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### A CRISIS AT HAND.

Events move so much faster than people. Here we are on the threshold of the most important events since our own civil war, the Hawaiian question. And how are we prepared?

Our fleet is all on dress parade and our naval officers being court-martialed for running vessels aground cruising between fashionable watering places. And if we had the Nicaragua canal, as we ought to have had it, completed now, we would be masters of the situation. And more than that—had we not demonetized silver, we would have had England at our financial mercy, rather than we begging her to consent to the restoration of our constitutional money.

But this is not the fault of the American people themselves so much as it is the crime of demagogery. Our public men, as a rule, are under size, and mediocrity rules at Washington—because money always controls averages, whether in discounts or statesmen.

We need something to arouse the positive mind of the people. American politics, since the great issues of war were settled, has degenerated into a hunt for office. To see over four hundred so-called statesmen spending their energies over a pension to men unfitted for active labor, instead of advancing the great nation these poor men sayed, is the sorriest spectacle as to statesmanship and patriotism the race has ever known.

Can such a body of men meet a question such as that of the Sandwich islands presents? Or must the nation be humiliated so that the people themselves may be aroused and once more fill the seats of congress with men who realize they have a country?

Just now the people of America and their government are in a crisis—and that crisis not only menaces their external interest but their internal condition. And the darkest thing about it all is the inertia and seeming indifference of the people.

people in intelligence.

The United States can never acquire countries to be ruled by the home power, as monarchical colonies are governed—but always on the idea that local or home government must be free and self-controlled. In this way we can extend the dominion and jurisdiction of the flag to any quarter of the globe for commercial uses—protection or extension—and not only keep intact the great principle of self-government, but make it the most efficient of all methods for the propaganda of free government and its working.

There seems to be in this Hawaiian incident the opportunity never before presented for the initiation of a new territorial policy by the United States, and the extension of our popular methods of government to other portions of the globe. The extension of modern civilization by colonial action among primitive races has been the work of kings and emperors, but now is the opening opportunity for the same work by a republic—giving to a weak and defenseless people all the advantages of the protectorate and unvexed trade of a powerful nation with perfect freedom for self-government at the same time. □

Of course England will protest, will bully and bluster—but she has Egypt, India, Africa and a dozen places to look after, and, while she may threaten, we have only to remain firm. If she fires on our flag at Honolulu we can fire on hers in Manitoba and Ontario. The real danger is in the want of nerve and statesmanship at Washington, and above all in Wall street.

We can now take a new departure, establish a precedent that will make us first among the nations of the globe as to commerce, but first, also, as to the money control of the world. And this Europe sees more clearly than we do.