

MR. SEWARD'S SPEECH AT VICTORIA.

At a banquet given to Mr. Seward at Victoria, he spoke as follows:

GENTLEMEN: You are aware that if my preference could have been consulted, this would have been a private, instead of a public, entertainment. The asseverations of loyalty which I hear on both sides, from British subjects and resident Americans, admonish us that we are liable to be misunderstood, as assuming to speak for our respective nations in a diplomatic character. Give me your assent, therefore, to a few preliminaries. First, that the loyalty of British subjects here is fully acknowledged and respected on my part. Having derived my existence through a long line of British ancestors, including my father and mother, I am not likely, here or elsewhere, to disparage my lineage of their race. On the other hand, I freely confess that it is my political ambition to see the United States of America, of which I am a native citizen, transcend even the British nation in civil and religious liberty, and usefulness to the human race. Neither Governments nor peoples are particularly pleased when they find private citizens attempting to withdraw their national differences from the control of constitutional agents and adjust them with indecorous haste at provincial dinner tables. We will, therefore, leave the Puget Sound Agricultural question, the San Juan boundary, the Canadian Reciprocity, and the Alabama claims to our respective and respected Governments. I have never heard any person, on either side of the United States border, assert that British Columbia is not a part of the American continent, or that its people have or can have any interest, material, moral, or social, different from the common interests of all Amer-