

power of their empires to defeat the Russian designs. Very much will depend upon the positions which Austria and Prussia may finally take, whether the War be short or protracted. The contiguity of Austria especially to the chief scene of conflict, gives her great importance in this struggle. If Austria and Prussia were to unite heartily with England and France in requiring Russia at once to withdraw her forces from the Principalities, and make peace with Turkey, relinquishing at the same time all pretensions to the right of interference in the internal affairs of Turkey, whether that right has been guaranteed by treaties formerly wrung from the Porte in the hour of disaster, or only recently put forth by the ambitious Czar,—if Austria and Prussia would unite with the other Western Powers to insist upon this, and follow up the refusal of Russia to comply, with the march of a hundred and fifty thousand men into Wallachia, the immense Russian army now manœuvring on the north and south banks of the Danube would be surrounded on all sides by superior forces, and captured or destroyed. Without the aid of Prussia this could be easily effected. Were Austria to do this, she would endear herself to the civilized world—to the friends of freedom all over the earth. Austria has only to cross her Transylvanian frontier, and she cuts off Russia from the base of her operations and the supplies and reinforcements, which the Russian armies can only obtain by land, because the allied fleets prevent all communication between the Russian ports on the Black Sea and the Russian armies along the Danube. This decisive step on the part of Austria would break the chain of tutelage in which she has of late years been bound to Russia. It is of the utmost importance to Austria that her great river, the Danube, should not remain in Russian hands. But it may be enquired, whether Austria could safely