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ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS.

It is a very happy circumstance that the pleasant month of May should witness the further consolidation of the good relations between France and England. The visit which the President of the French Republic is about to pay to King Edward and the British nation, the opening of the Anglo-British Exhibition in London, and the exchange of visits which unofficial people are constantly making between London and Paris and which reaches its plenitude at this season—these things are all contributing factors towards one end. The *entente cordiale*, received at its inception, with so much scepticism by the other Powers, is growing firmer and firmer from year to year, from month to month. Was it a small thing that the Prime Minister of the French Government should be present at the funeral of the English Prime Minister? Was it a piece of fortuitous courtesy by which M. Clémenceau occupied the place of honour at the right hand of the Prince of Wales? Are the protestations of the French press and the English press to be regarded as so much heartless diplomacy, so much polite verbiage? We should be underestimating the force of international sentiment in consenting to hold such a view, and we should be rejecting the promptings of political experience. An assumed goodwill among nations is subject to the same discrepancies as an assumed goodwill among individuals; self-interest, unrelieved by generous feelings, has somehow a knack of proclaiming its hollowness. Let us be quite clear with ourselves, and let us by all means distrust cant and self-conscious Quixotism among nations, as we scorn them among men; let us realize that among nations, at all events, there are no gratuitous sacrifices; let us not imagine that either France or England would stretch out hands of friendship were there not a political, as well as a sentimental, stimulus at work. But, having reconciled ourselves to the conditions of international harmony, let us also admit that, in this instance, friendship has been carried beyond the formal limit sufficient for mere diplomacy, and that the higher activities of political harmony have been called into being. To have gained this end is to have gained much for civilization and progress. There have been times when the smaller nations of the world have looked with respect and admiration at some greater power, some finer civilization, and have striven to form themselves according to that model. "The State—it is I," said the great Louis, and France at the height of her monarchical glory herself might well have echoed the words of her monarch, in saying that civilization was herself. In the days when Peter the Great imported French barbers into Moscow and Frederic of Prussia dallied with French men of letters at Sans-Souci there were certainly alliances, and there was a genuine admiration among nations and rulers: there could be no friendships on a footing of equality. Not the tenderness of Austria for France, not the conversations of Catherine of Russia and Joseph of Austria, not the presence of Frenchmen at the Porte nor that of Englishmen at St. Germain could lead to anything but selfish intrigue and ruinous diplomacy. In the eighteenth century there were certainly bullies and heroes among the nations, but there were no friends. So too, during the nineteenth century, England has been admired without love. Prussia has won adherents without creating enthusiasts, Japan must content herself with paying for admiration by suffering mistrust. The *entente* has not exactly established a precedent or created a principle, yet

on its development depends the development of an influence which has entered as surely into international political life as it has entered into international social and artistic life. Cosmopolitanism is as yet the strongest deterrent of political wrong. Is it quite unreasonable to expect that the same force will be enlisted as an active instead of a passive factor in the same cause? The steady development of the *entente* is a matter which calls for the most sincere self-congratulation among the nations whom it touches. It is not militant, it is not aggressive, it is not menacing. Its aim is peace, though peace without the compulsion of war; and it bases its hope upon the increasing regard which the participants entertain for the character, the institutions, the civilization of one another. It is now no longer a secret that among the most ardent admirers of the French nation was the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman; it is notorious that M. Clémenceau entertains the highest admiration for the English people. French literature and art command an excellent sale in England; French plays are criticized in the English press; and, as a return, the English language, English clothes and English sport are the pride of every Frenchman of fashion. To be sure, in the early years of Louis XVI. a wave of Anglomania passed over Paris; it was inspired partly by the political thinkers of the Whigs, partly by the race-horses of the Duc de Chartres. But it was both exclusive in its application and transitory in its character; it disappeared with the noblesse, and, in any case, it was not reciprocated in England until Napoleon was dead at St. Helena. The *entente cordiale*, however, is more than a matter of fashion; it has its roots deep in political expediency, and perhaps deeper still in humanity, sympathy, and mutual understanding. The solidity of the British character needs the brilliancy and suppleness of the French more as a complement than as a foil; Englishmen desire to learn something of the rapidity, the logicity, the elegance, the completeness of the French spirit. Let us admit that Englishmen (since modesty is no part of their public virtue) consider that, for their part, they might impart something of the secret which has made them the successful business men of the world, whether in commerce or government, to the brightness of French imagination. Such exchanges are not to be estimated too lightly, nor can a better understanding, which enables two nations to improve each their national ideal and efficiency at the guidance of the other, and which, after all, adds to the common property of humanity precisely as much as it adds to that of the two nations themselves, be considered a narrow or selfish undertaking.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE ROYAL SCANDINAVIAN VISIT.
The King and Queen of England, accompanied by the Princess Victoria, left Christiania on Saturday afternoon after a hearty leave-taking from the Norwegian Royal family. The Ministers, the members of the diplomatic body, and the chief official personages were present at the railway station. The royal travellers arrived in Hamburg at 10.30 on Sunday evening, and after a short interval continued their journey to Flushing.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER OPERATIONS.
General Willecocks, says a Peshawur message, is preparing to enter upon operations against the

