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God's in His heaven,  
All's right with the world.  
—Browning.

London, Friday, December 27.

In the Event of War.

The spirit of President Cleveland's message to Congress on the Venezuela boundary question, the readiness with which Congress responded to that message, and the comparative unanimity with which the press of the country has supported Congress and President in the matter, seem to leave no room for doubt that war with Great Britain is popular with all classes and parties in the United States, though there has been a good deal of sober, second-thought argument in favor of going slow. The course which has been taken by the representatives of the nation does not allow either themselves or the rulers of Great Britain a choice of ways. It is so framed as to bring the arts of diplomacy to an abrupt end. "Commissioners to be named by us will fix the disputed boundary between the territories," President and Congress say in effect, "and we shall enforce acceptance of the line found by our commissioners." This is a position taken ostensibly upon grounds of historic policy. It is not pretended to be based on any provision or principle of the law of nations, but in so far as it has precedent if any kind to go upon it rests on the Monroe doctrine. Now, what is that doctrine, and how far is it applicable to the case? It was stated by President Monroe in his message to Congress in 1823, when the powers of the Holy Alliance were suspected of concerting to interfere in Spanish America in behalf of Spain. Referring to the position of the Spanish republics, President Monroe said: "We could not view an interposition for oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." And furthermore he said: "The American continents should no longer be subjects for any new European colonial settlement." This is no part of the law of nations, though the position taken by President Monroe might be approved by the European powers. Indeed, it is straightly affirmed by Lord Salisbury that there is nothing in it to which Great Britain does object. But there is nothing in it upon which the Executive or Congress of the United States can base a justification to interfere in the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. The region of Guiana was settled by the Dutch two hundred years ago. The British acquired it in 1803, and it was formally ceded to them by the Dutch in 1814. It is therefore no new colonial settlement, and the Monroe doctrine does not apply to it, even supposing that doctrine to be recognized.

But what is the position of the United States in this dispute? It has interposed in the negotiations with Great Britain on behalf of Venezuela, and because Great Britain refuses to arbitrate as to territory which it has long occupied and is not in dispute, the United States decides to appoint a commission of its own to ascertain where the line is and compel Great Britain to agree to it. This is a position to which no self-respecting nation could agree, even if the line found by the commissioners were in its favor. The United States is the last country on earth to submit to such dictation itself, and it should be the last country to propose it.

But if the Monroe doctrine does not justify interference, why have President Cleveland and the President of the United States pursued the course marked out in this message, and how does it come that their action is so heartily approved by the nation? The President and Congress are not now in agreement politically, and if the movement was intended to have an effect on the elections of next year it might be thought that opposite sides would be taken by the parties. On any other issue it is likely that this is what would happen. But unfortunately there is a large jingo element in the United States, whose feelings are easily aroused in any matter where Great Britain is concerned. This is more noticeable among the Republicans than the Democrats, and the readiness with which members of the

former party joined in with the proposal of the President shows that they were determined to lose no part of the political advantage which the recent elections seemed to secure to them. Then there is another element in the United States of which account has to be taken—the unemployed. Many of these are drawn from the Socialist ranks of Europe, and having no means of subsistence they would gladly welcome war. And then, too, there is the Irish element, with its hatred of Great Britain, because of the treatment of that island, and these parties have votes, which politicians are bound to capture if they can.

There is another element in the United States, strong and important, and it is against war. It is composed very largely of the business, industrial and property classes; and almost wholly, we are sure, of the church-going classes—the Christian element of the country. These are not jingos, and while patriotic Americans they are not hostile to Great Britain. But they do not lift their voices on the street corners, and it is to be feared also that they do not make their power felt in the politics of the country as they might. They, too, often leave the primary meetings to the noisy politicians, with the result that the best men are not selected for the highest offices in the gift of the people. This explains a great deal in the politics of the United States.

But when it comes to a question of war, is it to be entered upon lightly? As between Great Britain and the United States, we have some idea of what it would mean for Canada. At the best it would be a terrible calamity, and we might feel its mark for half a century. The people of the United States knew its meaning a generation ago, by a bitter experience. Have they forgotten it? Do they not remember, among other episodes, Sherman's march to the sea, from Chattanooga to Atlanta, when he laid waste by fire and sword a belt 60 miles wide across Georgia, leaving not so much as a chicken upon it to afford aid or comfort to the enemy? Red war, a recent military writer has said, is the meeting in contact of two bodies of men exasperated against each other, alike convinced that victory can only be gained by the destruction of the opponent. "Under such circumstances," he says, "it is impossible to give quarter." In war it is the policy of great generals, whether in attack or in retreat, to destroy everything which could afford aid or comfort to the enemy—provisions of every kind, railroads, bridges, towns, everything which cannot be carried away.

