

offensive to popular ideas of liberty, are all working with each other to create a profound national discontent with both parties, Republican and Democratic, and even with the Federal idea itself. In Canada the Federal power gives and defines to the Provinces their status and powers; in the United States the reverse obtains. Each state is a "Sovereign State," and all, for purposes of mutual convenience, have delegated to a Federal organization certain functions. If the Federal functions are but indifferently performed the "Sovereign States" have as much right to dismiss their unfaithful stewards as a master has to dismiss a servant. And there is as grave a dissatisfaction with the prostitution of the Federal idea at Washington as there was with the Napoleonic idea of popular government, which accomplished, in that vain attempt to turn the national eye from internal abuses to external war, the collapse of the last empire.

The American President has blundered into an American rendering of the Napoleonic burlesque, and

the indignation through the States of the Union at the suggestion by a responsible government of war with England, was just as emphatic as the disgust of the French at the idea of war with Germany 25 years ago; when the real resources of the government should have been directed to the national reforms which all classes desired.

The action of the German Emperor in writing to a vassal of the British Crown over the head of and without the cognisance of the suzerain, a congratulatory message, which by its very tenor seemed to imply that, in the opinion of the Germans, the Transvaal could expect no honorable treatment from the British, roused the people. The nation, as it were, laid its left hand on the sword, and the young men were ready for war. The British merchants trading with Germany curtailed their orders and German trade distinctly suffered while the national indignation lasted. The incident has left a poisonous sting in the mind of the nation and has resulted in making England draw yet further off into a "splendid isolation."

THE DOCTRINE OF INTEREST.

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INTEREST is neither a modern nor a distinctively Herbartian idea. Moses and Homer felt and expressed interest, and they knew well how to excite it. It is a common everyday conception, and its value as a condition for successful study is commonly recognized. Everyone knows that what is interesting is influential, and everyone thinks that instruction should be interesting.

But it is surprising how insignificant

a place the subject holds in the literature of psychology and pedagogy. The term does not occur in the index or in the table of contents of very many standard books on philosophy or psychology, even recent ones, except those belonging to the Herbartian school. The word is not very easily found in the text of such authors as Sully, Ladd, Baldwin, and Dewey, and the idea appears only in subordinate relations. In the great work