

tous trade the British Government has waged a single-handed and almost useless warfare for half a century. Her vessels have pursued the slavers wherever they have been found. She has kept them in constant fear and mitigated the evils of the trade, but has not succeeded in breaking it up; indeed there has of late years been a revival of it. Thank God, several of the other European powers have now agreed to assist in the good work. The first suggestion for a movement of this character is credited to the *North German Gazette*, a paper which is supposed to be the mouthpiece of Prince Bismarck. Recently an article appeared in the *Gazette* which stated that the Arab slave hunters were not only the curse of the native tribes but a menace to the English, the Belgians, and the Germans, and to the work of civilization carried on by those nations. Hitherto, it was said, England had been the only power that had made any effort to put a stop to the slave trade. The work, however, was too large for any single people. "Only by co-operation can the civilized nations concerned succeed in putting a stop to a state of things which is a disgrace to our century, and we may confidently hope that the German as well as the English people will prove equal to the task which is here imposed upon them alike by the sacred principles of religion and of humanity." In other words, Germany invited England to join her in putting down the slave trade—the invitation being backed up by a subsequent proposal which seems to suggest that the anti-slavery crusade started by Cardinal Lavigerie might be advantageously used as the basis for common action.

What stirred up Germany to make this proposal were the troubles lately experienced by the German settlers and traders on the East African coast. So long as the affairs of the German East African Company were

prosperous, there was a disposition to regard the activity of England in the same quarter with jealousy, and there was ground to suspect that the value of British co-operation was not thought of till the Arab slave traders had proved more than a match for the company.

With England's support secured, the circle of the alliance was completed by assurances of assistance from Italy, Austria, France, Belgium, Russia, Greece, and, last of all, Portugal, in maintaining a naval blockade of the East African coast. For a century or more Portugal has been the greatest European helper of the slave trade, having not only not interfered with the slave hunters, but encouraged them by putting difficulties in the way of those who attempted to do so. For years England has endeavored to force a reversal of her policy, but Portugal's very weakness has protected her, and she has only yielded now reluctantly and when the pressure has become irresistible.

Among the methods of action suggested by these powers for the suppression of the slave traffic, the most practicable, under the present circumstances, is the establishment of a naval patrol along the coast of the Red Sea and as far south as the southern boundary of Zanzibar. This coast is now controlled for the most part by England, Germany and Portugal, and these three powers might together form a most effectual blockade against the slave ships touching at Eastern ports. If these outlets are permanently closed and the slave traders cut off from all their principal markets, the traffic must soon come to an end of itself. J. M. S.

THE refusal of the American Government to unite with other great powers in putting an end to the drink traffic, so utterly destructive of piety, morals, human happiness and human life in the Western Pacific, may well arouse all true men and women to a