A ROYAL LETTER.

THE PRINCE OF WALES TO THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

SPECIMENS OF A FUTURE KING'S ENGLISH.

[From the London Weekly Register of May 28th.]

The following interesting letter his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to his brother Alfred will be perused with pleasure by all classes:

LONDON, March 4.—*My Dear Alfred:* We were delighted to have your long letter from Calcutta. It seems so strange to hear from you in India. I have not much cared to go to India myself, but now you have gone there I like it so well, I hope I may go, too, some day—provided always that *Je Mere* approves of it, and I am sure that you were well treated by Mayo. He used to come here to dinner now and then, and Bertie has was fond of him, but I did not see very much of him. One cannot help being sorry for poor Mayo, he seems to be a quiet *petite* body with not much to say, yet pleasant—he is rather a crony of Alex. The photos you have sent are very pretty and well done. That one of the Pamee baronet Gorsopp looks as if he ought to be a colonel. But what a hat; how it is stuck on! The sepoy chiefs are not over pretty, and I hope Mayo will keep his eye on one or two of them who have a nasty scowl on their brows. I suppose dined with us last night, and when I showed him the photos he seemed like his eyes to the chandelier, and spouted. What he said was good of its kind, and went a long way. Affectionate and the whole lot of chiefs are delighted, but Blandford is a rather hasty observer sometimes. Lawrence, then, had a lively time. We all laughed, as did Alex., at seeing him scowl at the scowling-looking natives, which he recognized as possible acquaintances or acquaintance of old. Lawrence could be a rather nasty customer at times, I fancy. He is as shabby as ever in his dress, and comes down to the House in a seedy frock, and bags that would drive Bertie mad with fits. Dyed old fellows in India look so cross and crusty, and do they all affect shocking bad hats? It always occurs to me that those who return home are clever-looking men, and all that, but are not as pleasant as they might be. There's George Campbell, now, he came here the other day, as Argyll asked me to invite him. He is a very tall, lean man, and looks awfully wise, but he frowns like mad, and could not smile, I fancy, if he tried. Bertie called him "hoggy" to his face, and Alex. blushed crimson, and sent him to bed to prevent similar remarks on "men of the Indian Huntley declares solemnly that people in India work all day, and amuse themselves by working all night, and get up before dawn to work again. If so, India would not quite suit me, as I am a certain brother of mine in the Royal Marines who shall be nameless and blameless.

Blameless! Poor dear boy we say that. That Mordaunt business has given us a great deal of annoyance, as you may imagine. But, as I had done nothing to be ashamed of, I did not see why I should have my mouth gagged. *Le Mere* begged Mordaunt to leave my name out of the proceedings. He wouldn't, though, and I am not sorry now, as all kinds of rumors got abroad, which I pumped down pretty well with difficulty. So I told Gladstone I wished to be examined where the case came on, and he consulted the other Ministers, and went to Windsor and so on, until at last it was agreed that that course would be to take the public into our confidence. It was rather an unpleasant ordeal in my case, but not as bad as I expected, as Penzance was civil, and so were the lawyers. I told them exactly the truth, keeping in mind Hatherley's advice to be brief and to the point. The papers have been down your way, of course—the *Times* thinking it worth while to read me a lecture. But I am getting accustomed to this kind of thing, and if it pleases the papers they are welcome. Alex. doesn't like it, but he can't suggest a remedy for the nuisance any more than I can. If I hunt or shoot I am called a butcher or a dolt, and I confess that least influence in public matters I am told that I am not yet entitled to do so. My mother's father's name is constantly held up, and I am told to follow his example, just as if my position is the same as his was. I must say this for him, that I must always be goody, because he was so good. I am a younger of other sons are always thinking of their fathers who died long ago. I know some fellows who do not seem quite certain whether they ever had a father. Yet here, nine years after poor father's death, I am still expected to sit in sackcloth and ashes in his memory. Really it is hard lines, and I am getting weary of it, and so is Alex. You often say you would like to change places with me. But you would regret doing so, old boy, could we get our friends—and foes—at Westminster to agree to the little arrangement. I assure you I often think wistfully of the train, hurrying past the smug houses of the country round London, and see how jolly they themselves look. But there's no end, over me my lot. Nor need you, for as that poet Thyra says, "Alfred is too good to be a king." You had a narrow shave once, and George rushed in where you feared to enter. Poor George, the Greeks are a treacherous lot, and Alex. is when they are well off.