tribes in the neighbourhood of Khyber Pass. The outposts at Landi Khotal have already been fired upon by the enemy. Although news from the frontier is rigidly censored, reports of extensive military operations in the affected districts continue to reach Simla. All instructions issued to troops are kept secret. Great excitement prevails in northern India. Reports from Simla state that General Willcocks has arrived at Landi Khotal with the Third Brigade, a squadron of cavalry, and eight field guns. Only isolated hostile tribesmen were seen on the heights and but few shots were exchanged. All is reported quiet on the Mohmand frontier. It is said at Simla that, since the attack on Landi Khotal an "unofficial war" prevails with Afghanistan. The rumours to the effect that the Ameer or his commander-in-chief has withdrawn the inhibition on Afghans to take part in the hostilities against the British is absolutely untrue. Later: A hostile band of Afghans, from 13,000 to 20,000 strong, crossed the Afghan frontier on Friday night in two detachments. The greater part of these, armed with modern rifles, marched on Landi Khotal, the others, commanded by Sufisahib, proceeded to the upper Bazar valley. On the following day they were distinctly visible to the west of Landi Khotal, and in the evening they attacked the block-house near Miekni-Kandach, making desperate attempts to take it all through the night. They were, however, repulsed at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning, the garrison sustaining but slight loss. Again on Sunday evening they renewed their attack, but were eventually driven off by the heavy fusillade from the fort. In the meantime, the chiefs of the Zakka Khel have offered their assistance to Colonel Roos-Keppel, the officer in command in the Khyber district. It is reported that the Afghans have effected a junction with the Afridis at Landi Khotal.

TURKISH HONOUR FOR AMBASSADOR'S WIDOW.

It is reported from Constantinople that the Sultan received Lady O'Connor, widow of the late English Ambassador to the Porte, in audience after the last Selamluk, and conferred upon her the Grand Cordon of the Medjedieh Order, in brilliants. This decoration had, previously been exclusively conferred upon the wives of reigning princes.

ENGLISH OFFICIAL MURDERED IN EGYPT.

It is reported from Cairo that the deputy inspector of the Blue Nile province, an Englishman, has been murdered in the neighbourhood of Messa Lamia. Details are lacking. Later reports state that the murdered official is Col. Scott-Moncrieff, and that he met his death at the hands of a Sheik who had announced himself as a prophet. This individual gathered around him some 150 old dervishes, and during Saturday night attacked the military force commanded by Dickinson Bey, which had been despatched to restore order. A surprise attack on the camp was repulsed, and 35 of the dervishes were killed. On the British side two native Egyptian officers were shot dead. Major Logan and Dickinson Bey were wounded.

ROBBED IN A CONTINENTAL EXPRESS.

Col. Oliver Armstrong, while travelling in the dining car of the express train from Cologne to Brussels on Friday night, was robbed of jewelry valued at 20,000 francs which he had left in a box in his compartment. The thief escaped detection.

(Continued on page 2.)