

the fight. On the whole she did well, but I agree with the unanimous finding of the three admirals who composed the court of inquiry as to the 'loop.' It seriously marred the Brooklyn's otherwise excellent record, being, in fact, the one grave mistake made by any American ship that day. Had the Brooklyn turned to the westward; that is, in the same direction that the Spanish ships were going, instead of in the contrary direction, she would undoubtedly have been in more "dangerous proximity" to them. But it would have been more dangerous for them as well as for her. This kind of danger must not be too nicely weighed by those whose trade it is to dare greatly for the honor of the flag. Moreover, the danger was certainly not as great as that which, in the selfsame moment, menaced Wainwright's fragile craft as he drove forward against the foe. It was not in my judgment as great as the danger to which the Texas was exposed by the turn as actually made. It certainly caused both the Brooklyn and Texas materially to lose position compared to the fleeing Spanish vessels. But after the loop had once been taken, Admiral Schley handled the Brooklyn manfully and well. She and the Oregon were thenceforth the headmost of the American vessels, though the Iowa certainly and seemingly the Texas also did as much in hammering to a standstill the *Viscaya*, *Oquendo* and *Teresa*, while the *Indiana* did all her eastward position and crippled machinery permitted. In the chase of the *Colon* the Brooklyn and Oregon share the credit between them.

"Under such circumstances it seems to me that the recommendations of President McKinley were eminently proper and that so far as Admirals Sampson and Schley were concerned it would have been unjust for him to have made other recommendations. Personally I feel that in view of Captain Clark's long voyage in the Oregon and the condition in which he brought her to the scene of service, as well as the way in which he actually managed her before and during the fight, it would have been well to have given him the same advancement that was given Wainwright. But waiving this, it is evident that Wainwright was entitled to receive more than any of the other commanders, and that it was just to Admiral Sampson that he should receive a greater advance in numbers than Admiral Schley.

"There was nothing done in the battle that warranted any unusual reward for either. In short, as regards Admirals Sampson and Schley, I find that President McKinley did substantial justice, and that there would be

no warrant for reversing his action.

"Both Admiral Sampson and Admiral Schley are now on the retired list. In concluding their report the members of the court of inquiry, Admirals Dewey, Benham and Ramsay, unite in stating that they recommend that no further action be had in the matter. With this recommendation I most heartily concur. There is no excuse whatever from either side for any further agitation of this unhappy controversy. To keep it alive would merely do damage to the navy and to the country."

THE BOER CONFLICT.

Editor The Conservative:

Though a subject somewhat stale by reason of its age and continued discussion, the conflict between England and the Boers is still a matter of concern and interest to the general public, and must so continue while the result remains undetermined. The liberties of a free people are at stake, and no one who loves either freedom or justice can be an indifferent spectator to the conflict now being waged in the Transvaal, between slavery and freedom, avarice and independence.

There are, of course, two sides to this, as to every other question, for neither party to the conflict is without fault, but in the main the South African republics are in the right and the contention of Britain indefensible on any ground whatsoever.

The territory now sought to be subjugated has never been a part of British possession, and its citizens owe to her no manner of allegiance. They have an undoubted right to such Heaven-bestowed gifts as liberty and independence, and no nation may encroach upon these without taking upon herself the character of aggressor, and the office of despoiler. The wealth of the African mines might well attract the enterprise and incite the cupidity of the British citizen, and induce his coming to share in the fruits of their development, but it could not transport the British constitution across the seas, nor convey to her an allegiance which belonged at home. "Big fish eating little ones" may do in the sea but not on land.

But vital and dangerous as are impending issues to the republic, they are still more so to Britain herself. She is contending at long range, and at desperate disadvantage, against a wily, experienced, brave and determined foe. The cost to her in money and men is more than any nation is able long to withstand without exhaustion and ruin. It matters little that the African republic is inferior in numbers and resources. The mountainous country she inhabits is

God's provision against the force of numbers, and their fastnesses nature's fortifications against an intruding foe. Let courage and hope come with the reflection that "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," and that no free and brave people, fighting for liberty and home, has ever yet been conquered—*nor can be so long as God reigns.*

Notwithstanding an almost universal sentiment and expression of sympathy for the Boer cause, one occasionally encounters an individual who declares for England, and declaims with the all-sincerity of ignorance and the energy of scurrility, against the Boer cause, but a reason for such preference would constitute the curiosity of the age and the novelty of the world. A monument without a foundation would not be more rare. There is absolutely nothing upon which Britain may base a right to control in that country. Her errand is robbery, her method the highwayman's.

The process of development and decay is slow in nations, but it will in time be disclosed that the declaration of war by England against the Boers, was the beginning of the end of British domination and power. She can never again hold her former place, nor exert her accustomed influence, in the family and affairs of nations. "Vaulting ambition o'er-leaps itself" still, and the saying is as true of nations as of men. A nation forgetful of integrity and indifferent to justice, is near the end of her influence and her power. She has o'erleaped herself.

J. G. LUMBARD.

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 21, 1902.

A GENTLE REMINDER.

The Sterling (Neb.) Record has a delicate way of approaching that bane of the publisher's existence, the delinquent subscriber. Probably none of the latter failed to comprehend the full meaning of the following:

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