

HOUR OF DESTINY

During this time there has been no lack of occasions, and it has often required the high statecraft of a Bismarck to promptly extinguish the glowing sparks which threatened to set fire to all Europe ; but since Russia is no longer bound by any treaty, since her interests have thrown her into the arms of France, and since England has considered her economic and military dominion of the world threatened by Germany, unfavourable circumstances are beginning to shape themselves against the German Empire, so that it will not much longer be able to patiently bear the burden and we shall probably have to reckon in the not distant future with a solution by recourse to arms. Let us consider what interests the principal, and therefore the most dangerous, opponents would really have in such a war which will undoubtedly involve the whole of Europe.