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FRIDAY - - - - - APRIL 14, 1899

THE SAMOAN TRAGEDY.

The tragic affair at Samoa will draw closer the bond of friendship between the United States and England, says the Review. Forces wearing the uniforms of the two nations have been under fire together. British valor and American courage have faced a savage foe. Sons of the two countries have fallen together, and there is grief in England and grief in the United States.

Lamentably, this unhappy event may strain the relations between England and the United States on one hand, and Germany upon the other. But that it will lead to war is a possibility too remote and shocking for serious consideration. It can not be believed that the British government will approve the reckless course of its hot-headed consul, or seek to condone the wanton conduct of Germans who are reported to have incited Mataafa's savage warriors to attack the forces of the United States and England.

In the light of recent events in the Samoan islands, the wisdom of efforts to continue the tripartite protectorate will be questioned. The feeling between the Germans and the British and Americans in the islands has become too bitter for harmonious alliance.

The situation requires cool consideration at Washington, London and Berlin.

OUR PHILIPPINE POLICY.

There is certainly no exploitation of the islands for our own selfish benefit. There is no attempt at Americanizing the natives against their will. They are to remain Filipinos, with their native creeds and customs, so far as they desire to retain the latter in preference to others of which they may learn. The Catholic may remain Catholic, and the Mahometan may remain Mahometan. There will be protection for each, but no compulsion for either. And so the wild forebodings of the Tagal rebels and of their handful of sympathizers here are pilloried as sheer fancies, if not malicious inventions. The policy which has been so successful in the native states of the Malay peninsula and in the vast East Indian empire of the Netherlands is substantially to be applied to our possessions in that quarter. To say that it will not there meet with equal success would be to say that the Filipinos are harder to deal with than the Malaccans and Sumatrans, or that Americans are inferior in governing capacity to the English and the Dutch. To neither of those propositions are the American people at present inclined to give assent.

Governor Merriam, in his capacity as director of the census, expresses himself plainly in regard to the policy he intends to pursue in the appointment of his subordinates, says the Oregonian. Candidates will be examined and he will endeavor to

put competent persons in the places but civil service rules will not apply to these positions. "It will be a matter of influence, more or less," he says, and adds that practically those candidates having passed examination "who can bring the most influence to bear will receive the appointments." This statement is conspicuous for its candor—so much so that it cannot be misunderstood. The declaration should serve a good purpose in dismissing to other pursuits a multitude who would otherwise waste time and nervous energy in hanging round waiting for a job in census taking. While the policy hints broadly at political favoritism, saying boldly in effect, "No Democrat or Populist need apply," it is something to learn we are dealing with a man who does not propose to be a hypocrite.

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