

It would almost seem that in their desire to dominate the whole Balkan Peninsula, Austria and Germany had seized the moment when the Servians, the Bulgarians and the Greeks, were not only exhausted by recent war, but embittered one against the other, so that it is difficult for them to combine effectively in defence of their common interests. If Russia had not come to the support of the Servians the Balkan peoples might all have disappeared before the Austro-German combination, which seeks a Germanic Empire from the Baltic to the Adriatic.

The word that the allied Powers of France, Britain and Russia have found it necessary to address a sharp note to Turkey, for questionable transactions respecting the German warships, which have fled to the Dardenelles for safety, is ominous. It will be little short of a miracle if the present war does not yet witness Roumania, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria and Turkey in the conflict, the three former siding with Servia against the aggression of Austria and Germany, the two latter inclining the other way. Whether they enter the conflict or not, the status of the Balkan States will continue to be the main source of controversy, let the war end however it may.

The British Dominions.

There remains only to consider the British Dominions. It did not require a formal declaration of war to arouse British citizens in all parts of the globe to a consciousness of their obligations to the Mother Country. Once the possibility of England being drawn into the conflict became apparent, the self-governing Dominions began to vie with each other in a desire to manifest their willingness to assist the Motherland to the utmost of their power. From Canada came the offer of contingents of men

and supplies of food; from Australia the offer of her fleet and the promise of an expeditionary force; from New Zealand the transfer of her naval forces to the control of the Admiralty and the calling out of her naval reserves; from Newfoundland the offer of men for land service and an increase in the number of naval reserves; from South Africa came declarations of loyalty and promises of assistance, and even from the dependency of India came offers from native princes of regiments of native soldiers prepared to leave their country to join with the forces of other parts of the British Empire in bringing to a successful issue the cause of Britain and her allies. Men, money and service, in whatever form required, are the gifts which with one accord all have come forward to offer, and while each has proffered assistance over and beyond the seas, each has been busier still in placing its own house in order and in bringing to a degree of efficiency not hitherto approached such military and naval forces as it commands.

While the Armageddon of Europe fills the thought of man with indescribable horror, the tragic vision is, even now, not without episodes which the world's memory would unwillingly forego. One is the common patriotism which cemented in an hour domestic differences that had brought the peoples of the British Isles to the brink of civil war; another is the sublime heroism of a neutral nation prepared to sacrifice its entire manhood rather than allow its honor to suffer a stain, or a sister country to endure a wrong; and a third is the spectacle of the young free nations of the British Empire rising with one accord, on all the continents of the globe, to strengthen with the vigor of youth, and even before the call of duty, the arm which has protected them through the years, and which at this moment is raised in self-defence at home, and stretches forth to deal a blow at arrogance and aggression abroad.

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