

Current Events

The next generation will know more of what happened in Europe this last month than we know to-day. Thousands of volumes will be written on this war. Reminiscences from high and low, descriptions, official documents, statistics; all will be available to the next generation where to us is given only the censored descriptions of newspaper writers who have seen an army march through a town or who have seen a town after the army marched through it, and the laconic despatches of the official bureaus that "conditions on the whole remain unchanged; our right wing has made a slight advance in some places; everywhere the attacks of the enemy have been repulsed. Conditions remain satisfactory."

There is every reason to believe in the last statement so frequently repeated in official despatches, in spite of the reckless onslaughts of the main force of the German army. The allies are satisfied with the progress made. Their line holds unbroken from Switzerland to the North Sea. The German Emperor's dinner in Paris is indefinitely postponed. Though the Germans exhausted their strongest force in an attempt to break through to the north coast of France, the line held and Calais and Dunkirk are still safe. If only the line can hold, and there seems no reason to doubt that it can, Germany's strength will soon be required in another direction. Like the waves of the sea, the Russian advance progresses, backward and forward, but always a little more forward. For a time, about the middle of October, it seemed as if a decided repulse of the Russian invasion might be at hand. German troops were in force on the Vistula. The fall of Warsaw was imminent. Then the tide turned. The battle of the Vistula was a decided defeat for the German-Austrian armies and the pursuing Russians within two weeks were seventy-five miles west of Warsaw. Now, (November 10th) we hear that they are in force in Posen, on Prussian soil, only 200 miles from Berlin. In Galicia they are twenty-five miles north of Cracow.

At sea, the submarine has continued to take heavy toll. The Russian cruiser Pallada in the Baltic, with 573 men; the British cruiser Hawke, in the North Sea, with 400 men; the Hermes in the Straits of Dover have been added to the list of victims of torpedoes sent from submarines. Yet some limits to the effectiveness of the submarine are indicated by the fact that a fleet of British ships stood for days off the coast of Belgium in a known position and shelled the German trenches without suffering any attack. The most serious naval loss is, of course, that of the Good Hope and the Monmouth sunk off the coast of Chili, on November 4th, by a German squadron composed of the Scharnhorst, the Gneisenau, the Leipzig, and the Nurmberg. Against that, however, may be set the destruction of the Emden by the Australian Sydney, and the bottling