

### SHIRKING THE ISSUE.

foreign policy, accepting uncritically the hostile version of the matter (often stated, I admit, by Englishmen), and taking no pains to inform yourself of the case for the defence. You have actually gone the length of comparing Britain's action in Persia with Germany's treatment of Belgium—an extravagance which I think your sober judgment will one day recognise and deplore. But supposing you were right in making a saint and martyr of Persia, what has that to do with the question of the world-war? You will scarcely pretend, I suppose, that it was sympathy for the wrongs of Persia that led Germany to devastate and enslave Belgium. All this querulous criticism of the action of the Allied Powers, whether before or during the war, is merely an excuse to your own conscience for your silence, or your inadequate and ineffectual speech, on the one great issue on which the world had a right to look to you for a clear, and decisive, and unequivocal judgment. Who could have foreseen that in this great crisis of history George Brandes, the high-souled humanist, the daring outpost-fighter for political and spiritual freedom, would be found snarling at the heels of the champions of his own ideals, and would have no word of outspoken condemnation for one of the most monstrous of recorded crimes against humanity?