

The embarrassing presence of the British fleet, mobilized, constituted a sufficient threat to extinguish all Teutonic hopes in that direction.

And so the French fleet could remain in the Mediterranean undisturbed and quietly proceed with the transport of troops from Africa, whose timely arrival contributed so powerfully to give the Allies the decisive advantage in the great arresting battle of the Marne. Since that time the same Mediterranean fleet with some three hundred units has continued to perform a severe and valuable service.

It shall be known in time the part that it has played in the blockade of the eastern coasts of the Adriatic; and some echoes that have reached us of events at the Dardanelles prove that the French marines, true to their traditions, have vied with their British confreres in heroism and valour.

In England there is no lack of appreciation; nor is it forgotten there that the French marine has co-operated in at least the same proportion on the seas as the British army has co-operated on land.

It is difficult to estimate clearly at present the far-reaching consequences of the maritime supremacy of Britain.

Those consequences are so varied and affect neutral nations no less than belligerents. Because that supremacy is silent it is none the less efficacious; and yet neutrals may easily lose sight of its importance. They are apt to imagine that the British fleet is reduced to a merely passive role in the great drama of the war.

But they deceive themselves. It is that fleet itself which imposes inaction on the enemy, and neutrals have only to congratulate themselves on that result, for whatever activity has been allowed for a time to the German marine has been in a large measure employed at the expense of neutrals.

For naval warfare in the German conception of it—for they are as yet novices in that line of combat—has been characterized principally by cowardice mixed with boasting and seasoned with falsehood.

Their exploits have consisted of the immersion of floating mines, fatal to so many neutral ships; of the torpedoing and sinking of passenger boats, freight boats and fishing smacks; and the cannonading of defenceless crews found stranded in neutral waters.

These feats of arms, which any other marine in the world would be ashamed to perpetrate, constitute however, the exploits upon which the German pique themselves with pride and satisfaction, and which they hasten to publish to the world, *urbi et orbi*.

The explosions of savage joy which these crimes excite in Germany, and the dithyrambic apologies for them by the leading journals of Germany, are sufficient to indicate to observant neutrals, what they might expect to suffer from a Germany, mistress of the seas. A people capable of laughter and jubilation in listening to their rude