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HIGH PLAY.

WITH AMERICAN SUPPORT AS THE STAKE.

There are undeniable elements of humour in the situation created by the present Anglo-German rivalry to gain the sympathy of the United States. This political game has been in progress ever since the American Navy assumed formidable proportions and the United States became a factor of importance in world administration. When the deplorable competition in naval armaments commenced between Great Britain and Germany, both parties in the costly match were prompt to realise the value of obtaining the active support—or, failing that, the passive sympathy—of the Great Republic in the West. Germany, even more than England, set about the wooing of Columbia with characteristic energy. This bold suitor was fortunate in its past and present representatives at Washington, men of consummate tact, personal charm, and general amiability, who were further endeared to the American public by the fact of their having espoused particularly charming representative of American femininity. The *kudos* began to arrive with encouraging promptitude, and the social popularity of the German representatives, it was naturally supposed, could not but exercise a beneficent influence on the political relations of Germany and the States. Up to this juncture, there is no doubt that Germany held most of the trumps; but of late signs have not been wanting that England, always a laggard, is waking up to the situation and taking steps to meet it. Both sides claim the greatest progress, but, truth to tell, neither can show much material proof. The German Ambassador undertakes extensive tours through the States, lecturing everywhere on the theme of Germany's peaceful intentions and its love and respect for America. He is followed by English admirals and newspaper magnates, who inform Americans that the growth of the British fleet is the natural result of Germany's menacing naval expansion, and that America would do well to ally herself with England if the peace of the world is not to be threatened by the unscrupulous Teuton. It is a remarkable fact that only quite recently have the American people and their press realised the existence of this political manoeuvring. That they are displaying only the most perfunctory interest in the affair should not be overlooked by the two principals.

The truth is that news bearing on this subject published in the European press is generally misleading because it is misinformed. Some ten days ago we took the trouble to point out in an article that Lord Beresford's speechifying tour in America evidenced the gallant admiral's colossal ignorance of American public opinion. By next mail we received a letter from a Dresden reader, of German-American origin, congratulating us on our article and violently attacking England, which country, he said, was the best-hated in the world. By the very virulence of his language our correspondent disproved his claim to be an impartial commentator, and further proved his credulity by asserting that Lord Beresford went to America in the capacity of a British Government emissary. To any one acquainted with the relations existing between Lord Beresford and the present Government our correspondent's last assertion is especially comical. We do not for one moment believe that the mass of the American people hate England. We give them credit for more sense. Near relatives invariably bicker and carp at each other, and England and America are no exception. But in larger matters the two nations always stand together, and—to give one case in point—Great Britain's attitude at the time of the Hispano-American war, when practically all Europe was strongly anti-American, earned for her the profound gratitude and friendship of all the American elements that really count. People who endeavour to sow mischief between the two countries will reap nothing but trouble for themselves. On the other hand, Germany's industrial and political growth is viewed with friendly sympathy at Washington, and it would be a pity to alienate this sympathy by striving for something more solid,—something which, as long as the American Government and people retain their traditional caution and sense of fairness, will never be given to either Germany or England. An Anglo-American alliance is as completely without the sphere of practical politics as an American-German alliance. The sooner this fact is realised the better it will be for all parties, and

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the realisation will come to everybody taking the trouble to even superficially examine,—not German-American or Anglo-American opinion, but American public opinion, which is absolutely opposed to all aimless meddling in European affairs.

THE BATTLE IN THE RIFF.

HOW GENERAL VICARIO FELL.

Further details of the fierce fight near Zeluan on Friday, in which the Spaniards were forced to retreat, is contained in the following delayed telegram from Melilla dated Friday:—A column, with orders to make a reconnaissance upon Sok el Jemis, in order to ascertain the strength and positions of the enemy, left Zeluan at seven o'clock this morning. The column was commanded by Gen. Tovar, and comprised seven battalions of infantry, three squadrons of cavalry, one Schneider battery, and two mountain batteries. It immediately made for the Sok el Jemis, deploying in fighting order.

Gen. Marina, who directed the movement from the kasbah of Zeluan, had the left flank of the column supported by a brigade under the orders of Gen. Vicario.

The Spanish troops had covered without incident half of the distance to their objective when the enemy, posted on the Argan heights and the Milon hills, opened upon them a most vigorous fire, directed mainly against Gen. Vicario's brigade. Gen. Vicario detached two squadrons, which advanced upon the positions of the enemy, whom they succeeded in dislodging by dint of titanic efforts, for the ground was so broken that the horses could scarcely move.

