

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### INTERNATIONAL GOOD-WILL.

The theory that sentiment plays no part in diplomacy is quite true of the old school, which is exclusively a diplomacy of monarchies, but is very wrong where we have to deal with the international relations of republics. Public sentiment influences the international relations of France to a considerable degree. The hatred of the Germans, the friendship of the Russians, jealousy of the commercial superiority of the English, are popular notions to which French diplomats have to adapt themselves in public speeches and their general political attitude.

Whether the more prominent rôle of sentiment in diplomacy is an advantage or not, diplomats will do well not to overlook it, and to consider it as an important factor whenever they have to deal with republics. It no doubt weakens the policy of the government which is thus limited by national preferences and prejudices; it hampers their movements and prevents them from committing the country to sudden changes. The government of Russia can swing around from a friendly to a most hostile attitude within an hour; the United States cannot. This condition is in some respects a disadvantage, as it renders changes that are sudden all but impossible; they could occur only under very extraordinary conditions, and so the diplomacy of republics tends upon the whole toward conservatism and stability.

Since the Spanish-American war there has been a remarkable change in the sentiments that dominate the public opinion of the United States. The United States, up to this period, had had no enemy in diplomacy except her old mother country, England, and it was strange to see how these two powerful nations, so much akin, could be so antagonistic in sentiment; but the main reason was that the United States had never waged any serious war except with her mother country, and so the war-spirit of our youngsters found nourishment only in imaginary fighting with English soldiers. While we must not be blind to the fact that there are important differences between English and American civilisation, we may fairly grant that they are trivial as compared with the civilisations of other countries. Our country is in its political institutions, its general conception of life, and political and social ethics, nearer in spirit to England than to any other country. The animosity that sometimes obtains between the two countries has appeared more like the quarrels between two brothers who in due time will have to make up under circumstances where their common ideals might be attacked or endangered. The English have always been suspected in the United States of looking upon the world as their property, and they in their turn seem to be irritated that there is a continent in this world where men of their own kin and speech dare to

tell them to keep their hands off. The English are wont to look upon Americans as deteriorated Englishmen, while Americans prefer to regard their nationality as a more highly evolved Anglo-Saxondom, broadened by the best features of other nationalities.

All the differences between England and the United States were ventilated in this country during the crisis concerning the Monroe Doctrine, which was brought on under Cleveland's administration, through the differences between England and Venezuela. At that time the excitement ran so high that war seemed imminent, and the people of the United States apparently did not shrink from standing up for the Monroe Doctrine with armed hand. England then graciously waived her claims in favor of an unreserved recognition of the principles of the so-called Monroe Doctrine, and the turbulent waters were soon quieted.

The Spanish war changed the situation thoroughly. England was the first nation to declare a friendly neutrality,—an act which was the more appreciated by our people as it was accompanied by a spontaneous expression of sympathy that came not only from aristocratic leaders but was backed by the assent of the large masses of the commoners of England. For the first time in the history of the two countries a genuine friendship was established and produced a sentiment of solidarity on both sides of the Atlantic which will not soon wear away. The hatchet has been buried, old grudges have been forgotten, inveterate suspicions have been laid aside, and mutual respect and good will have been established.

This approach of the two nations is of great importance, and cannot be overestimated in the history of civilisation. It may become the basis of a broader friendship which will promote the harmony among the various civilised nations of the world.

It is strange, however, that simultaneously a difference has sprung up in quarters where it could least be expected,—between the United States and Germany.

The relations between Germany and the United States have always and without any exception been excellent, for not only are more than one-third of our people of German descent and about eight million inhabitants of German birth, but also some of the most important institutions in the field of education and university training have been adopted from Germany and adapted to our special conditions. Most of our best scientists have studied at German universities, and have imported the spirit of German science into this country. They look up to German scientists and poets with an admiration and a veneration that could not be surpassed in the Fatherland itself. Thus, Germany rightly may be regarded as the second mother country of the United States, and war between Germany and the United States has always been considered as a sheer impossibility.

It is unnecessary now to review the causes which have led to the estrangement between the two nations; it started in Manila and was intensified in Samoa. The spirit of ill will was fostered on both sides by those extravagant patriots who have no other means of stimulating the love of their own country than by preaching hatred of other countries, and produce a bitter feeling which can never do any good, but will spread a feeling of ill will that will be the cause of many troubles.

At the present date, we are happy to say the estrangement seems to pass off. The governments of both nations show a sincere wish to re-establish the good relations that have always been existent before; and we have all reasons to believe that they will succeed.

The incidents in Manila belong to the past, and the expressions of a military spirit which naturally originate in the heads of soldiers who are combative by na-

ture, fighting being the main duty of life, have caused ripples only which will quickly pass away<sup>1</sup>; and it is fortunate that the German ambassador, Baron von Holleben as well as the United States minister, Andrew White, are animated with the desire to re-establish the *entente cordiale* between the two nations.

Mass-meetings of German citizens in this country have been held of late for the purpose of assuring the German government that the Germans of this country have not yet forgotten that they are Germans. We are sorry to say, however, that the leaders of this movement have made one grave mistake, viz., that of expressing their German-American patriotism by an unnecessary and uncalled-for show of hatred of England. While it is quite true that the Anglo-Saxon friendship should not be an alliance in a political sense, which would commit America to the policy of Great Britain, we should rejoice that a good understanding between Great Britain and America has been established, and should not unreasoningly denounce these sentiments as a mistake and a national blunder. The German-American mass-meetings would have served a better purpose if they had insisted on a triple alliance of the three Teutonic nations,—the Germans, the English, and the Americans. We must not forget that Germany is the home of all Anglo-Saxons, and we wish heartily that the Germans of Germany would remember their kinship with Great Britain and the United States. These three nations are kin in spirit and civilisation, as they are kin in blood, and it ought to be the diplomatic ideal of their governments to pursue a policy of good-will, and to establish among the people of Teutonic blood a sentiment of brotherly friendship.<sup>2</sup>

The United States is a cosmopolitan nation, and the ideal of our diplomacy must be to remain on good terms with all the nations of the world. Should the necessity come that we must go to war, let it be *for a cause but never against any nation*. At the present time it is our earnest desire to re-establish the good relations with Spain. Our right to regulate the conditions on the islands in American waters has been recognised, and the cause of all ill feeling against Spain has been removed. Further, we wish that unnecessary irritation and mutual spitefulness between our own and other nationalities, above all the Germans and the English, should cease on all sides, and that a policy of lasting good-will and international friendliness be recognised as the common ideal of the diplomacy of all nations.

P. C.

### THE FILIPINO QUESTION.

It has been fashionable of late to hold mass-meetings in almost all large cities, either to support or vigorously to denounce the present administration on account of its expansion policy. We are not opposed to expansion, as was indicated in a former article on the subject, so long as expansion comes as a natural result of growth and through duties which historical events force upon us. We are opposed, however, to an expansion by the suppression of the rights of others; it would be an act of injustice on the part of the United States to pursue a policy either of conquest or of imperialism. Accordingly, there is no sense in denouncing the expan-

<sup>1</sup> The publication of a letter written by a German naval officer, and also the speech of the captain of the Raleigh, are on the same footing, and only prove that soldiers are not diplomats. The importance of such evidences of a military patriotism should not be exaggerated in diplomatic circles.

<sup>2</sup> Authors and newspaper writers on both sides of the Atlantic have sinned much. The worst I have seen is a most venomous article written by a German university professor; and a German diplomat used to say that the Yankees are anti-German, but that the German-Americans are even more so. He meant perhaps anti-imperialistic.