

first cannon shot was fired. *Sic volo, sic jubeo*, has he said in one of his stupendous speeches, in which he menaced the universe. He had not for an instant suspected that Italy could, in a few months after the renewal of the Triple Alliance, refuse to side with the Austro-German allies. Misguided by discussions raised in France by the pretended "revelations," carried to the Senate concerning certain military details, he believed that France would hesitate in making war. He also believed that Russia would hesitate at the last moment. He thought that Japan would attack Russia. Above all, and it is here his capital error, that of which the consequences shall be most dreadful to him, he believed in the neutrality of England. Germany has been represented in London, within the last few years, by three ambassadors, Count Wolff-Metternich, Baron Marshall von Bieberstein, and Prince Tichnowsky. The second named was a man of merit, the only one probably, who, in late years, has displayed German diplomacy; he died a few weeks after his nomination. The two others have given proof of a lesser capacity. All the reports of Prince Tichnowsky, of numerous official and secret agents, with which Great Britain was flooded, all those received from dominions beyond the seas and from India, agreed in saying: England will not make war.

She would not do it because there was in England a serious difference of opinion, having a powerful support in the Liberal government; she would not do it, because the situation in Ireland was extremely serious, that blood had flowed in the streets of Dublin, that "armies" of Nationalist and Orange volunteers were ready to respond to the call, and that civil war was inevitable; she would not do it, because, in the dominions, and especially in Canada, there existed parties who often seriously discussed the question to know, in the case in which England would be involved in a great European war, if and under what conditions the self-governing dominions ought to take part, and that in South Africa there was a faction resolutely unfavourable towards England; she would not do it, because there existed in India a great uneasiness, and uprisings would be the consequence of a war; she would not do it, in short, because of numerous strikes in late years, the attitude of trade unions indicated a profound dissatisfaction in the labouring world, which would prove a favourable occasion for it to manifest itself. All that was true and rested upon facts. But it is Nietzsche,