

ny---and Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina and part of Albania---or from Widin on the Danube to the Gulf of Drino on the Adriatic Sea. Would Russia hesitate to offer such a bribe if by it she deemed herself sure of obtaining Constantinople, and all that Constantinople would ensure to her? Would Austria hesitate to accept so mighty a bribe if it were held out to her? Suppose then that under such inducements Prussia and Austria were to make common cause with Russia, what would be the possible issue? Alas! a long and terrible strife in which all Europe must be arrayed on one side or the other would then ensue---a deluge of blood would roll over the continent from end to end---a deluge in which the land-marks of many nations would be swept away, and many shattered thrones of the old world sink like lead. Austria and Prussia could bring no naval resources to their ally. The overwhelming naval strength of England and France would remain undiminished. The character of the War would assume a new aspect---it would not, of course, be a religious war---nor would it be simply a war between the lust of ambition on the one hand, and the determination to stay the course of a too powerful Autocrat on the other---it would be largely a war of principles---a war of peoples against their oppressors, led on by England and France. In the commencement of the war in this aspect the Despots would have on the Danube the advantage---they could pour along the banks of that river four hundred thousand armed men. For a time the combined armies of Turkey, France, and England might be compelled to act on the defensive, and be content with defending the fortresses and passes that bar the way to Constantinople. But as the war proceeded Britain would be driven by the sad necessities of the case to appeal to the peoples that groan beneath the yoke of Austria and Russia.