



AMERICA.

THE attitude adopted by the United States during the present Transvaal difficulty is what might have been expected; still, the spontaneous manner in which that country has proffered its moral support to Great Britain is an exemplification of the maxim that "blood is thicker than water," and is also an evidence of the gratitude for the position which England took up during the Spanish-American War. The position of America during that war was very similar to the position of England at the present time. There was no question of the ultimate result of a contest between Spain and America, as there is no question of the final issue between Great Britain and the Boers. The only danger was the possibility of foreign interference, either during the struggle, or when it came to the final settlement of terms between the conqueror and conquered. As a friendly, but neutral nation, England said to the other Powers: "Hands off! you must not interfere"; and at the present time America officially, through her most prominent men, says the same thing. President McKinley has declared that his Consuls shall protect British interests in the Transvaal, despite any protest of President Kruger; and Admiral Dewey, who is just now the idol of the American nation, on being interviewed with reference to the war, is reported to have said: "If England requires the United

States Navy to give the balance of Europe a lesson to mind its own business, the sentiment of this country would give it to her. I should like to be in command on such an occasion." Utterances of this character from men in high positions are indicative of the cordial relations existing between the two countries, and give colour to the whispered report that a secret Anglo-Saxon Alliance is really in existence.

FRANCE.

FROM Paris come the news that the Chamber of Deputies has voted a sum of sixty million francs for the purposes of providing additional means of defence for the coasts of France and for putting the defences of that country's colonies in proper order. The amount is a fairly large one for France to spend in such a way, but it is not nearly sufficient to carry out the proposed improvements in a fit and proper manner. The Duchesse d'Uzès, who attained some notoriety and great unpopularity by her participation in the Boulanger craze, has once again put herself in an unenviable position. This wealthy and eccentric lady has raised a legion in New York composed of followers of President Kruger. The palm-greased enthusiasts will, it is understood, leave America unarmed, and they are to be supplied by the Duchesse with more