

the vacillating policies of the statesmen who refused to face facts, but took refuge in expediencies. The dynastic interests of the Hohenzollerns, Habsburgs, and Romanoffs, sooner or later, would inevitably clash with the progressive tendencies of the various European nationalities. Therefore like many others, Mr. de Schelking regarded the personal interests of statesmen, whose power came through the favour of their rulers, as utterly opposed to all progress. He does not hide his contempt for those statesmen who tried to retain power at the expense of the interests of the nations over which they ruled.

No man who has a definite constructive policy and who has the gift of analysing the logical results of expediency, can avoid arriving at Mr. de Schelking's conclusion, when he realizes the folly of these men. Intimately acquainted with the characters and personalities of the two principal actors in the European drama, the Emperors Nicholas II of Russia, and William II of Germany, Mr. de Schelking is ruthless in exposing their weaknesses. In these pages, men make their entrance and their exit from the European stage, not as the historical characters they have hitherto represented in the eyes of their audience, but as human beings, with all the weaknesses and foibles of ordinary every-day people.

I know no book which gives a better proof of the value of democracy than this one. Not because it deals with democratic principles but because it ex-