

which was shelled by a white force at Fashoda. When the boat returned to Khartoum it was captured by the English and the report of her adventure reached General Kitchener.

It is now presumed that the white force at Fashoda is a French expedition under Major Marchand. If so, he will be notified that his presence there is in violation of an agreement between the two governments and that he must retreat. In case his instructions are of such a nature that he refuses to go back, there seems no possibility of avoiding a collision, since General Kitchener has orders to keep the Nile open from the Delta to the great lakes.

The situation is certainly a critical one. The internal commotion in France has reached such proportions that a war may be welcomed by the ruling classes. If so, a clash of arms in the interior of Africa might be followed by hostilities in the English channel. Already the situation is interesting enough to detract to some extent public attention from the Dreyfus case. It is believed that a conflict can be avoided, only by France retreating in Africa and leaving the road open to the victorious British forces.

MORE TROUBLE, PERHAPS.

During the days so long and drearily drawn out when the minions of the Sublime Porte were streaking the soil of Armenia with trails of blood and purpling the sky with flames of burning villages, there was a silent but an intensely earnest watcher on this side of the Atlantic. His name was Uncle Sam, and while he did not because he could not interfere in an active way, he went as far in that direction as the rules would permit. It was plainly the duty of Great Britain, which had for many years acted the part of a self-appointed semi-protector over Turkey, to take the initiative and make the closing in dealing with that reign of horrors, but she would not. Turkish territory and the status of its government not being affected, the killing and destroying went on unchecked, the protests and entreaties made seeming but to increase the murders and add fuel to the flames.

It was very much the story of Cuba repeated only on feudal instead of modern soil. Armenia belonged and belongs to Turkey even as Cuba belonged (but does not belong) to Spain. The Armenian horrors diminished in proportion to the diminution of the material to work upon and of late have been heard from but very little. The gentleman above spoken of has brought the matter again before the attention of the world and in what may prove to be a very ominous way. During the butcheries and miscellaneous outrages carried on in Armenia some American property was destroyed, payment in full for which has been duly demanded but denied. Now the United States, having a navy in good working order and nothing else of a pressing character for it to do, proposes to dispatch a fleet to Turkish waters and if need be collect the bill at the mouths of a few of our far-reaching, havoc-spreading American guns.

It is idle to conjecture how such a proceeding would terminate. In the absence of intervention the unspeakable Turk would be brought to time in something of a hurry, perhaps without firing a shot. And this would not be a case of might triumphing over right either. The Turkish government has considerable of a navy and fortifications without end, and the great distance which our ships would have to go and the inability to obtain assistance except what was taken

would have an equalizing tendency even if our fleet under similar conditions were the more powerful. Besides, Turkey is by no means right. She is altogether and entirely wrong, not only by the ethical determination of what is wrong in the concrete, but by the laws of nations. Property destroyed by her subjects, belonging to the subjects of other nations, especially with her approval, is a charge against herself and on refusal to settle, force is strictly permissible. The fact that in making the enforced collection one shot might be fired for the money and two or three as avengers of the awful work in Armenia matters not in the least. It is a composite proposition and must be considered as a whole in line with the immediate cause.

But would there be no interference? Germany has of late years manifested a growing and suspicious regard for the sultan's government, one that is less diplomatic and more unreserved than that of Great Britain. If the reported alliance between the two powers shall materialize fully and both of them warn us away from the region of the Dardanelles, what then? Would we back down and let them arrange matters for us? It would not be in keeping with what has been done by the American arms within the past few months, but of course we could not fight, with any hope of winning, three great nations in water, especially when one of these is the greatest of all and we so far from home. The question would, under such circumstances, be whether or not the queen's government would maintain its friendship for us or its agreement with Germany. If the former, we should only have to do what, but for the friendship spoken of, we might have had to do before this and what it still seems we may yet have to do in Turkish waters or some other. It is easy to believe that the United States has demolished the naval power of a nation which on the seas ranked above Germany, and that any kind of possible combination that left England and France out would in the end meet with a similar fate. It might—undoubtedly would—result in more fatalities and losses to us, because these have been almost nothing so far; but in the end there must, to the mental view from this vista, be other grim groupings of the skeletons of warships tossed idly about by the waves with the Stars and Stripes floating triumphantly, kissed and caressed by the foreign air.

"UNCLE SAM."

The "News" has been asked to give the origin of the nickname given to the United States—"Uncle Sam." It ought to be known to all by reason of the characterization being so well known, but, paradoxical as it may appear, this is one of the reasons, if not the only one, why the matter is so little understood. Like "Dixie," or "Mason and Dixon's line," it is such a household phrase that everybody presumes that everybody else understands it, and therefore but few take the trouble to brush up their understanding.

Shortly after war with England was declared, a New Yorker named Elbert Anderson bought a lot of provisions at Troy, he being a contractor, and the purchase being for the use of the colonial army. One of the inspectors of the provisions was a man named Samuel Wilson, who also superintended the hauling of the provisions and other details connected with the service. He was invariably called "Uncle Sam." The packages were marked with the initials of the purchaser, Mr. Anderson, "E. A.," followed immediately by "U. S.," meaning of course United States. An employee who did the marking was

asked one day by a fellow laborer what the initials meant, and in a facetious mood he replied that they probably meant "Ellery Anderson and Uncle Sam." The name clung to the man, and on the real meaning of the latter initials coming to light the two became interchangeable, so that the unborn sovereignty was as often called by one name as the other. The custom grew, and Uncle Sam, without some distinguishing term, means the United States, though not quite in an official sense.

DO WE NEED A LARGE ARMY?

Senator Proctor of Vermont is in favor of an increase of the American army to about one soldier for every 1,000 inhabitants, which would mean an army of about 100,000 men in times of peace. There are others who urge this as an immediate necessity.

It is pointed out that the present situation demands this country to look to its defenses. It is feared that Spain may yet find a powerful ally and that matters may so shape themselves as to tempt that country to repudiate the peace protocol and make an effort at depriving us of the fruits of the victories of the American arms. In that case the country, it is thought, would be in a critical situation. The volunteer army is melting away and the question is whether it would be possible to raise another one in a short time.

There are grave objections, though, to a policy that contemplates the incorporation in the government of this country of the Old World militarism. We hear daily about the military evils under which France now is suffering and of the dangers there are of a revolution. The evils of militarism in Germany are but poorly veiled by the glittering uniforms. No one can deny the truth of the sober statements of the note issued but the other day by the Russian emperor and setting forth the evils of the armed peace arrangement of Europe. These facts should not be overlooked by the champions of large standing armies. They indicate that their day is waning. In this country where the opportunities of making a living are so much more numerous than in Europe a large army would not be recruited chiefly from the best element and for that reason it might prove a menace to the country.

GETTING ALONG SLOWLY.

The American peace commission are now well on their way to their post of duty, where they will meet the official representatives of the Spanish nation and proceed to arrange a definite treaty of peace. The Americans have received full instructions from the President by which they will assuredly be bound and directed, although the discretionary power which they are to exercise is in no sense to be cramped, the instructions amounting to lines of action rather than a part of the action itself. It is understood that, in addition to the selection of an island of the Ladrões as provided by the protocol, permanent possession of the city and bay of Manila will be insisted upon. However, a Chicago cotemporary, the Record, is authority for the statement that it is believed the President has instructed his commissioners to demand that the entire island of Luzon be relinquished to the United States by Spain. The reasons for this are obvious. After our experiences with Spain we do not want that nation for a near neighbor. The attempt to draw an artificial line about Manila, leaving the city and bay to our control and permitting Spain to occupy the rest of the island would give a chance for irritating relations