

It may then also be assumed that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government not only is there nothing dishonourable in agreeing to submit to the fair decision of an impartial arbitrator the construction of ambiguous language in a treaty, but that such is the most reasonable course for a Government desiring to maintain an honourable peace.

Now, is there anything in the character of the present difference which renders it dishonourable for England to leave the question to the decision of the Tribunal at Geneva? It will be observed that I purposely reject many considerations which will doubtless be urged by the Americans, and by their Government, should the questions be discussed in a controversial spirit, and do not now dispute the right of Great Britain to recede from the arbitration. Therefore, setting aside these considerations, I ask again, Is it derogatory to the honour of England to submit this question with the others to the Geneva Tribunal?

If it be supposed that the United States do not present the claims in good faith, there may certainly be some reason for supposing that it may be dishonourable to do so. But the mere suspicion of bad faith closes the door to discussion. It is only just to say that the great mass of British statesmen and writers are not so deluded as to entertain such an opinion. In the absence of such an idea, I do not see how it can be claimed that the submission of such a question to arbitration is derogatory to the honour of a nation. The conduct of Great Britain, or of her Government, is not involved, except as it may be involved in the