

man to do what he reasonably believes to be his duty. Nelson was not deterred from fighting a battle which he believed it his duty to fight because the number of ships and guns arrayed against him was greater than of those he had to confront them with. But, however, let us, if this episode in the life of the nation is to be brought up again and again for consideration, remember that the record of history has been written for our learning, and we have everything to gain by reading it fairly. If, on the occasion alluded to, we, as a nation, made a great and lamentable mistake, let us acknowledge to ourselves that such is the fact. The argument as to a disproportion of strength so great as to make it, in the opinion of the reviewer, reasonably impossible for England to have acted alone, should be considered and estimated by itself. On this point we do not hesitate to express a conditional opinion. If it would have been right, under the circumstances, for England to have acted in conjunction with France, it would have been right for England to have acted, and would have been better for her to have acted, alone. The supposition that the condition of England compared with that of armed Germany (or with a part of Germany) was of such weakness that she could not reasonably venture to interfere, will not, we think, if directly stated, be entertained or even patiently listened to by many Englishmen. But, if we assume for a moment that such was actually the case, the question immediately presents itself: Has England, the nation claiming to be foremost in the ranks of civilization, a right to be in such a condition of weakness?

If, again, we take the reviewer's second assumption, that the public of England came to a wrong decision and actually did what was best through ignorance and by endeavouring to avoid what they ignorantly supposed their duty, it is one which cannot be contemplated with satisfaction by those who take a pride in England's his-