

Back from France comes a celebrated war correspondent. "The scorn and contempt in which Americans are held is almost unbelievable," he reports. On the same boat a noted financier returned from London. "The English are disappointed in Americans," he says; "they despise us as a race of money-getters, devoid of ideals." German papers day after day heap abuse and ridicule upon America and the "Yankees."



"In only one country are Americans popular," said a friend recently; "that is Belgium." What does this mean? Has the whole world turned against us? Will Americans be ashamed to travel in Europe after the war? Why have we done? What should we do? The subject is a big one; but the author of this article, a veteran diplomat of standing, presents some facts that ought to make every American stop, look, and listen.

**ARE** Americans popular abroad? That is a question frequently addressed to foreigners in the United States, and one that embarrasses them greatly. For it is difficult to reply truthfully to the inquiry when it is made either by a kindly host or, as is very often the case, by some charming American woman. How is it possible to be so utterly graceless as to inform the latter that her native land is quite the reverse of popular beyond its borders?

But, in the last two or three months, her own countrymen have undertaken to furnish a reply to this question with a far greater amount of brutal frankness and freedom than would be seemly on the part of those enjoying the hospitality of the United States. George Harvey, editor of the *North American Review*, when he returned the other day to New York after a sojourn of several weeks abroad, lost no time in proclaiming far and wide, with much vigor of expression, that the United States is not regarded with favor by any foreign nation. Richard Harding Davis, the well known playwright and author, has sent a number of letters from Paris, in which he writes feelingly about the unpopularity of Americans in France; while the viciousness of the attacks upon this country by the press of Germany and of Austria, and the revelations contained in the communications printed in American newspapers from their correspondents at Berlin and Vienna, leave no doubt as to the positive aversion with which everybody and everything relating to the United States is regarded by the lieges of the two kaisers.

In fact, it is no exaggeration to assert that public opinion is violently inflamed against this country in Austria and especially in Germany, where it is held that the Monroe Doctrine is one of the chief causes of the present war, which could have been avoided had she been permitted to carry out her project of creating a colonial empire in South America.

#### Why We Were Unpopular Before the War

**BEFORE** undertaking to resent this condition of affairs, or to denounce the lack of appreciation of all that has been done for the relief of the victims of the present war by Americans, the latter would do well to pause for a moment, and to consider the causes that have brought about this prejudice everywhere abroad against the United States—a prejudice which is most intense in Germany and least apparent in Great Britain. It is a prejudice

## Are We Hated?

By a VETERAN DIPLOMAT

born of ignorance, and due also to other reasons that existed before the war.

Dealing in the first place with the unpopularity that existed prior to the war, some of its causes are to the credit rather than to the disadvantage of the American character. Among them are the freshness and vigor of the American mind, the restless activity of the American intellect, and above all the independence that Americans enjoy from that thralldom of tradition and convention which subjects people of the Old World to a tyranny in many respects extremely despotic.

Not that Europeans object to this tyranny. On the contrary, they like it. Born and bred under its sway, it has become part and parcel of their very existence; and European society, being essentially conservative, resents any attempt to remove its fetters. Society on the yonder side of the ocean is based upon the system of aristocracy, and is constituted, in the main, of classes enjoying privileges not accorded to the masses.

#### Jealousy of the American Girl

**WHAT** wonder, then, that its members should regard with a not altogether friendly eye a people who have done in the past, and are still doing, all that is possible to deprive them of their cherished privileges? It was the importation of American ideas by Franklin, Lafayette, and others, that brought about the great Revolution in France, and that struck the first big blow at the rights and prerogatives of the aristocracy—a blow from the effect of which it has never recovered. And, since then, every succeeding year has witnessed the arrival from the New World of a fresh consignment of American doctrines calculated to render the masses more dissatisfied with their lot, and more anxious to deprive the classes of their special privileges.

If, however, the American, in the hope of ingratiating himself with the people of Europe, abandons those typical American characteristics which Europeans are forced to respect and admire, though they do not love, he generally succeeds in earning for himself a contempt akin to that which all men are accustomed to feel for renegades. To put the matter briefly, be-

fore the war Americans were not liked, but they were respected and admired abroad. Europeans, however, not only disliked, but also despised, those Americans who, with social aims in view, affected to regret their own nationality and appeared ashamed of their American birthright.

Still another cause, and an important one too, for the unpopularity of Americans in Europe, is the jealousy with which the women of the Old World regard their American sisters. There is a freshness, a sparkle, and above all a breadth, in the conversation of an American girl which that of the English maiden does not possess, and which the Continental young woman does not venture to display, at any rate prior to her marriage. This leads European men to find the conversation of their young unmarried countrywomen somewhat slow and colorless, when compared with the piquant and, to the untraveled European, an original remarks of the transatlantic belle.

The consequence is that European matrons regard the American girl as a serious danger to the matrimonial market. For, even when she does not swoop down and collar the most eligible prizes, her brilliancy has the effect of rendering European men more difficult and more exacting, and less contented with the domestic article in the matrimonial line. Now, the European matron is, if anything, a more important and influential personage in her family than the American mother, in whose circle a far greater individual independence prevails. The consequence is that the ill will entertained by the former for the American girls has constituted a powerful factor against the popularity of Americans.

#### What Europeans Don't Know About Us

**ANOTHER** great cause of the unpopularity of Americans abroad is the gross and almost incredible ignorance prevailing there with regard to almost everything connected with the New World. It was not long ago that I received a letter from a man who had just taken high honors at Oxford, which bore the address "Philadelphia, Massachusetts." Imagine the ridicule that an American letter addressed

to "Manchester, County of Sussex," would excite in England!

A few years ago one of the most famous English historians, who had come over to deliver a course of lectures at Boston and other New England cities, was extremely surprised and disappointed to discover on his arrival that he would be unable to execute his project of running down from Boston to West Virginia every Saturday afternoon, for the sake of spending Sunday with one of his married daughters who lived there! Until he arrived in this country he fondly imagined that West Virginia was about two hours' ride by rail from Boston.

#### Question Asked at an English Dinner-Party

**NOW** shall I ever forget the cold shiver that passed down my back when, at a dinner given in London shortly after President Garfield's assassination, one of the most popular and best known leaders of London society inquired in all innocence, of an American General who was present, whether poor Mrs. Garfield, of whom a portrait had just appeared in the English illustrated papers, was not a negress? The question was put during one of those sudden and peculiar pauses of conversation that are not altogether infrequent at dinner-parties, and that are popularly said to result from one of the persons present having inadvertently crossed his or her feet under the table. Then I heard the gallant General, who retained his equanimity in a marvelous manner, explain with gentle and winning courtesy to Lady C. that, notwithstanding the crinkly hair, high cheek-bones, and thick lips with which the London illustrated papers had endowed the features of Mrs. Garfield, the murdered President's widow was not a negress, and that up to that time no "person of color" had ever yet held sway as first lady of the land.

These are but three trifling yet instructive illustrations of the dense ignorance that prevailed not so long ago, even among the most highly educated Europeans concerning America—and ignorance is invariably allied to prejudice. To such an extent does the latter exist abroad, that people, not content with knowing little or nothing about the United States, have always seemed disinclined to learn.

Up to the beginning of the war, most of the metropolitan daily papers of Europe either refrained from printing any news from the United States, save that contained in the brief despatches of the news agencies, or else contented them-