

held the destinies of the world in their hands, would bring about a terrible catastrophe.

Naturally, as a good Russian, Mr. de Schelking was not altogether in favour of the Russian entente with England. The greater part of his diplomatic career was evidently passed during the period when Russia and England were constantly clashing in the East. It must be admitted that in England for years, the instinctive sentiment of the politicians and public was to regard Russia as an enemy just as France had been regarded as an enemy. Thus Russia's natural policy was to oppose England with Germany, while remaining friendly with France, although even her friendship with the latter seems to have been tinged with autocratic regret for an alliance with a republic.

Metternich's idea of an alliance of the three Emperors of Austria, Germany and Russia naturally made its appeal to an autocratic government, but Mr. de Schelking evidently very soon came to the conclusion that the archaic anachronism known as the House of Habsburg, was a pillar in this structure which must inevitably crumble under the storms of national passions.

The gradual federation of the Balkan nations inevitably brought about the resurgence of Polish, Czech, and Jugo-Slav aspirations. Intensely Slavic in his sentiments and constitutionally democratic in his instincts, Mr. de Schelking had no patience with