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AMERICA'S WORLD INFLUENCE

Europe is beginning to grasp the fact that the United States is an influential member of the family of nations, but it does not grasp the whole of the fact or apprehend its full significance. The latest issue of the London Spectator has an article which says that the "dominant fact of the year 1898 was the rise in the position of the English-speaking peoples." It remarks that "on the other side of the Atlantic the people of the United States, moving as if they were forced on by some impulse from without, with a minute army in being, a president specially vowed to peace, and a minister of war most kindly described as a shortsighted amateur, crushed the ancient monarchy of Spain almost without effort and seated themselves on great islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific," and adds that "America has become within one year, in the eyes of those who control armies and fleets, almost a new and conceivably a dangerous power." Then it says: "The English-speaking races, disregarded in 1897, are in 1898 regarded as the potential equals in combination of all the rest of the world."

It is unquestionably true that the chapter which the United States added to the world's history in 1898 has been a revelation to the rest of the nations, and has immeasurably increased the prestige of the English-speaking races, for England's sympathy with the United States when the other nations were more or less unfriendly has been the means of shedding on England, by reflection, a little of the glory which the United States gained. Moreover, in the African campaign England gained glory of her own, which restored her at once to the position of influence which she held at the opening of the present century, during the days of Pitt, and about two-thirds of a century later in the times of Palmerston and Disraeli. The glory of the English-speaking races, however, dates back further than 1898, and America had a far larger share in that glory than the world then or since clearly realized. "We are forced to ask every morning what victory there is," said Horace Walpole, in 1759, "for fear we may miss one." A strong basis of truth underlaid that jocose remark. No other country had ever played so glorious a part in the history of the world as England had been playing for a year or two at that time, and her American colonies bore a prominent share in the work which that country performed.

At the time when Walpole spoke the victories had just taken place which drove France out of North America, and saved the greater and better part of the New World to Anglo-Saxon civilization. England had been gaining victories in Europe and Asia as well as in America, for the struggle which was drawing to a close at that time of the Seven Years' War, but the part of the conflict which took place in the New World was that part which had the greatest interest for England. In the New World the colonies which a few years later became the United States were far more prominent in the struggle than was England herself, and forced England into it. Two-thirds of the army which fought England's battles in the New World in that conflict were contributed by the colonies, the best of the English officers, aside from Wolfe, were Americans, 30,000 soldiers furnished by the colonies had lost their lives in fighting their own and England's battles, while \$15,000,000 of the expenditure of the war was provided by America, and less than a third of this sum was ever refunded by the mother country. Those were glorious

days for America as well as for Great Britain, and many of Europe's astute statesmen already began to foresee America's rise. "England," said the French diplomat, Count Vergennes, "will ere long repent having removed the only check (France) which could keep her colonies in awe. They stand no longer in need of her protection. She will call on them to contribute toward supporting the burdens they have helped to bring on her, and they will answer by striking off all dependence." The prophecy of that day became the history of a dozen years later. But naturally those who then began to foresee America's greatness did not comprehend its full measure, or dream how quickly it was to assert itself. America's influence on the current of the world's history, which is now manifest to all men, began to take effect at a far earlier period than is commonly realized today.—Globe Democrat.

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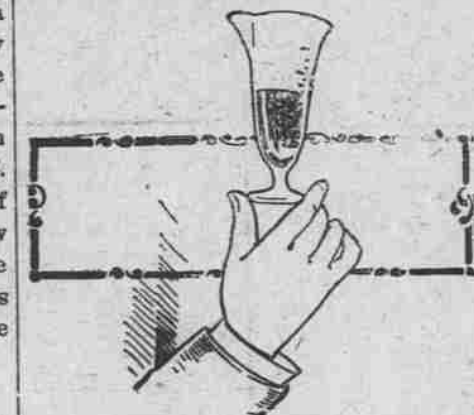
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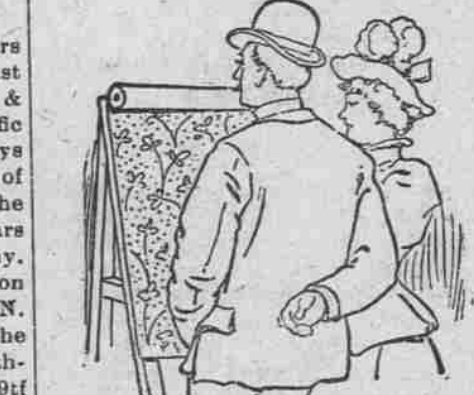
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