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on that day when he was proclaimed King, he suddenly found himself invested in a single moment with all the vague mysteries, undefined and definable, of the attributes of a sovereignty, from which he had all his life been so rigorously shut out. It is not much wonder that the effect of so instantaneous a change made itself visible even to every observer.—Review of Reviews for March.

What will Become of the English Language?

Among the scattered millions who now employ our common speech in England itself, in Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, in the United States and Canada, in India and in Australia, in Egypt and in South Africa, there is no stronger bond of union than the language itself. A certain unity of sentiment may show itself now and again; but there is no likelihood that any political association will ever be achieved. The tie that fastens the more independent colonies to the mother country is loose enough now, even if it is never further relaxed; and less than half of those who have English for their mother-tongue owe any allegiance whatever to England. The English-speaking inhabitants of the British Empire are apparently fewer than the inhabitants of the American republic; and the population of the United Kingdom itself is only a little more than half the population of the United States.

To set down these facts is to point out that the English language is no longer a personal possession of the people of England. The power of the head of the British Empire over what used to be called "the Queen's English," is now a little recognized as her power over what used to be called "the King's Evil." We may regret that this is the case or we may rejoice at it; but we cannot well deny the fact. And thus we are face to face with more than one very interesting question. What is going to become of the language now it is thus dispersed abroad and freed from all control by a central authority and exposed to all sorts of alien influences? Is it bound to become corrupted and to sink from its high estate into a mire of slang and into a welter of barbarously fashioned verbal novelties? What, more especially, is going to be the future of the English language here in America? Must we fear the dread possibility that the speech of the people on the opposite sides of the Western Ocean will diverge at last until the English language will divide into two branches, those who speak British being hardly able to understand those who speak American, and those who speak American being hardly able to understand those who speak British.—From the "English Language in America," by Brander Matthews, in the March Scribner's.

TWO VISIONS.

Two visions by men's
 dying eyes are seen,
 Both so unlike,
 both frightened with despair,
 The lovely shade
 of what they might have been,
 The unclean, gibbering ghost
 of what they were.
 —March Lippincott.

Admiral—Have the warrant officers put on dress suits, clean shirts, white neckties, patent leather boots and kid gloves, and are their opera hats on straight?
 Sailor—Aye, aye, yer honor.
 Admiral—Then let them open fire up on the enemy. I am going ashore to a society reception.

A BOUT FRIDAY, JANUARY 18th, we expect to open several hundred pieces of foreign and domestic cotton dress goods from which we invite those who wish the choicest patterns of the season to make selections.
 Large assortments of fine embroideries will be shown at the same time.

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