We know what war between Great Britain and the United States would mean for Canada, and we would avoid the issue if we could; but we believe that in the issue as raised in the message of President Cleveland to the Congress of the United States the men of the Canadian Provinces will use every agency to resist invasion. And the people of the United States have no assurance that they could defend themselves at every point. They have no navy or naval stations, as Britain has; they have no colonies, as Britain has; neither have they such boundless resources of money as Britain has, and in war it is money that tells in the long run. Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, New Orleans, San Francisco, Portland, every city and town on the Atlantic and Pacific would be shattered and shelled by British men-of-war, and every trading vessel carrying the Stars and Stripes would be driven off the seas. Then as regards the Canadian frontier, the whole power of the British army, with tens of thousands of fighting men from India and Australia, would join the sturdy Canadian volunteers to defend it. Fifty or a hundred British gunboats on the lakes—and there is more than one way of placing them there—would suffice to blow Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee and Chicago off the face of the earth. These are eventualities to be bargained for, and while the losses on both sides are too fearful to contemplate, we have no misgiving that in such a struggle the Red Cross flag would go under.

This is not said in any spirit of boastfulness. God forbid. We shall hope and trust that the common sense and Christian sense of both nations will prevail; but if the ideas of President Cleveland are adopted and persisted in by the United States against the just rights of Great Britain, then there appears to be no other way of settling the issue but by the arbitration of war.

Liability for Military Service.

A correspondent asks who would be liable for military service if war between Great Britain and the United States breaks out. Under clauses 10 and 11 almost every able-bodied man would be liable. Here are the enactments:

"The militia shall consist of all the male inhabitants of Canada, of the age of 18 years and upwards, and under 60—not exempted or disqualified by law, and being British subjects by birth or naturalization; but her Majesty may require all the male inhabitants of Canada, capable of bearing arms, to serve in case of a Levée en Masse.

The male population so liable to serve in the militia shall be divided into four classes:

"The first class shall comprise those of the age of 18 years and upwards, but under 20 years, who are unmarried or widowers without children.

"The second class shall comprise those of the age of 20 years and upwards, but under 45 years, who are unmarried or widowers without children.

"The fourth class shall comprise those of the age of 45 years and upwards, but under 60 years.

"And the above shall be the order in which the male population shall be called upon to serve."

Under this law, a militia colonel would have the right to impress into the ranks of the fighters even those who were unwilling to go to the front, if his command was not up to its regulation strength.

Today's Election.

The third of the bye-elections is in progress in Montreal today. As in the case of its predecessors, the constituency has hitherto been strongly Conservative. In the last two elections, the majorities for the high tax candidate were respectively 1,431 and 1,213. That the Liberals of the division have deemed it wise to contest the seat in a bye-election against the forces which an unscrupulous Cabinet can bring to bear is proof that they have faith in their principles, and mean to keep them in evidence even where they have been hitherto in the minority. If the Hon. James McShane should be elected today, or even if he should materially reduce the normal large Conservative majority, the result will be hailed by the friends of progress as the strongest of proofs that the country desires a change.

By the Way.

As ex-President Harrison openly says that Congress acted like "a set of fools" on the Venezuelan Congress, it is evident that he has given up the idea of a second term.

Dr. Montague, the new Minister of Agriculture, has already proposed some homeopathic remedies for agricultural ills. The knife, and not the bottle, is needed for a surgical operation on the high tax tarantulas. The abolition of the taxes, not the imposition of new burdens, is what is most urgently required.

The people of the United States are in hard luck. They are just getting over the war panics and are now threatened with a revival of McKinleyism.

Rev. Principal McVicar, of Montreal, says he is entirely in favor of having a commission appointed to inquire fully into and devise conciliatory means for settling the Manitoba school question. The Conservative Opposition in Manitoba take issue with their friends at Ottawa, and argue that the ill-considered remedial order should be withdrawn, and the Province given a fair, untrammelled chance to settle the question itself. This seems to be the view of nine-tenths of the people of Manitoba.

In two sections of Cardwell, there are no separate schools, though there is a considerable Catholic population. At Silver Creek the public school teacher is a member of the Catholic Church, as is also one of the trustees, but there are no complaints on that score. Why should there be? We are all interested in promoting the common welfare.

The Seaforth Expositor has just celebrated its silver anniversary. For 25 years Mr. M. F. McLean, M.P.P. for South Huron, has owned and conducted this journal. It is a credit to him and to the town in which it is printed. In a valuable retrospect of the period named, Mr. McLean announces that he has grown grey in the service, though still active at his post. Mr. McLean's thousands of friends throughout the West will hope that he will be able to continue his admirable services for the public in his newspaper and in the Legislature for many a year to come.

General Clayhills has become prefect of St. Petersburg. He is of Scotch ancestry, and a decided Liberal. More Scotch ascendancy!

The Bowell-Caron combine, when it issued its bulldozing order on the Manitobans, and then tried to coax them to help it out of a hole, exemplified the Spanish proverb that what a wise man does at first the foolish fellow attempts at last.

The Government agents dropped a pile of money in Cardwell, but they hope to fish more where it came from.

Two bye-elections so far, and not a supporter of the Government's school policy returned.