I am glad you are going to Madras. I don't know much of Lord Napier, but his handsome wife is intimate with *le Mere*, and is a very agreeable and well-informed person. India must be a grand place, and by the time Bertie, Jr., is in his teens, I dare say there will be a direct railway to take him there, and go he shall when enough, but on one condition, namely, that he is not mounted on an untamed steed on his arrival at Calcutta. It was too bad of Mayo risking a spill in your case. It has gone across country himself in fine style, but perhaps after a cruise half round the world, he might find his sea-legs a trifle stiff when astride of a restive Arab. Had you had a spirited goody company, the *Times*, as sure as fate, would read you have a lecture. But possibly they have no company in Calcutta, and the choice lay between a palankeen like that at the British Museum and horseback. I don't know nearly so much about Calcutta or Bombay as I do of Madras. Harris needs little amusement to talk about. He says the newspapers there are simply abominable, and complains bitterly of their looking him about being too "harristocratic!" He speaks in high terms of the quarters you will occupy, and is sure Napier will make you comfortable. You must let me know all about the place when you get there.

Nothing much is going on here. We often go to the theatres, and I hunt and shoot now and then. There's some idea of our going to Ireland in the autumn, but Alex. doesn't like it, as she says we are not called upon to run in the way of being shot. Ireland is in a bad way, and Gladstone is very anxious about it all. I dare say he thinks more about it than I do. It is a pity, they are so discontented, and shooting at landlords from behind hedges is really too bad. For all that I would willingly spend the summer or autumn in Ireland, and knock about a bit, and take my chance, if it would do any good. I can't see, if there are any Irishmen who would like to shoot me, why they should not do so in London instead of waiting till I take the trouble of visiting their own country. I don't mean to say I'd like to be shot; far from it, as I am a great lover in unbroken health and, but one can't be over nice now-a-days. ...Besides, I am getting a bit tired of my life here, and would like to assist in making friends with the Irish, who are excellent fellows at heart, and the best of soldiers in the service. Are they really good, sailors think your Children does not like the sea, and I suppose he ought to know all about it. You will, I hope, be at home by July, and if we are there I shall be delighted to meet you. Come to warm your home room at Sandringham. The house is nearly finished, and will be a place worth indeed. We are as fond of it as ever, the neighborhood is so quiet, and one can do just without any danger of pulling off the brim of one's hat or raising hounds. The plantations are growing up capitally, and the banks of the new lake are already covered with grass. In the centre of the lake is an island with a Chinese summer-house, my special resort in the evening, as Alex. dislikes tobacco smoke, much as ever. The billiard-room is a great improvement on the old one, and is large enough for three tables. The stables are rather too near the Bachelors' Lodge; but Alex. would have them placed in a corner, where they would look pretty, and the effect from the lake is certainly good. She has capital taste.

