

Written for this Paper.

JINGOISM VERSUS PATRIOTISM.

There is an everywhere visible national drift in favor of belligerency which bodes no good to this Republic, albeit little comment may be excited by it, or of there is such, the chances are that directly or otherwise fuel is added to the fires of a false patriotism, and a species of jingoism is created which may eventuate in things which may cause humiliation, rather than an increase of unity, peace or that evident mission of this country which has been uppermost from the beginning.

This feature seems to possess special animosity to England in prominent instances, as if at heart there was a morbid desire to seek offense or create irritation between the two greatest, and probably the most progressive nations of the earth, and while the bitter and suggestive expressions are non-official, they carry an increasing influence which the conservatism of the government in power may finally be unable to resist.

A late telegram stated that one Marcus Baker, who went on the coast of Alaska, in connection with the boundary dispute, "scouted the idea of arbitrating the question of England's claim of territory, save by that of battle," which sentiment was loudly applauded, and the speaker was invited by a popular vote to repeat his lecture in a larger hall.

The same kind of comments have been pretty general by the press in regard to the difficulty between the mother country and Venezuela, but contrary to this the President interposes in his message the argument of arbitration; outside of this outspoken declaration it is quite likely that Venezuelan obstinacy was grounded in part on the sympathetic voice of the American press and the expressions of an undisputed jingoism from time to time.

The Monroe doctrine has been dragged into this and other matters, although it is not on record that any practical enunciation of that theory, or that any essential unity of sentiment in regard to it, has been held by the statesmen of this country, nor has practical test of its authoritative character been established.

The belligerents sought also to make a casus belli with England because she exacted an indemnity from Nicaragua for an attack upon British subjects, which was as much uncalled for on the part of the press as was the interference and popular clamor over the Venezuelan boundary, or because Canadian surveyors (who are without authority) understand the Alaskan boundary differently from the American officials.

Many of the press comments on the political attitude of Canada are of the same uncalled for character, and it surely would be time enough to talk of annexation when Canadians themselves revolt against the limited Imperial rule to which they are at present subject; the aim seems to be to belittle and pluck a quarrel with the British rule in some way or another; and probably there is no way of condoning Congressional neglect of that pecuniary settlement of Bering sea liabilities, to

which President Cleveland refers in his message, as the decision of the Paris tribunal of arbitration, which decreed that \$425,000 should be paid as indemnity for damages to British subjects in the northern sea; it would only be charity to hope that this payment has not been deferred because of any jingo sentiment among the constituents of that august body.

It is now thirty years since this country tested the horrors of civil war; but it is undeniable that there are causes operating everywhere which minister to the continuance of this martial spirit; the organization called "The Grand Army of the Republic" is of this class, for those survivors "never tire of fighting their battles over again," and historians and writers rehearse at infinite length the struggles of that eventful time; these with the organizations which include the sons of the original veterans, all serve to create a martial spirit which perchance involves an itching for military glory all the time.

It has been pointed out that even the fraternization of the Blue and the Gray upon the olden battlefields has contributed to the "glorification of military prowess," and while these were ostensibly the victories of peace, they have not been without the professional suggestion, that the two great bodies in combination had yet within them the stamina to not only unite, but to thrash the less anxious uniformed representatives of any foreign government outside.

The astounding interest taken of late in the dissemination of Napoleonic literature seizes the mentality of the ardent—the youth of this country—whose patriotism is carefully worked up in every schoolroom where, "in season and out of season," the starry flag is hanging, as if love of native land and its institutions depended upon artificial stimulus, or that these were needed for so desirable an ingredient which should be natural and at least the result of intelligent and appreciative development.

In quite late exchanges continuous military drill in all schools was soberly and deliberately insisted upon that the love of military precision and discipline might provoke still further the patriotism which other appliances had failed to stimulate to the desired pitch; nay, it seems as if in the very air (as prior to the civil war) there was an anticipation that from some source or other, conflict is among the inevitable, and preparation should be the rule.

Probably the reference made by President Cleveland, with evident national pride, to the encomiums bestowed on the navy of the United States at Kiel, was nothing to be deprecated in itself, but it seems to keep in with so many other things that reference to it needs no apology; the recommendation of the secretary of the navy for increased expenditure in that direction is no doubt familiar to all who watch the strange fortification or preparation for an invisible foe; gigantic, nay fabulous sums are suggested, for ships of war of many grades, for fortifications around our extensive coasts, for experiments in war material and implements of destruction amounting to a craze.

That preparations for "offense and defense" are indulged in by older na-

tions with complex interests, goes without saying, but that the same necessity for extravagance exists in a nation under different circumstances, with a revenue startlingly inadequate to present expenditure, is not palatable to the already overburdened taxpayer; to the government official, to the adventurer, the schemer, the one who wants office and has nothing to lose, it is entirely otherwise, for all these are without interest in statu quo, they want a change; and it may be imperative eventually by way of throwing dust into the public eye, to assume a dignity and at the same time a readiness to take affront which might easily lead to international trouble, including war and bloodshed.

Even a boy with an unused gun is a menace to a neighborhood, and a nation with its appliances and munitions of war may become so anxious to see the new professional toy in action, that umbrage is possible under very slight if unintentional provocation; of which an illustration occurred but lately in connection with the Cuban rebellion; it appears that an American vessel was fired upon when outside the three-mile limit of the Cuban coast. Protest was for reasons promptly made and so was satisfaction, but some politicians of prominence seemed to regret this repudiation of intent on the part of Spain, and many newspapers and public men assumed the same attitude, in harmony with this almost universal national drift.

True patriotism is an unextinguishable sentiment in every appreciative American's breast; it is not an exotic, nor the product of hot house culture; it will exhibit itself spontaneously whenever necessity requires it, and when it will be invincible and triumphant; but there is a vast amount of unassimilated element which should be disallowed active participation in solving international questions and probably many home questions as well; when American intellects and nerves have failed in this, then the other may be of use; meanwhile these flighty moods, this readiness of criticism and suggestion of belligerent activity, where repress may be required, is not compatible with national dignity, and the bolsters proclamation of invulnerability against any foe, is not synonymous with bravery; true power is never too ready to assert itself, jingoism is not statesmanship, is not an evidence of confidence; its expressions are those of the bully or the brute, but great sensibility in regard to responsibility is cautious and conservative, firm and dignified, and national destiny depends after all not upon boasting self-assertion, but upon the dicta of an overruling mind. Men and nations are alike subject to this, and the highest wisdom in Davy Crockett's homely phrase is, "First be sure you are right, then go ahead!"

CONFERENCE REPORT FROM HAWAII

LAIE, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands,

Nov. 9, 1895.

Owing to the recent cholera epidemic in the city of Honolulu, it was deemed advisable to dispense with our regular semi-annual conference, consequently we have no report to forward at present, yet a few lines from Hawaii may be of some interest to the many read-