

quest and aggrandisement? These consequences are well set forth in a speech delivered in Glasgow, by Sir Archibald Allison, the eminent historian, while it further vindicates the equity and necessity of the struggle in which we are now engaged:—

“While we are engaged in a contest with one of the greatest and most powerful empires in the world, we have the satisfaction of thinking that we avoided the contest as long as it could be done with safety—that we did not draw the sword till it was evident it could not be kept in the scabbard without dishonour. If we had allowed that great Power which already overshadows all the east of Europe, to go on for another quarter of a century as it has for the last century and a half, swallowing up kingdom after kingdom, province after province, harbour after harbour, fortress after fortress, it is easy to see that the time is not far distant when the danger would roll to our own shores, when our independence and liberty would be menaced, not as now, by an enemy of seventy millions, but an enemy of seventy millions having alliances of one hundred and forty millions; and ere long we would be compelled to fight in defence of our homes and hearths on our own shores, and possibly the fate which is now befalling Sebastopol would be our own, and we would be seeing our streets obstructed by dead bodies unburied, as well as the air tainted with the corpses around us.” Such was the necessity of the war into which we have been reluctantly driven by the magnitude of the danger which threatened, not

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