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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23.

The Holland societies, composed of Americans of Dutch descent have **Sympathy** been holding meetings for the Boers in this country for the purpose of awakening a keener interest among the American people for the cause of the Boers. And the North Shore has seen something of this agitation.

To what extent should the sympathy of Americans be expressed as regards the Boers in their fight against the English?

In this country there has been in the past two years a great change in the sentiments of the average American as regards England and her people.

The people of the United States two years ago did not really know what other countries thought of this, our country. America entered in earnest the ranks of the nations of the world in '98. Up to that time dates a period in which this country was as a youth just entering the era in life called manhood.

It is interesting to note how too, like the individual, many youthful fancies were dispelled when America opened her eyes in the battle of life of the nations. As the youth im-

agines in his happy ignorance of life that his ability and power will when put to the test find a world easy of conquest, so America had indulged herself, somewhat with the idea that she was a friend to, and of all nations before the late unpleasantness. This country had always kept her hands off of foreign countries, therefore she had no enemies. But an awakening came. Sordid self interest of the world powers destroyed many ideals of young America when she entered their ranks in the waging of war across the seas.

After Dewey had entered the bay of Manilla the true regard in which the nations of the world held America was soon manifest. Up to that time the newspapers of Russia, Germany and France had as a rule been plainly contemptuous of the Americans. In those days of trial this country was pretty busy in its war with Spain, but not too much occupied to note that of all the world only one great nation showed unmistakable friendship for this republic. When Dewey's battle ships passed those of other lands 'twas but the warships of England alone from which in those distant seas was heard by the men of the American navy, as a token of sincere friendship, the inspiring strains of "The Star Spangled Banner." The seamen of England cheering the defenders of the stars and stripes at a time when this land was engaged in war with a foreign power and when other countries gave us—to put it mildly—anything but good wishes, was the beginning of a new era in the relations of the United States and England.

Today the conditions are reversed. England's armies through underestimating the strength of their opponents in Africa have been defeated. The world powers have arrayed themselves in no friendly garb of criticism. As America looks on the memories of 1898 are awakened as the soldiers of England give up their lives in the Transvaal. And though through all our land there is a feeling of sympathy for the Boers in their brave fight against a stronger nation, still for the Holland societies to ask us for more than our sympathies, to expect anything that

would mean hostility to the English nation cannot be. America—bound by no formal alliance with any nation of the world does not, however need a repetition of the events of two years ago to tell her who amongst the peoples of the world are her best friends.

In the histories that Uncle Sam's school children have been familiar with for a century and more there is found much that does not tend to glorify old John Bull to the youthful imagination. But another chapter must be added since '98. A chapter of word painting that will be strangely unlike much that has gone before in the great historical tale. And as a "finis" will be, perhaps, a portrayal of two flags whose blending colors will tell a story in themselves of the days when the Union Jack dipped to the Stars and Stripes or vice versa.

Mr. Granville D. Hall of Glencoe has just received from his Chicago publishers his novel entitled "Daughter of the Elm." Mr. Hall is an old newspaper man, being for years owner and editor of the Wheeling Intelligencer, West Virginia. He writes easily and his characters are consistently handled throughout the story. Mr. Hall, in the preface to his tale of West Virginia, gives the reader assurance that the scenes and characters portrayed are largely taken from life. The exciting story impresses one with unmistakable proof of the fact that its characters are from life, and herein lies the strength of the work. A pretty love story adds interest to a tale that does not lack for stirring situations. On another page is a further description of the book.—Ed.

Why Not Spend Christmas and New Years at Home.

The Nickel Plate Road will sell tickets to any point located in Central Passenger Association territory, at a fare and a third for the round trip, account of Christmas and New Year Holidays, on December 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31, 1899, and January 1, with return limit to and including January 2, 1900. Students, upon presentation of proper credentials, can obtain tickets at same rate, with liberal return limit. Complete information may be secured by calling on, or addressing the General Agent, 111 Adams street, Chicago. *48