. It was a beautiful sentiment, but a bad prophecy. A few years after it was uttered several of the nations of Europe were at one another's throats in mortal conflict. To-day, the tranquility which apparently exists in Europe is only what is termed an armed peace. The Great Powers are glaring at one another with truculent mien, each carefully watching the exterior policy of the other, anxiously scrutinizing every movement of its Foreign Office; and the main underlying cause of this mutual unfriendliness and distrust is the "rivalry of industry." The territorial aggrandizement of England, France, and Germany in Africa, and of Russia, Germany, France and finally England, in the East, is motivated by a desire to secure possession of new and profitable markets. What is called in the suphemistic language of diplomacy the acquisition of new "spheres