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Mr. Balfour on Anglo-American Relations.

That the good feeling which now subsists between the governments and the peoples of Great Britain and the United States may long continue, is no doubt the earnest desire of a large majority of the people of both nations, and especially is this the desire of the more intelligent and better disposed classes. The cause of good fellowship has a strong guarantee certainly in the very friendly disposition toward the United States of British statesmen of both political parties. This desire to cement the bonds of friendship is of course not merely sentimental. It indicates not merely a kindly feeling for a people of the same language and largely of the same race, but also a recognition of the fact that, in the administration of the affairs of her world-wide empire and amid the complications with other powers which this involves, Great Britain needs the sympathy and friendly support of her kinsmen across the sea. British statesmen feel that the ideals and aims of British politics should command a more intelligent and sympathetic recognition in the United States than elsewhere. Mr. Arthur Balfour, Government leader in the House of Commons, in a speech recently delivered at Manchester, alluded at some length to the friendly relations between the two countries and noticed the cynical criticism of some foreigners in this connection and their predictions that the friendship which has sprung up between the two nations would be speedily torn to pieces when their national interests should tend in opposite directions. "They hold that if British trade should feel injured by some inconvenient tariff, immediately the sentiments so generally felt toward America would vanish like the leaves in autumn."

The Cynics Wrong.

"According to my observations," said Mr. Balfour, "the world of cynics is always wrong"; and he believed them to be wrong in this case. On the other hand he expressed his confidence in the existence between the two peoples, not merely of a present mutual interest which might be the basis of a temporary alliance, but of a deep and real friendship which would endure through good report and evil report, and which was not to be shaken by any superficial influence. "It was in this hall in 1896," said Mr. Balfour, "that I first spoke of international relations between the United States and England—in those dark days of the Venezuelan controversy, when public feeling in America had been aroused by the wholly unfounded suspicion that we had some designs of empire in South America, and when, by a natural reaction, we felt that our brethren on the other side of the water had neither judged nor treated us with knowledge and fairness. I then expressed my faith that the time would come when all speaking the English language and sharing the Anglo-Saxon civilization would be united with a sympathy which no mere political divergencies could permanently disturb." This might have seemed at the time like the dream of an idealist, but the three years which have since elapsed had surely wrought a marvellous change in the apparent relations of the two peoples, a change which had brought back those two great communities to their normal relations, "a change which I believe is not destined to be reversed. . . . a change that ought to be permanent, for it is founded, as I hope, upon mutual sympathy, mutual comprehension and mutual belief that each great and free community desires to see the privileges it enjoys extended far and wide, to all the continents; and among all the nations. If I am right," said Mr. Balfour, "there cannot be a greater guarantee for future peace, freedom, progress and civilization, not only of this or that country or community alone, but the whole human race."

French Shore Interests in Newfoundland.

According to statements made in a recently published article from the pen of Judge Prowse, author of a history of the French shore agitation, the fishing rights on the Newfoundland coast which belong to France are of very small value to that country. Indeed he seems to show that the less fishing done by French vessels in Newfoundland waters the better for the interests of the French exchequer, since the subsidies paid to French vessels employed in the Newfoundland cod fishery exceeds the whole value of the fish caught. The only parties who have made any money out of the business are the French merchants of St. Malo. And at the present time, Judge Prowse declares, the French Minister for the colonies is confronted with the demand from the St. Malo merchants for more bounty and more bonus as a condition of their continuing the business. Some of those merchants who last year sent vessels to the northeast coast of Newfoundland say that they were nearly ruined by the results of the season's fishing. The west coast fishery gave better results than the northeast coast, but even there the cod fishing does not pay expenses. The only thing of value to France in connection with the French Shore claims is the lobster business, and that, it is contended, is carried on quite outside of the privileges guaranteed by treaty. Under the conditions of the treaties it is not permitted the French to erect buildings of a permanent character, and it is said that the French have admitted that the erection of lobster factories was not sanctioned by treaty, it is only under the *modus vivendi* of 1890 that this is permitted, and against this *modus vivendi* Newfoundland has always protested and will strenuously oppose its renewal. In this, Judge Prowse thinks, the colony will have the support of Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Minister. He also thinks that, as the French Government is well aware that the cod fishery is without commercial value, the matter of the French claims could be settled by the British paying, say half a million dollars, as compensation for the sacrifice of vested interests, with certain concessions in Madagascar or other parts of the globe for the surrender of the rights and privileges in Newfoundland guaranteed by treaties.

