

for it was the example of American statesmen that changed diplomacy from an extensive system of lying into a frank and candid discussion of the differences between nations. Our policy in dealing with the South American republics has also been a step in the right direction; and one cause for the ill feeling that at present exists in Europe against the United States is that we will neither override the South American states ourselves nor permit any European power to do so. But how about Cuba? Was our disinterested intervention in her behalf in 1898 only a pretext to bring her people under the control of this country? Cubans look upon the celebrated Platt amendment as "an attempt to place Cuba under the jurisdiction, sovereignty and control of the United States" without their consent, and it appears as if they have good reasons for so thinking. Such an attempt would be a disgrace to the spirit that animated the founders of this nation, contrary to the high standard which this country has always maintained in its intercourse with other nations, contrary to the wishes of every true and patriotic American citizen, and it could only act as a boomerang upon the heads of those bringing it about. Many of our latter day politicians would no doubt attempt to explain away such a disgraceful action by laying it to national destiny, but much of the destiny we hear so much about these days is of the jumping-jack variety, for in the first place it is a manufactured article, and then, too it can be made to twist and turn as best suits the pleasure of the one having it in hand. This country of ours has a national destiny to work out but it is the destiny of the statesman rather than that of the politician. It is,—to stand before all future generations as a proof that man can govern himself and can do it well; and that candor and justice in dealing with a weaker nation is the true policy of a great people.