

they have done things which we do to enable them to hold their own than to do still and expect the rest of the world to place on what superior people they are, what superior goods they manufacture and how superior are their time-honoured ways and methods to those of their rivals and competitors. The war and the almost universal outburst of hostility and ill-feeling towards us of which the war has furnished the occasion, has had a very chastening effect and given a severe but very timely blow to our national self-sufficiency. We had fancied ourselves supremely great in our "splendid isolation," and had flattered ourselves with the belief that though "we don't want to fight, but by jingo if we do," all sorts of things must happen and the rest of the world quake and tremble. Those old Dutch farmers in the Transvaal, that have been keeping us busy during the last three years, have taught us a lesson that we, no doubt, greatly needed and that has done us an immense amount of good. It has shown us that a good deal more than music hall shouting is necessary if we are to maintain our naval and military prestige, and that to uphold our position among the nations we must earnestly devote ourselves to the task of developing a far higher degree of intelligence and efficiency in our public services. We have awakened to the knowledge that in our army the rank and file must be something more than mere machines, and the officers must have other qualifications than those of idle men of fashion and pleasure. We have learned that hide-bound regulations and official red-tapeism must give way to the exercise of intelligence and resource. The defects of our military system have, in fact, been painfully and glaringly brought home to us, and in military matters, at any rate, we are alive to our faults and anxious to set our house in order.



It is true that the war has done much for England and that it has a great deal to do for the nations into the past

three years has had its silver lining in the strengthening and stiffening of the national character. We hold the opinion that England is coming out of this trial, with all its humiliating incidents, a greater and far stronger nation than she entered it; that her people are sobered, chastened and stimulated; that it has given a deeper and more strenuous tone to our public life, and has checked the flippancy and self-complacency that were fast becoming a habit of mind among the people. It has called out the manliness, the endurance, the self-sacrifice, the stubborn courage of the people, and, we believe, has led many to turn to the God of their fathers who had well-nigh forgotten Him, and to realize that righteousness alone exalteth a nation. England is to-day intent, as we believe she never was before, upon doing her duty to her people at home and abroad. She is addressing herself in a practical, earnest and Christian spirit to the problems of intemperance and impurity, the housing of the people and the improvement of education. Her foreign policy, if it is sometimes short sighted and vacillating, is dictated by no greedy desire for self aggrandizement and aims only at securing the maintenance of her territorial rights and an open door and equal privileges with other nations for her merchants and traders, while her colonial policy throughout all her possessions is to give to those who live under her flag the fullest possible measure of personal liberty, self-government and social and religious freedom.



Feeling Towards the Colonies

As for the effect of the war upon the relations of the mother country and the daughter nations, "Britain beyond the seas," it would be difficult to exaggerate the warmth of national sentiment which the loyalty and the ready and generous support of the colonies has awakened among all classes. We dislike and resent Mr. Kipling's unworthy suggestion that we "lawned on" the younger nations, the men who could tide and shoot. There has been