Premier Fielding of Nova Scotia, speaking at a mass meeting in Montreal Center, this week, said:

"The Manitoba school question concerns more than Manitoba. It is a wide-reaching question. The distinguished gentleman, who is the Conservative candidate, said here on Saturday night that it was a question that should never have been made a party issue. Most heartily do I endorse that. But who made it a party issue? Mr. Laurier again and again declared that he preferred to reserve discussion of that question to allow them to work it out as a non-party question if they only would. When they passed that remedial order, it was so hurriedly done as to give no time for argument or consideration. They sent Ministers to Vercheres and to Antigonish, and to trade on Catholic votes made a party question of it. They stung it into the arena of politics for the poor miserable purpose of arousing religious passions, and now that the evil is done and widening and menacing peace and order, they have a candidate stand up and say it should never have been made a party question. If you think so you will vote for Mr. McShane, because he supports Mr. Laurier, who has worked day in and day out to keep it from being a party question."

THE ISOLATION OF INDIVIDUALITY.

Alone must every son of man meet his trial hour. The individuality of the soul necessitates that. Each man is a new soul in this world, untried, with a boundless possible before him. No one can predict what he may become, prescribe his duties, or mark out his obligations. Each man's own nature has its own peculiar rules, and he must take up his life plan alone, and preserve it in its perfect privacy, with which no stranger intermeddles. Each man's temptations are made up of a host of peculiarities, internal and external, which no other mind can measure. You are tried alone, alone

you pass into the desert; alone you must bear and conquer in the agony; alone you must be sifted by the world. There are moments known only to a man's own self, when human advice is unavailable, and the soul feels what it is to be alone. . . . The philosopher tells us that no atom in creation touches another atom. They only approach within a certain distance; then the attractive forces, and an inviolable something repels; they only seem to touch. No soul touches another soul except at one or two points, and those chiefly external—a fearful and a lonely thought, but one of the truest of life. Death of the real-ities that which has been the contact all along. In the central depths of our being we are alone.—P. W. Robertson.

Appleton's Popular Science Monthly for January will have an account of what was done by the Fifth International Prison Congress, held in the summer of 1895 in Paris, contributed by Samuel J. Barrows, secretary of the American Legation. There will be much that is of interest to Canadians in this number.

A new biography of George Washington, by Prof. Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, will be a feature of Harper's Magazine during 1896. The first paper, which appears in the January number, treats of the condition of the colonies, with especial reference to Virginia at the time of Washington's birth. The paper is fully illustrated with the earliest known portrait of Washington, five drawings by Howard Pyle, and other pictures.

"The Children of the Road," by Josiah Flynt, in the January Atlantic, is an interesting study of the children he has found among the vagrants he knows so well. Dr. George Birkbeck Hill writes of the Johnson Club. He tells in a delightful way of the meetings of the Johnson enthusiasts at the Cheshire Cheese and other of Dr. Johnson's famous resorts. An unprinted diary of Hawthorne gives a charming glimpse of the great romancer's early life in Boston while weigher and gauger at that port. These are but samples of the many excellent contributions to this splendid monthly.

One of the most absorbing stories recently published is "The Great White Diamond," by Max Pemberton, in the January Nickell Magazine (Boston, Mass.). This new favorite is finely illustrated. 5 cents a copy.

The Methodist Magazine and the Canadian Methodist Review are amalgamated and will henceforth be known as the Methodist Magazine and Review. Features of great attractiveness in the issue for the ensuing year will be the continued stories and the illustrated articles specially relating to Canada and Great Britain. Wm. Briggs, Toronto, publisher. \$2 a year.

IT PUT NEW LIFE IN ME

"All I Did Was Just to Mope Around"  
"Scott's Sarsaparilla Cured Me."

The chilly weather of late fall and early winter finds them unprepared to stand the change, and hence they suffer. This fact is plainly proved by the following opinions of some who speak from practical experience:

"I felt like a man that could commit suicide. I caught a cold while camping on damp ground, had twinges of awful muscular pains, couldn't eat and couldn't sleep. All I did was to mope around and make all in the house as miserable as myself. Scott's Sarsaparilla put new life in me, braced me up thoroughly, and since its use pain is a stranger to me." Alex. Grant, Toronto.

J. T. McGraw, a mining prospector, writing from Minden: "Express me three bottles Scott's Sarsaparilla here before Saturday. Have been a martyr to rheumatism and indigestion brought on by exposure. Scott's Sarsaparilla is rapidly curing me."

Nothing has ever equalled Scott's Sarsaparilla for building up the system, putting the blood in healthful circulation and invigorating the body. Thousands testify to its splendid effects in extreme weakness and all debilitating diseases. On this account no imitation of Scott's should be accepted. Of your local druggists at \$1 per bottle, 5 bottles \$5.

# Friday Bargain Day.

Dec. 27. Dec. 27.

## LAST BARGAIN DAY OF 1895.

No time to give you an enumerated list, but you will find in every department bargains appropriate to the occasion. The last bargain day of the old year will be a memorable one. We will do our part, you will do yours.

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