

The Foreign Policy of the New Administration.

President Grant has boldly laid down a rule of action in his inaugural with reference to our foreign policy, saying :—"I would deal with nations as equitable law requires individuals to deal with each other." * * * "I would respect the rights of all nations, demanding equal respect for our own. If others depart from this rule in their dealings with us we may be compelled to follow their precedent." This is clear, unvarnished language, readily understood. It will do more to effect a cordial and immediate understanding with foreign Powers than all the Machiavelian statesmanship of the past four years. It is a simple enunciation of our desire for strict justice ; and when we fail to obtain it, and there is no disposition on the part of the offender to grant it, then there is but a single resource left for us, and that is the law of retaliation. For instance, if England makes no reparation for the Alabama outrages it is plain that there is but one mode of settlement left to us, and that the taking of Canada as a just reprisal. The Minister who now so sadly misrepresents us must be immediately recalled and a firmer and more dignified exponent of the United States people be sent to the Court of St. James. If the President's words are the gleam of action then this will at once be done.

There is a Spanish-Cuban question also on hand. The resolution lately passed in the House of Representatives with reference to it is the best Executive guide. President Grant will not satisfy the people of the United States unless he takes prompt measures to give at once the whole moral influence of our government to the liberal movement there. We do not want Cuba desolated because Spain cannot hold it; and we are "compelled to follow the precedent" set by Spain when she lent her indirect aid to the breaking up of our republicanism.

On the southwest we find a people who settle into chronic anarchy and block the progress of at least one-third part of our territory. Mexico neither moves herself nor permits us to move. Our Executive should carefully submit a general plan of national policy to Mexico which shall be in unison with our own. If the Mexicans refuse to listen to it their government must disappear to give place to a military colonial government under the direction of the United States. There is also a policy to be adopted with reference to South America. There are over thirty millions of people there consuming per capita over seven dollars' worth of goods annually, and producing for exportation a still larger amount. There are two principles of government struggling there for the mastery, the one monarchical, supported powerfully by European influence, and the other republican, unsupported and hitherto almost derided by the great republic.

In the next four years there is to be shaped an Asiatic policy, around which may cluster more of future greatness to our people than we at present dream of. This future must be formed with wisdom and with a breadth in proportion to its promise. Asia will soon be as closely linked to us as Europe, and it is unwise to let it grow into prominence without legislative notice. The clear common sense language of the President, however, gives us every hope that we are now to have, not only with reference to Asia, but with all the world, a boldly defined national policy that will enable foreign Powers to understand that which it has been impossible for them to learn heretofore—what the United States proposes towards them and what is expected in return.