

add to this that any one of the Great Powers, even without the support of the others, could have prevented these massacres—we are referring, of course, to the period preceding the war.

The story of the Berlin Congress in 1878, told in the present volume, will be instructive reading to those whose eyes have never been opened to the unedifying story of the selfishness of nations. Many of us are old enough to remember the jubilation which greeted the return of our representatives from that conference to London. To the average Englishman it represented a brilliant victory for Great Britain over our dangerous rivals the Russians: as a matter of fact it was a triumph for Bismarck, who had set England and Russia by the ears. Whilst these two Powers, which could easily have co-operated on friendly terms, were learning to regard one another with mistrust and jealousy, Germany was silently preparing the policy which was ultimately to take as its watchword the march of Teutonic civilization to the East. All the steps in this movement are laid before us in the present volume, and the writer with justice uses severe terms of the complacency with which England looked on, with very imperfect realization of what the future had in store. The charge is just, but we may take exception to a certain tendency on the part of the author—in spite of his general impartiality—to lay the chief burden of the blame on the Liberal Party. Surely he hardly expects to win our sympathy for his great hero, Rhodes, by telling us that "Rhodes returned from his visit to Berlin full of enthusiasm for the German Empire," that he "ever afterwards spoke of him (the Kaiser) with respect and admiration," and that "the respect was mutual."

The author is evidently well acquainted with his subject, and the reader will find things in their proper perspective. We have already had occasion to mention in these pages that the present war is essentially a Balkan War. Next to the Balkans, Poland and the Adriatic coast will be the storm-centres of the settlement, when it comes. It is desirable to emphasize and repeat this, because of the tendency of our usual channels of information to keep our attention fixed on Belgium. In the opinion of the present writer, a strong Poland and a strong Rumania will be the best safe-guards against German aggression.

The book is not free from minor errors: the German quotations for example are very faulty: we find *Das Grösser Deutschland*, Keipert (the Geographer), the *Alldeutscher Blätter*, *das Türkische Erbe*, *Naturschatze*, *gesammelen* (for *gesammelten*), *Tannhauser*, Alexander of *Battenburg*, *Deutscher Tageblatt*, *Handelsgessellschaft*, *Wiederaufbrau* (for *Wiederaufbau*), *Tannenbung*. These and a few other minor errors tend to leave an uneasy feeling that in other cases of more vital importance where we have no means of testing the writer's accuracy, mistakes may have crept in. However, the author indulges in numerous quotations from well-known books, so that we have a consensus of witnesses before us.