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WILL THERE BE WAR?

The determined stand taken by President Cleveland in upholding the Monroe Doctrine in the dispute growing out of the encroachments of Great Britain on territory claimed by Venezuela has led to considerable war talk on both sides and generally shaken up the financial world. Lord Salisbury's answer to the appeal on the part of the United States for a peaceful arbitration of the whole difficulty has been a polite but emphatic refusal and an admonition to the United States Government, couched in diplomatic but unmistakable language, "to mind their own business." This has called forth the following pronouncement from President Cleveland in his second message to Congress, which has caused all the fuss:

"The dispute," he says, "has reached such a stage as to make it incumbent upon the United States to take measures to determine with sufficient accuracy what is the true divisional line between Venezuela and British Guiana," and he suggests the appointment of a commission for this purpose, stating that in making this recommendation he is "fully alive to the responsibility incurred and keenly realizes all the consequences that may follow. Nevertheless, he says, 'while it is a grievous thing to contemplate the two great English-speaking peoples of the world as being otherwise than friendly competitors in the arts of peace, there

is no calamity which a great nation can invite which equals that which follows a supine submission to wrong and injustice."

This is virtually throwing down the gauge of war to Great Britain, and the President has put himself in a position that it will be hard backing out with honor to himself and his country.

While the Monroe Doctrine is scouted and contemned by the European nations, it cannot be denied that it is of vital importance to all independent America, north and south and especially to the United States as the leading nation on this continent.

In the appointment of a commission of enquiry, while the United States should take the initiative we believe that the Commissioner should be appointed from each of the American nations north and south with the exclusion of Venezuela, as being the one directly interested, and then, if after a careful research the right to the disputed territory to Venezuela is substantially proved, Great Britain nor any other European nation would have no cause to grumble.

The high handed action of Great Britain in refusing to consent to arbitration considerably weakens her cause in the eyes of the world; for if she was sure of the justice of her cause and had documentary evidence to prove it why did she not produce it?

The Europeans have always held to the pernicious doctrine that "might makes right," and no considerations of justice or humanity has been ever known to turn them aside in their mad race for conquest. The recent seizure of Madagascar by the French and the brutal treatment of the patriot Cubans by Spain are cases in point. Now if there is one thing in which the people and press of Canada are blindly unreasonable it is in regard to England's treatment of other countries. While they are filled with just indignation over the atrocities of the Russian government and the conquests of Spain and France they can never be brought to admit that England can do wrong.

The sudden friendship of Spain and proffer of an alliance may well make fair minded and conscientious Britons pause. No deeper ignominy could fall to their lot than such an alliance. The memories of the Inquisition are too fresh in the minds of Englishmen.

Perhaps she expects to get British help to rivet her chains more securely on the neck of Cuba, and indulges in the vain dream of once more re-conquering her revolted colonies in South America when Great Britain has clipped the wings

the American eagle, or consigned him to the bondage of a subject.

Then France, who has been outstripped in the East by England in her territorial acquisitions, would come in for her share; Germany would follow and perhaps Russia, and then good bye to republican government on the American continent.

While the European powers cannot agree on the best method of punishing the Sultan for his complicity in the Armenian outrages and continue to quibble over the matter while their Christian compatriots are being butchered in thousands by the murderous Turks, it is wonderful their unanimity when an occasion arrives that promises the overthrow of Republican rule in America.

Had Washington agreed to help the French as they helped him, the re-conquest of Canada would have been easy, but he refused, not willing to encourage the establishment as neighbors of a people whose race and language differed from his own.

We don't think that England will lend herself to any of these schemes; for while the court and aristocracy naturally hate anything approaching to republicanism, the masses of the people remain true to the cause of liberty, and are more interested in winning for themselves a larger measure of freedom than of depriving others of their just rights.

Then again, the other European nations cannot be trusted. They are egging England on and then when she has her hands full they will seize the opportunity to stab her in the back by wresting India, Egypt and even Ireland from her grasp, which would not be a difficult task to perform if the powers were combined against her and all her energies were concentrated on America. A victory over America then would be but a barren quest and could never be maintained for any length of time. Single-handed Great Britain could perhaps beat the United States but the assistance of the other American nations would swing the issue the other way. A good drubbing by England would be no more than the United States deserve for their insane devotion to everything English and their aping of English aristocracy and running after and toadying to foreign lords and princes. She has many enemies in her own dominions such as the A. P. A. and kindred organizations who stand ready to cut the throat of the goddess of liberty and drink her blood at the first opportunity. She will probably wake up to the fact that among all her friends none are more

true or ready to shed their blood for the Republic than the poor despised Irish.

If it does nothing more the present war scare will have had a good effect on the United States in showing them who are their real friends and warning them to be prepared in case the occasion should again arise for the maintenance of the supremacy of the American continent and the protection of Republican institutions.

The United States is an essentially selfish nation, and we don't believe that the American people in their hearts care for Venezuela individually, what becomes of her, any more than so far as it effects their own power, prestige or freedom; but all nations are so, and we cannot on calm consideration blame her for resenting European aggression on this continent which is fraught with grave apprehensions of peril to her stability as a nation, her prestige and power and even her very existence.

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