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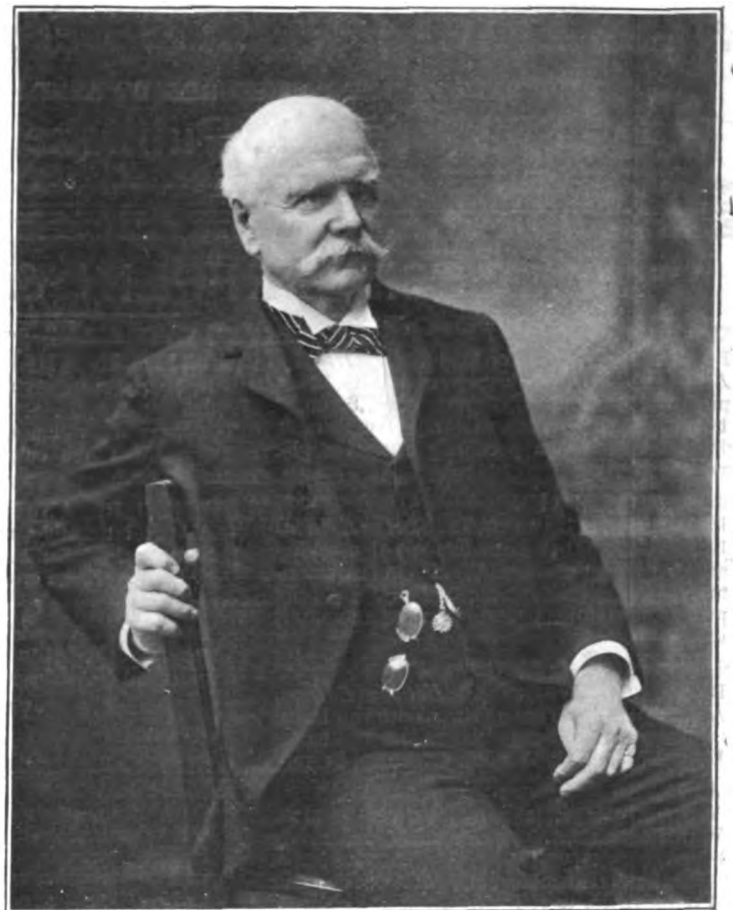
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A PSALM MEET FOR THANKSGIVING DAY.

Henry van Dyke D.D.

O thou whose boundless love bestows
The joy of life, the hope of heaven;
Thou whose unchartered mercy flows
O'er all the blessings thou hast given;
Thou by whose light alone we see;
Thou by whose truth our souls set free
Are made imperishably strong;
Hear thou the solemn music of our song.

Grant us the knowledge that we need
To solve the questions of the mind;
Light thou our candle while we read,
And keep our hearts from going blind;
Enlarge our vision to behold
The wonders thou hast wrought of old;
Reveal thyself in every law,
And gild the towers of truth with holy awe.

Be thou our strength when war's wild gust
Rages around us, loud and fierce;
Confirm our souls and let our trust
Be like a wall that none can pierce;
Give us the courage that prevails,
The steady faith that never fails,
Help us to stand in every fight
Firm as a fortress to defend the right.

O God, make of us what thou wilt;
Guide thou the labour of our hand;
Let all our work be surely built
As thou, the architect, has planned;
But whatsoever thy power shall make
Of these frail lives, do not forsake
Thy dwelling. Let thy presence rest
Forever in the temple of our breast.

—From *The Builders*.

All Round the Horizon

There is news from all sections of the horizon this week. The war clouds off Africa are still thunderously black, but in the Philippines they begin to break and lose their threatening appearance. The rumors of a coming storm linger yet over Korea. Altogether it is not a peaceable scene the world presents towards the end of this year of battles.

England is more than ever downcast over her ill success in South Africa. The advance troops of her relief expedition have themselves become wrapped in "splendid isolation." First the forces at Estcourt and since then the camp at Mooi River have been surrounded and cut off from all regular communication. Unless most vigorous measures are taken to drive General Joubert back and prevent further destruction of railroad and bridges, the chances of relieving Ladysmith within a month will vanish. It is a difficult matter to proceed successfully against a skillful and well-posted enemy, in a country which rises with every mile of the advance, from plains to hills and from hills to the mountains of the border.

