

## M. Venizelos

clumsy recklessness they sought to destroy him. They declared that his proposal to give Kavala to Bulgaria was not authorised by the king.

With characteristic directness, Venizelos appealed to King Constantine to clear his reputation and to defend him from insult. The king did neither. He did not even reply personally to the greatest servant that the throne of Greece has ever had. He replied through the Government and his reply was to the effect that Venizelos had misunderstood him. The retort of Venizelos was instant. He could not bandy words with his sovereign; but neither could he remain in public life under the accusation. He announced his retirement from politics as the only service that remained for him to perform for the king and the only course due to his own good name.

And now the little people who have temporarily triumphed are delaying the election to the last moment and gerrymandering the constituencies in the hope of finally extinguishing the great popular leader. They might as well try to extinguish the sun in the heavens. Venizelos is mightier in Greece at this moment than he has ever been. His sun has not set: it is only momentarily eclipsed. There is hardly a constituency in the land that would not rejoice to return him. He will be torn from his retirement in spite of himself and he will come back with a nation behind him. For Greece knows that in him she has touched greatness, and that through him she has caught a vision of a nobler destiny than has been hers since the Turk brought his blight upon the Balkans. Venizelos is for the Allies for no mean thing. He is for them because he knows that with all their deficiencies they stand for freedom, for the moral law in the world against the law of Krupp and that in their triumph is the hope of liberty, of democracy, and of the small nationality all