

discord, without any but lofty tones, and my preparation on earth in that narrow vocabulary which Englishmen use will be enlarged here and I shall make a bigger reputation in this new land than I made down below, for the whole splendor of the universe is before me and I will no longer have to grope, but can stand erect. And now watch me while I write something."

The Fleet Sails.

On Tuesday last the great battleship fleet sailed away from San Francisco. It lost two admirals in California, one by death, one by prostrating illness. It left two of the ships that came around from Hampton Roads and took two new ships in their place. The fleet is going to Honolulu. From there it goes to Australasia. Then it will turn north and visit Japan and China. Then for a long rest in Manila for repairs, and then on through the straits across the Indian ocean, up the Red sea, through the Suez canal, across the Mediterranean and Atlantic and, if there are no serious accidents, to bring up again at Hampton Roads next winter.

The voyage has and will cost many millions of dollars. Still we believe it is money well spent. It has served a notice upon the world and supplied the world with an object lesson that the fighting ships of the United States are prepared for every emergency whether it comes by storms at sea or by enemies. So far as it goes, it is always ready and the flag above it is a symbol of such a sovereignty and such a glory as the world never saw before. Great Britain has many more ships than our country, but while the defense of Great Britain has rested on her navy for three hundred years and more, she is no better ship-builder than the Americans, and in all her experience she has never sent out a fleet of sixteen great battleships to circumnavigate the earth and give the world notice that Great Britain has no thought of anything but peace, but all the time she carries a big stick.

From the knowledge before us we think it is a bad policy to send those ships away from our west coast. There is no need of them on the Atlantic. There is great need of them on the Pacific, for their presence might prevent a war which, beside the loss of men, would cost the country more than a hundred battleships would. From the lights we have, we think it would be a good policy, with the visit over to Australia, to Japan, to China, to turn half of those ships back for the defense of the Pacific. The trouble seems to be that none of our eastern statesmen seem to realize that the importance of the west coast is going to be as much greater than that of the east as the Pacific is greater than the Atlantic. Suppose a war would come to us and all those ships would be stretched from Hampton Bay to Boston harbor, of what avail would they be except as a guard to some eastern coast cities? But if left on this side they would be able to give notice to the Orient not to interfere with anything in the United States; that this country has close at hand the means of defense which are sufficient. As it will be when they all sail away our whole west coast is open to assault for thousands of miles, and that should not be. We are entitled to a part of the navy as much as we are entitled to a part of the post office department. No matter from what point the matter is looked upon it is a misfortune that the fleet is going away, but that does not prevent us from hoping that the voyage home will be as grand a success as the voyage around South America, and that wherever the nations of this earth look upon the fleet with the flag over it their reflection will be that the United States is a bad country to assault, and that when the United States demands peace and a square deal it will be very apt to have its request complied with.

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