

these powers will confront one another for no friendly purpose, unless the present political methods are radically changed. As long as there are inferior races to conquer and exterminate, triple alliances, "concerts" and balance of power may serve to avert a general war; but when Africa and Asia shall have been partitioned out between them, the present expedients will be found to be inadequate. Already now the powers regard one another with jealousy that may any moment turn into open hostilities. And, no doubt, as the critical period approaches, further consolidation of races will take place. Russia will absorb the Slavs and kindred people in southeastern Europe, still separated from her rule, if not from her influence. Germany will find allies in Austria, and the Latin nations in Europe will gravitate towards France. The natural result of this will be a closer union between Great Britain and the United States—a consolidation of the Anglo-Saxon race. With the trend of events of the world it is impossible to see how this consummation can be avoided. Only in a very limited sense do nations and the rulers of nations shape their own fate. In the hands of a higher Power their destiny ultimately rests.

Such a consolidation would be a guarantee of peace for a long time to come. Great Britain's best interests are in universal peace. Her people desires friendly relations with all the civilized powers, because hostilities would hamper her commerce to a considerable degree. But if, notwithstanding this, any of the other powers should feel disposed to attack her, any one of them, or all combined, would hesitate to do so, with the certainty before them that a shot at the Union Jack would be an attack on the Stars and Stripes as well. The lesson taught the world at Manila and Santiago will not soon be forgotten.

Such a consolidation would even in times of peace be of tremendous influence upon the world. Great Britain has passed through far reaching political changes. Her people are imbued with purely democratic tendencies; the opinion of the masses is no longer disregarded, and a strong alliance with the United States would further strengthen this tendency. From Great Britain the democratic institutions of America would find their way over continental Europe, there to grapple with the monster of militarism under the embrace of which the nations groan. So far from dreading, then, a closer understanding between the two world powers into which the Anglo-Saxon race at present is divided, it would properly be looked upon as the preliminary step to the happy time when people shall learn to go to war no more. To strive to widen the breach between the two is to try to put asunder that which God almighty evidently has joined together.

HOBSON'S EXPLOIT.

It will be gratifying to the people of the United States to learn that Lieutenant Hobson and the brave heroes who voluntarily followed him on the Merrimac have been exchanged and consequently are now at liberty.

The history of their deed of heroism is now before the world. As soon as it became known that the Spanish admiral, Cervera, had entered Santiago harbor, it was supposed that he would endeavor to escape during the cover of night whenever he had enough coal to undertake another voyage. To enter the tortuous channel and open fire upon the Spanish vessels there was to take great risks, owing to the mines sunk and to the shore defenses. To Admiral Sampson it therefore occurred that the clos-

ing of the harbor by some obstruction would be most desirable, as by that means the blockade could be maintained, notwithstanding fogs and dark nights. Then Lieutenant Hobson presented a plan for the sinking of the Merrimac in the channel—a plan that was accepted and carried out in all its details.

It was a remarkable expedition. It meant almost certain death to the seven heroes who engaged in it. It demonstrated that our country has the men needed for any emergency. Hobson is a typical American. There were hundreds in the fleet eager to follow him, and there are thousands throughout the country who would readily respond to a call for a mission of that kind. It was, moreover, a mission to save life, by effectually preventing the Spaniards under Admiral Cervera from taking any further part in the war. Its importance for the liberation of Cuba can hardly be overestimated. As soon as the Spanish squadron had a reasonable chance of evading the blockaders, our commanders were necessarily without a definite plan of campaign. There was always a menace to our coast cities and the possibility of sending Spanish troops against Admiral Dewey. The sinking of the Merrimac at the right spot made a material change in the entire situation. True, it was afterwards proved that the obstruction was not complete. Cervera could still take his ships out, but the plan as laid and the heroism of the men who executed it, are none the less noble. Hail to the heroes who volunteered to die in order to hasten the end of the struggle for liberty and humanity!

A DESIRABLE PLACE.