We have good news from Arthur. He seems to like the Yankees. The climate of Canada suits him, and as he is good for skating he does not find time pass slowly. Canada is one of the places, I believe, that Alfred the Great Traveler has not seen. You should go there some day. It is a fine place and people much. But how glad you must be to think you have not yet seen quite all the world. Birch always growled over your ignorance of geography, but now you should be able to birch Birch. He is a clever fellow, and seems to be happy in his new living. He is not ambitious, but one of these days I hope he will be made a bishop. I'd a mitre won't spoil him. We'll get him over to Sandringham when you come back, and you shall drive him mad with geographical puzzlers, while I'll smoke you both dry—and then we'll all dance upon the island. Alex. sends her love; so does Bertie, who is getting so cheeky that I have serious thoughts now and then about calling in the Usher of the Black Rod to do the needful—but he assured the coroner I was blameless, shall be intramural. Joking apart, he is a good little chap, and grows apace as do the other chicks. But I know many bachelors cannot sympathize with a parent of five children, and Alex. says "bachelors are selfish," and I agree with her, but Thyra won't hear a word against your order. But, of course, you care not a fig what Thyra says, and we will pardon the simple-mindedness of "sweet seventeen." She grows prettier each year, more like Dagmar than Alex. *Bon voyage.* Regards to Fitz-George, and take care of yourself, old fellow. Your affectionate brother,

BERTIE.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

Message from the President.

President Grant yesterday afternoon sent the following message to Congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In my annual message to Congress at the beginning of its present session, I referred to the course which then for more than a year existed in the island of Cuba between a portion of its inhabitants and the government of Spain, and the feelings and sympathies of the people and Government of the United States. The people of Cuba, as for all peoples struggling for liberty and self-government, and said that the contest had at no time assumed the conditions which amount to war in the sense of international law, or which would show the existence of a *de facto* political organization of the insurgents sufficient to justify a recognition of belligerency.

During the six months which have passed since the date of that message the condition of the insurgents has not improved, and the insurrection itself, although not subdued, exhibits no signs of advance, but seems to be confined to an irregular system of hostilities, carried on by small and fly-among bands of men, reaming without concentration through the woods and the sparsely-populated regions of the island, attacking from ambush convoys and small bands of troops, burning plantations and the estates of those not sympathizing with their cause.

But if the insurrection has not gained ground it is equally true that Spain has not suppressed it. Climate, disease and the occasional battle have reduced the distribution among the soldiers of Spain, and although the Spanish authorities have possession of every seaport and every town on the island, they have not been able to subdue the hostile feeling which has driven a considerable number of the native inhabitants of the island to armed resistance against Spain, and which has led to certain the dangers and privations of a roaming life of guerilla warfare.

On either side the contest has been conducted, and is still carried on, with a lamentable disregard of human life and of the usages and practices which modern civilization has prescribed in mitigation of the necessary horrors of war. The torches of Spaniard and Cuban are alike busy in carrying devastation over the fertile regions. Murderous and revengeful decrees are issued and executed by both parties. Count Valmaseda, and Colonel Boet, on the part of Spain, have each startled humanity and aroused the indignation of the civilized world by the execution each of a score of prisoners at a time, while Quesada, the Cuban chief, coolly and with apparent unconsciousness of ugly, else than a proper act, has admitted the slaughter by his own deliberate order in one day of upwards of six hundred and fifty prisoners of war.

A unofficial trial, with few, if any, escapes from conviction, followed by immediate execution, is the fate of those accused of being in violation of fidelity to the cause of the party making the arrest. Whatever may be the sympathies of the people, or of the Government of the United States for the cause or objects for which a part of the people of Cuba are understood to have put themselves in armed resistance to the Government of Spain, there can be no just sympathy in a conflict carried on by both parties alike in such barbarous violation of the rules of civilized nations, and with such continued outrages upon the plainest principles of humanity.

We cannot discriminate in our censure of their mode of conducting the contest between the Spaniards and the Cubans, but commits the same atrocities and outrages against the established rules of war. The properties of many of our citizens have been destroyed or embargoed, the lives of several have been sacrificed, and the liberty of others has been restrained. In every case that has come to the knowledge of the Government an ample and earnest demand for reparation and indemnity has been made, and most emphatic remonstrance has been presented against the manner in which the strife is conducted, and against the reckless disregard of human life, the wanton destruction of material wealth, and the cruel disregard of the established rules of civilized warfare.