Gen. Tovar's column continued its advance. The Moors, who had had to fall back precipitately and in great disorder under the action of cavalry and infantry, which were supported by a lively cannonade from the Schneider and mountain guns, had succeeded in reforming, and, entrenched behind the natural unevennesses of the ground and earthworks executed apparently long ago, awaited a propitious moment to charge upon the Spanish troops.

When the latter reached the first of the Milon heights, the enemy rushed upon them with demoniacal fury, but their charge, violent as it was, was broken by the fire of the Spaniards, who, brave and calm, sustained the shock without flinching, soon succeeding in driving off the enemy. The latter, in spite of the immense superiority given them by their high position, and particularly the nature of the ground, had to give up the fight, and, leaving their dead, fled to the mountains.

Gen. Vicario's brigade then received orders to retire upon the column, and began to carry out the movement. Already the companies at the head were retiring in perfect order, despite an infernal fusillade from the Moors, who occupied Mount Argan, when the leader of the column, Gen. Vicario, fell from his horse, with a bullet in his head.

Gen. Tovar then took command of Gen. Vicario's brigade. The Moors, emboldened by the death of Gen. Vicario, opened a fusillade, which they kept up until, decimated by the fire of the infantry and the shells of the Schneiders, they had to retire finally, leaving the field free to the Spanish troops, who also returned to their positions at Zeluan, having

attained their object, namely, to learn the approximate strength of the enemy and their position.

The troops deserve the warmest and most sincere praise for their bravery. Officers and men performed prodigies of valour, for there were moments when the fight was really critical, and the position of the troops most perilous. The Moors fought, indeed, with more ardour and skill, if possible, than ever, and showed an extraordinary tenacity, which recalled the battle of July 27 before Melilla, on the flanks of Mount Gurugu.—Reuter.

The Infante Carlos of Bourbon, brother-in-law of King Alfonso, left Spain for the front on Sunday night at the head of his cavalry brigade.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

A telegram from Vienna states that Mr. Albert Pulitzer, a well known American newspaper publisher and brother of Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, owner of the *New York World*, committed suicide in a Viennese hotel on Sunday by shooting himself. He was suffering from nervous breakdown.

With reference to the decision of the U.S. National Geographical Society not to accord official recognition to Dr. Cook, the society contends that the submission of the records of Commander Peary and Dr. Cook should precede official recognition. Commander Peary acquiesces in this, but Dr. Cook is determined that he will first submit his records and instruments to Copenhagen University, declaring that it would be an injustice to the Danes were he not to do so after his original promises.

According to a Truro (Mass.) telegram to the *Paris New York Herald*, Mr. Whitney has declared that when he met Dr. Cook on the explorer's return from his Polar dash, it was difficult to distinguish him from the Eskimos. Never had he seen a white man so dirty in appearance. Dr. Cook was exhausted and ill, and had nothing but skin on his bones. His condition precluded the idea that he had been only two days' march from land, as asserted by Peary.

The *New York American* announces that Miss Mary Harriman, daughter of the late financier, will shortly be married to Mr. R. Goelet, the young millionaire. The wedding, says the *American*, will be very quiet, and will take place at Mrs. Harriman's home at Arden, Tuxedo Park.

The steamer Rotterdam, of the Holland-America Line, which left on Friday night with a thousand passengers for America, anchored off Maasluis, owing to the ebbing tide, and subsequently went aground. An attempt was to be made to float her at high tide on Saturday afternoon.

The nomination by the Tammany Democratic City Convention on Thursday evening of Judge W. J. Gaynor as the candidate of the party for Mayor of New York confirms the forecasts made in these columns from time to time during the past three or four months. It also settles the general lines upon which the forthcoming big municipal fight will be carried on. The Judge is such a first-class man that some people wonder how he has come to be under the wing of Tammany, especially in view of the fact that he might have had the Republican nomination for the asking. That, however, is Judge Gaynor's business. Stranger things have happened both in national and in municipal politics in the past, and the average citizen dismisses the question with all that it implies with a smile. If there were any betting, which there is not just now, the odds would almost certainly be strongly in favour of Judge Gaynor's election. Tammany goes into the fight with a bold and united front, all the recalcitrant sections of the party having been wiped out in the primaries, or preliminary district contests, ten days ago. According to the N.Y. correspondent of the *Globe*, Charles J. Murphy, Tammany's chief, says he is more than satisfied with the outlook, and expert politicians believe him.

Dalziel's Berlin correspondent sends the following:—At the Morgue on Friday a policeman was searching the body of a man named Stuewer, for proofs of his identity, when the supposed corpse resisted the action, and suddenly caught hold of the policeman's hand. The latter fainted with terror. The doctors had certified the man as dead.