

that navy, and England also would have the simple choice, either to plunge into the "vortex of militarism," that is, to adopt the principle of compulsory service, or else, as a nation, to perish.

But now the menace to England comes by sea. At Kiel, at Danzig, at Stettin, is found the rising power of the German Navy. Throughout Germany, the German Navy League, called into existence by the secret prompting of the German Emperor, labours assiduously to form opinion, which shall enable the vast expenditure already sanctioned, and the still vaster expenditure apparently contemplated, to be cheerfully borne.

The German Navy League has a membership of over six hundred thousand, with aggregate subscriptions amounting to more than £25,000 (not dollars) annually. It gave, last year, upwards of three thousand lectures, and that its labours were not in vain, is abundantly testified by the passing of the German Navy Bill, under which the sum of £73,000,000 (sterling) was voted for the construction of ships of war, and £13,000,000 for docks and wharves.

In face of the figures of the German League, I am ashamed to quote those of the Navy League of Britain, yet it is an organization whose branches are many in the United Kingdom, and sixteen in number in the Empire at large. Of these, four are now in Canada, at

Toronto, in British Columbia, at Kingston, and at Montreal.* Before these words are printed I hope, indeed, that the number may be doubled, and I would now appeal most earnestly to all who realize what the command of the sea means to the British people, to "come forward and help us."

Sometimes I have heard it said that this tremendous and fundamental need is no longer the need of Canada, because Canada is self-contained. Do not, then, her own future history, and her own destinies concern Canada? Does it make no difference to her whether she remain living her life as a nation within the ring fence of the British Empire, or whether, through stress of war following defeat of the British fleet, she is compelled with the enemy's fleet in the St. Lawrence, to sue for the protection of the United States? Then, disintegrated, with her noblest traditions violated, and her life as a nation ended, she would cease to exist as a single unit upon earth. And looking on thirty years ahead, is it nothing to Canada, whether it is or is not as a part of the British people, to share in the development of the Pacific, to clasp hands with Australia, to share in the vast trade that is to be with China, to hold sway over the teeming millions of Hindustan? The old adage still applies, as the ages sweep along; that, "United we stand, but divided we fall."

* The number in Canada is now (Dec. 20th) eleven; as in addition to those named above, branches have since been established at Ottawa, St. John, N.B., Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown and Summerside, Prince Edward Island, and at Quebec.

Two members of the Dominion Government, Sir Frederick Borden and Mr. Fisher, have enrolled themselves as members of the Ottawa branch, and the Lieutenant-Governors and Prime Ministers of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have also lent their support to the branches in their respective Provinces. In each case the branches comprise many of the foremost men in the different localities.