

SHIRKING THE ISSUE.

of passages in which the naïve conviction is avowed. You know that these general tendencies of the national mind found definite expression in vast designs both for actual conquest and for "peaceful penetration." There is scarcely a region from the Skaw to the Persian Gulf which Pan-German ambition has not marked down for its own, planning at the same time the expropriation, if not the extermination, of the actual possessors of the soil. The Pan-Germans, you may say, are a small sect of extremists. They are not so very small, and they are elaborately organised; but I do not insist on them. It is quite sufficient to point to openly avowed ambitions and designs of official persons, from the Kaiser downwards.

You know—for who does not?—that the insular security of Britain and the extent of her oversea dominions had come to be reckoned an injury and an offence to German greatness. You know that Germany had deliberately undertaken the task of "wresting the trident" from England's hands—or in other words of making herself so strong at sea that she could force her will upon us whenever she pleased. I am sure you realise perfectly that their growing navy was the idol of the German people, simply because it gave tangible expression to their embittered