A friend hands in a clipping showing that Berlin is the quietest city. No railway engines are allowed to blow their whistles within the city limits; hucksters cannot cry their wares; whistling and calling and singing on the streets are not countenanced; a driver with a loose and rattling vehicle is subject to a fine, and piano playing is regulated by the police. Before a certain hour in the morning and after a certain hour at night, musicians are not allowed to play the piano, and even during the hours when playing is allowed mere noisy banging can be stopped by an observant policeman. The courts have a large discretion as to fines for noise-making.

Those who are inclined to feel a little sore because of Germany's propensity to meddle in the affairs of the United States should experience at least a little mollification in the foregoing. The nation itself may not feel so friendly to us as it might, but we should seek to the last to cultivate the warmest friendship of the German capital and in the course of events endeavor to emulate instead of envy it as we do now.

WHERE SYMPATHY IS DUE.

The gallant American journalists who tearfully contemplate the "sufferings" of the queen regent of Spain on account of the calamities that have befallen her adopted country, seem to forget all about the other Spanish women, whose sons, brothers or husbands have been driven as cattle to a slaughter-house in order to fight, not for themselves or their homes, but for the maintenance of the inheritance of her precious boy. Yet there are thousands of them now mourning their loved ones, and, in addition, suffering the pangs of hunger.

It may be pitiful enough to see the queen regent driving through the streets of Madrid without a single greeting from the Spanish people, but it is not forgotten that this "Austrian

woman"—as the Spaniards call her—for years endured the torture and murder of her Cuban subjects, women and children included, without exercising the power vested in her for the benefit of sufferers. In fact she seemed to be insensible to anything but the possibility of losing an island. Would Queen Victoria have acted that way?

The Spanish queen and her boy are all right. The fate of Marie Antoinette does not stare her in the face. Her relatives will see to that. Soon she may be numbered among the royalty in exile, living only in the memories of the past, but she is wealthy. She has enough to provide abundantly for her children, to whom, besides, the world is open for any useful career in which they may choose to engage. The Spanish people, the victims of worthless rulers, who have sought royal favors in preference to the best interest of the nation, are proper subjects of sympathy. Yet, Spain may once more rise out of the ruin like a Phoenix, to commence a new life, a better career than that of the past.

AN AWFUL SCENE.

The word picture conveyed in the telegraphic dispatches regarding the exodus of non-combatants from Santiago is a very painful one to think of; what must it be to witness? Old men and women, young boys and girls, on foot and wading through the all-prevalent mud of the trails, hungry and dejected and with a haunted expression upon their countenances, that they may escape the thralldom of life in that wretched place, is a spectacle which does not fit into this enlightened age. It is sadly reminiscent of earlier days when the circumstances and opportunities of mankind had kept mind, heart and soul in narrow and unholy grooves, and is one more of the multitudinous object lessons of the curse of Spanish sway in any land where it is attained.

It is not a justification to say that those people who escape from the city are not forcibly ejected. In a physical sense perhaps they are not, but the pressure upon them is no less severe than if they emerged at the point of the bayonet. They are nearly starved, an indictment against the ruling power which would doubtless meet with the response that the defenders of the place and their commanders were also nearly starved. If so, it is but adding infamy to infamy. There is abundance abroad, and enough for present purposes right at their doors. The Americans will soon be in possession of Santiago and the immediate rigors of the situation will terminate then. Why not now? Why put off the inevitable at the price of continued want, misery and death itself? Because of a murderous, fatuous sentiment the agony is being prolonged in the face of the protests of the world and in the very presence of the writing on the wall, which even the ignorant Spaniard can read. If there were even a remote hope that the investing enemy might yet be beaten back and communication opened so that the place could be re-victualled, it would still be a desperate and an inhuman thing to cling to it under the circumstances—merely clinging out to a phantasm while surrounded constantly by an actuality in the shape of the demon want. But there is no such hope. The town must fall. The American flag must as surely wave over the battlements and buildings of Santiago as that the "bombs bursting in air" again reach the ears of the people.

A late dispatch announces in substance that the Spanish commander