

THE UNSELFISHNESS OF ENGLISH POLICY.

Mr. David A. Wells, the well-known American writer, contributes to the *North American Review* a very remarkable article which he entitles "Great Britain and the United States: Their True Relations."

Mr. Wells asks those who maintain that England is the monopolizing selfish Power, to state what it is that she endeavours to monopolize :

"A popular and ready answer would probably be 'land.' But there is not a square foot of the earth's surface over which the flag of England floats which the citizen of the United States, in common with the people of all other countries, has not a right to enter upon and possess and control and enjoy on terms as favourable as are ever granted to any Englishman. England grants no privileges to her own people in respect to trade and commerce which are not equally accorded to the people of all other countries ; and there is no country over which the sovereignty of England extends, where the people of all other countries—white, black, yellow and red—have not the right or privilege of trade, in its broadest sense of exporting and importing, buying, selling, or transporting, on terms in any way different from those enjoyed by her immediate and typical subjects."

England throws all her colonies open to other nations as freely as she opens her doors at home. She is free from the reproach of establishing despotic and arbitrary governments in regions under her flag :

"The sovereignty of England is said to cover about one-third of the earth's surface. It includes forty separate so-called colonies, which embrace about one-fourth of the population of the globe. Whenever the population of any of these colonies becomes considerable, and there is a manifest and intelligent desire on the part of its inhabitants to be emancipated from close dependence on the mother-country, England grants them a substantially free and independent government."

Mr. Wells points out that one of the few restrictions which England does place upon the liberty of her colonists is to prevent them from depriving other nations of the right of unrestricted trade on the same terms as the mother country.

English Treatment of Natives.

Mr. Wells says, that so far from the Americans having the right to take the mote out of John Bull's eye for his treatment of Indians, they had much better take the beam out of their own eye. He says :

"The British American colonies have never warred with their Indians ; never robbed them of their land, but have always dealt kindly and justly by them. The treatment of their Indians by the United States has always been notoriously arbitrary and bad. It has sequestered their land ; arbitrarily abrogated its treaties with them ; almost continually provoked them to hostilities, and nearly effected their extermination."

On another point Mr. Wells is equally emphatic :

"The allegation that the British Government exacts tributes of its subjects, has not even so much as a shadow of a foundation. England does not take from any of her citizens or subjects as much as a sixpence which can merit the name of tribute. There is no government in the world whose administration is more honestly conducted, and which is doing more for the material good of the governed, than the present English government of India."

In conclusion, Mr. Wells pays the following magnificent tribute to the civilizing sovereignty of England :

"Wherever her sovereignty has gone, two blades of grass have grown where one grew before. Her flag, wherever it has been advanced, has benefited the country over which it floats ; and has carried with it civilization, the Christian religion, order, justice and prosperity. England has always treated a conquered race with justice, and what under her rule is the law for the white man is the law for his black, red and yellow brother. And here we have one explanation of the fact that England alone of the nations has been successful in establishing and maintaining colonies : and of the further extraordinary fact that a comparatively small insular country, containing less than 40,000,000 inhabitants, can successfully preside over the destinies of about 360,000,000 other members of the human race."