American Policy and British Criticism.

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown," says the poet, and it may be doubted whether the uncrowned head of the chief magistrate of a republic, who has a senate to assist him in declaring wars and confirming treaties, enjoys a repose much more serene than that which falls to the lot of the crowned head of monarchy. It is doubtless a great and distinguished honor to be president of the United States, but one may doubt whether, at times when the Senate is wrestling with questions of national policy, the sleep of Mr. McKinley is not as sweet and peaceful as it was wont to be in his old Ohio home. The experience of the past weeks, since the treaty of peace with Spain was negotiated, cannot have been promotive of a reposeful frame of mind. There has been the worrying uncertainty as to whether or not the treaty would be approved, the consequent delay in adopting any settled policy in relation to the Philippines and the possibility of serious complications from threatened hostile action of the Filipinos, who are persistently demanding a recognition of their independence. In England the situation has been regarded partly with sympathy and partly with criticism. It is not the British way of dealing with such problems. Whether it is better or worse, it is so different that Englishmen find it rather difficult to understand it. "The division of American

opinion respecting the policies and measures required for the new dependencies," says the London correspondent of the New York 'Tribune,' "makes a deep and unfavorable impression here, because England has never been more united on foreign questions than it is now. Parliament is about to meet, and, with the single exception of Mr. Morley, there is no statesman of any eminence who has challenged the Unionist principles of foreign policy. Lord Rosebery, Lord Kimberley, Mr. Asquith and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman have virtually supported the Government in their recent speeches, and with the exception of 'The Manchester Guardian' and 'Truth' there is hardly a single Liberal or Radical journal which finds anything to condemn in Lord Salisbury's management of the Fashoda affair or the completion of the conquest of the Soudan and Lord Kitchener's methods of governing it. There is a close approach here to a common standard of foreign policy and imperial procedure which meets with the approval of all classes of the community, so that England speaks with one voice to the world outside. Naturally, this remarkable consensus of public opinion here on foreign questions contrasts strongly and unfavorably in English estimation with the partisan polemics, factious opposition and vagaries of sentiment with which President McKinley is harrassed, when he needs the moral support of a united nation in a series of difficult and dangerous situations."

Mr. Balfour's University Scheme.

As part of the Government's policy for the betterment of Ireland the Hon. Mr. Balfour has given some intimation of a scheme for the establishment of two universities, one in Dublin, which would serve the interests of the Roman Catholics, and the other in Belfast, which would be an educational centre for the Protestants. These prospective institutions, are spoken of as Roman Catholic and Protestant, though Mr. Balfour prefers not to call them so, since, he says, the test acts would be applied in each, and no one would be excluded from either on account of his religious beliefs. It is understood, however, that the predominant influences connected with the Dublin University would be Catholic, and that those at the other would be Protestant. But Mr. Balfour's proposal does not appear to be received with anything like enthusiasm by the Roman Catholics in Ireland. The hierarchy will of course be satisfied with nothing less than an arrangement which should place the University absolutely under their control, and Evangelical Churchmen and Nonconformists, now greatly stirred up over the growth of sacerdotalism in the Church of England, are hardly in a mood to regard with great favor the establishment of a Catholic University in Ireland. "The religious agitation," says a London correspondent of a leading American paper, "is increasing instead of subsiding. Discussion between the extreme wings of the Anglican fold has never been characterized by sweetness and light, but it has not been equally bitter and angry at any other time since the storm and stress of the Oxford Movement. The subject cannot be kept out of Parliament, especially as the bishops are already at work on a half measure or makeshift of some kind for enforcing discipline."

Trolley cars of Pittsburg are to invade the lapd of the Pharaohs. Negotiations have just been closed by a local electric manufacturing company for the equipment of fourteen cars of the ordinary trolley type for use in the city of Cairo. It is proposed to build another line to the Pyramids as soon as the natives become accustomed to the operation of the cars, and later to connect Cairo and Alexandria by trolley. The Schoen pressed steel company will build four hundred steel cars for the Soudan railway.