## THE SINKING OF THE GERMAN FLEET 203

redound to the glory of the German navy as a show of martial spirit and defiance. He has confused his base dishonour with a gallant death in battle on ships which by his order refuse to yield.

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The wave of indignation with which the nation greeted the news of the sinking of the German fleet is well voiced by the New York Times. British are right when they say the handsome deed was a 'deliberate violation of the armistice' and 'treachery.' But whatever the scuttling may be called, it reacts with the effect of infamy upon the German name. The admiral orders his fleet sunk as an act of war, and then hoists the white flag on the boat he escapes in to induce the foe defied to save his sailors from drowning. German officers shoot down seamen who obey a British order to close the open valves, and these same officers, safe on British decks, click their heels together and salute one another with a feeling of having done a historic thing that would ring through the ages and shed unfading lustre upon German arms. Human nature, in this case racial, is poor indeed that demeans itself so shamefully."

Who is to blame? It is the natural question rising in the throat of nearly every man as he indignantly reads of this climactic scandal. To answer it is neither just nor wise. We are men of a nation whose code is honour, whose traditions are honourable, whose acts in war are chivalrous. We have seen the treachery of the German code to be sure, and