The reported victory of General Methuen, who had marched to the relief of Kimberley, is losing value with added news. A successful attack followed by the orderly retreat of the Boers is the most that can be claimed. Had it not been for the lack of the cavalry, so much needed by all the British Generals, it might have been a different story. More than his; much anxiety is felt as to the fate of

Mafeking. The news that the soldiers were driven to the ground and that illness was resulting from the wretched sanitary state of the burrows is disheartening in the extreme. And with three beleaguered garrisons in Natal besides Kimberley and Mafeking, and no signs of succor in the immediate future, it is no wonder that all England is plunged into gloom.

There is a glimmer of comfort from the North though, to cheer the faint-hearted. The Khalifa has been killed in battle and the army of Abdullah routed by the Anglo-Egyptian forces. According to General Kitchener "the Soudan may now be declared open." The news of the final defeat of the Dervishes was received at London with great joy as a welcome set-off to the serious situation in South Africa.

Strange to say, Germany is offering England the best of comfort under her present despondent state. The royal visit of the Kaiser has been a balm in Gilead; and the soothed English public already begin to dream of a mighty Dreibund between England, Germany and the United States. While this is hardly probable, it seems certain that the three nations are in closer touch and sympathy than ever before. It will be perhaps, an industrial entente with the freedom of China as the bond of connection. It is interesting to remember, that not a year ago, Germany was at swords points with us over the Philippines, and just before that on the verge of hostilities with Great Britain over the Jameson raid. But all that was a war of the newspapers, rather than the deliberate attitude of the governments themselves.

The Samoan agreement is another sign of the friendly feeling of the three chief commercial nations. By it many difficult questions have been forever settled. This country retains the only advantage it desired—the important island of Pago Pago, while Germany takes the rest of the group. The effect of the changes under the agreement has been to turn the whole of the Western Pacific with a few exceptions into a vast British preserve, and to put an end to the troublesome question as to the Gold Coast hinterland.

The unspoken influence of the United States has played an important part in the world's history of late. This impetuous nation seems to have acted as a peace-maker between the old world powers. Our attitude on the Eastern question is receiving recognition from unexpected quarters. France alone has exhibited great opposition to the American request for assurances regarding the maintainance of the "open door" in China. It is rumored that it is possible that a decisive agreement based upon that principle may be signed by all parties interested. Certain it is that there is no misunderstanding between England, America and Japan; and Germany, as well, seems to be leaning strongly that way. If this understanding

shall be consummated, one of the greatest problems of the century will be satisfactorily solved.

Russia's relation with the United States was never more cordial than at present. She has given our iron and steel mills order after order to aid her in advancing her enormous plans of development; and the Russian Embassy has initiated a movement to remodel the existing trade treaty between the two countries. Very suggestive is the purchase by the Mutual Life Insurance Company of \$10,000,000 worth of four per cent. Russian Railway bonds. This is probably only the first of other transactions of that nature. There is no reason in sight that will encourage Russia to look for further aid in European centres and her chief hope will be here.

If war breaks out between Russia and Japan, it will be fought out without outside interference. The general good understanding between the civilized nations seems to assure this. The rumors of war are always sensational and the tension must be under severest strain to break into open hostilities. Japan is watching her opportunity, but she may be content to bide her time until her enemy is at a still greater disadvantage. The struggle between the Shark and the Bear will be a fierce one when it comes, for there is reserve strength and power in both nations and their hatred is longcherished and deep-seated.

Admiral Dewey once told our reporters that Aguinaldo was not the strength of the Philippine insurrection. The clever politicians and lawyers of the islands were, he contended, the real bone and sinew of the insurgent forces. Buencamino, "the brains of the rebels" and their Secretary of State, has lately been captured. Many other prominent insurrectionists are hastening to Manila to surrender. It seems to be the final crumbling of the "Filipino Republic." The few troops still in arms are scattered and in hiding among the forests and hills; while the rebel chief has barely managed to escape North with two hundred men. General Young and his cavalry are in hot pursuit, but Aguinaldo's two days' start leaves the chances of escape much in his favor. The apparent demoralization of the Filipino army, however, will not be the cause of any lack of thoroughness on the part of our forces. General Otis intends to clear the country permanently, if possible, and to carry out his favorite project for the installation of municipal governments wherever feasible.

It is not only in Luzon that our forces are doing good work. The Visayan Islands are being reduced to order and the Southern islands are being garrisoned. Civil governments are set up as fast as any section is fit for it and protectorates are to be established in the semi-independent states. But it will be a long and laborious task that, to bring perfect American order out of Filipino chaos.