

Russian Disasters

Heralded by Prussian press and decried by the Russians, the spectacle of a German frigate ship for the Slav power has been accepted since the outbreak of the war. A hard-headed, unemotional support willingness to read carefully near the limitations of international law, was the reputed quality of German friends. But certain curious statements have crept into the German press to the north, and even more curious expressions from the semi-independent German states of the south. The German of Hohenzollern. Knowing that at once South Germany began to show an independent interest in the Russian situation, it is possible of entire knowledge or sympathy with Prussian schemes. Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Baden, however, watched with something akin to satisfaction the rapid defeat of the German army in arms. A Bavarian soldier is drilled, paid and in the service of Bavaria. If Germany be attacked he is a German in peace he is as much an Austrian as a Prussian. Bavaria has its own yearly celebration, in which the mourning for 50,000 men who fell in a war with Russia, a large fraction of Germany is really without regret at Togo's success, except in so far as it is a friend of England. A strong hatred of England is one of the unifying elements in the German mind. Prussia is all served with careless disregard, but England has vigorous ill-will from the Baltic to the Alps. During the ultimatum of the siege of Port Arthur, a young Bavarian said: "We admire the Japanese. How could we help it? How could we have the slightest respect for the Russian campaign? Their preparation is the horror of every officer in Bavaria. Why should we ever be our cause to fight a battle with present Russian military organization? You find small movements here over Russia's illiberalism. And which of the nations are driven to a sincere admiration of the Japanese nation?"

Such a statement is born of a natural condition of affairs. Without passion for either side, the South German has been won by admiration for Prussian power. Prussia's newspapers are without editorials, but in the explanations and enlargements of telegraphic news the columns of the German press are full of the most distinct appreciation of the superiority of Japanese arms. The French papers have not shown the same pride of the nation in their own military precision has been too outraged for passive acquiescence. Their own great struggle. The following extract has anything but the earmarks of a friendly criticism:

GERMAN VIEW.
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The Wings of the Morning

By Louis Tracy.

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"I can't understand," he said to Robert, "that you have an affection for this wild place."

"I don't think so, indeed," muttered the stout middle-aged man, glancing at Iris. "But I am curious to know," continued Anstruther, "why you lay claim to the island?"

"I intend to return here," he pointed to Robert's placard stuck on the wall.

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"Well, Captain Fitzroy, when I was stationed with my regiment in Hong Kong I encountered such a reef, and I don't think that I can say how it seemed to me then. For some time I threw me ashore here, after a long and bitter struggle, and I can hardly blame me if I cling to it. It is a point of land that gave me salvation."

"I don't think," he admitted the sailor, "that there was anything in it."

"No," he said, "I know it well. It was no business of his."

"Moreover," continued Robert smilingly, "you see I have a partner."

"There cannot be the slightest doubt about the partner," was the prompt reply.

"Then every one laughed. Iris more than any, though Sir Arthur Deane's rascality was forced, and Lord Ventnor's indignation was naturally expressed by the first lieutenant in Robert's presence.

Nevertheless he pondered the matter, and seized an early opportunity of mentioning it to the distinguished nobleman who was vastly surprised to learn how Anstruther had sprung from beneath his feet.

"Yes," he said, in reply to the sailor's request for information, "I know all about it. It occurred, I remember, during the last, but I had no recollection of it until you mentioned it."

"That must have been a—d—d awkward for you," was the unexpected "Indeed! Why?"

"Because rumor linked your name with that of the lady in a somewhat outlandish way."

"You astonish me, Anstruther. Certainly made some stupid allegations during the last, but I had no recollection of it until you mentioned it. It was able to spread this malicious rumor subsequently."

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