I have, since the beginning of the present session of Congress, communicated to the House of Representatives, upon their request, an account of the steps which I had taken in the hope of bringing this sad conflict to an end, and of securing to the people of Cuba the blessing and the right of independent self-government. The efforts thus made failed, but not without an assurance from Spain that the good offices of this Government might still avail for the objects to which they had been addressed. During the whole contest the remarkable exhibition has been made of large numbers of Cubans escaping from the island and avoiding the risks of war, congregating in this country at a safe distance from the scene of danger, and endeavoring to make war from our shores, to urge our people into the fight which they refused to embroil this Government in complications and possible hostilities with Spain.

It can scarcely be doubted that this result is the real object of these parties, although carefully covered under the deceptive and apparently plausible demand for a mere recognition of belligerency. It is stated, on what I have reason to regard as good authority, that Cuban bonds have been prepared to a large amount, whose payment is made dependent upon the recognition of the United States of either Cuban belligerency or independence. The object of making their value thus entirely contingent upon the action of this Government is a subject for serious reflection.

In determining the course to be adopted on the demand thus made for a recognition of belligerency the liberal and peaceful principles adopted by the Father of this Country and the eminent statesmen of his day, and followed by succeeding Chief Magistrates, and the men of their day, may furnish a safe guide to be followed in now changed with the direction and control of the public safety. From 1793 to 1818 the United States—out of the wars which were devastating Europe.

The discussion of measures of neutrality begins with the State papers of Mr. Jefferson when Secretary of State. He shows that they are measures of national right as well as of national duty; that misguided individual citizens cannot be tolerated in making war according to the property, the passions, and the interests or foreign sympathies; that the agents of foreign governments recognized or unrecognized cannot be permitted to abuse our hospitality by usurping the functions of enlisting or equipping military or naval forces within our territory.

Washington inaugurated the policy of neutrality, and of absolute abstinence from all foreign entangling alliances, which resulted in 1794 in the first municipal enactment for the observance of neutrality. The duty of opposition to filibustering has been admitted by every President. Washington encountered the efforts of Genet and the French revolutionists; John Adams, the projects of Miranda; Jefferson, the schemes of Aaron Burr. Madison and subsequent Presidents had to deal with the question of foreign enlistment or equipment in the United States; and since the days of John Quincy Adams there has been not of the continental cares of Government in the United States to prevent piratical expeditions against the feeble South American Republics from leaving our shores.

In no country are men wanting for any enterprise that holds out promise of adventure or gain. In the early days of our national existence the whole continent of America outside of the United States, and all its islands, were in Colonial dependence upon European Powers. The revolution, which from 1810 spread almost simultaneously throughout all the Spanish American Continental Colonies, resulted in the establishment of new States, like ourselves, of European origin, and interested in excluding European politics, and the questions of dynasty and of balances of power from further influence in the New World. The American policy of neutrality, important before, became doubly so, from the fact that it became applicable to the new Republics as well as to the mother country.

It then devolved upon us to determine the great international question, at what time and under what circumstances we recognized a new power as entitled to a place among the families of the nations, as well as the preliminary question of the attitude to be observed by this Government toward the insurrectionary party pending the contest.

Mr. Monroe concisely expressed the rule which has controlled the action of this Government with reference to revoking colonies pending their struggle by saying: "As soon as the independence of the Colonies shall be established or it shall be ascertained that it can not be established, we shall be ready to acknowledge it, and to maintain it against all those who may oppose it." Acting upon this principle, we waited for the fulfilment of the conditions which it indicates before we recognized the independence of the Spanish American Continental Colonies, resulted in the establishment of new States, like ourselves, of European origin, and interested in excluding European politics, and the questions of dynasty and of balances of power from further influence in the New World. The American policy of neutrality, important before, became doubly so, from the fact that it became applicable to the new Republics as well as to the mother country.

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