

however, that, sooner or later, another, and perhaps a greater, war, will come forth of the fall of Adrianople and the capitulation of Scutari. Europe is smouldering, like a fire that awaits the breeze. And even if the calamity is averted we have referred to the indomitable Law of Race and the march of the Bulgars has begun. Nations conscious of the strength of their youth, put on the harness of war; and only a crushing defeat can stem the tide of their advance. Greece lies in danger, and she knows it. And after all, even nations are only pawns in the game.

So, in the end, we have talked of greater things by far than the mere adventures of a hero; but that is because—as we have endeavoured to explain—nothing is without a meaning. It is well to think of that; to consider that the man who takes his life in his hands, and sets forth upon adventure, is helping to lay the foundation stones of an empire, in furtherance of the cause of Progress, Humanity, and Justice for these are the great abstract principles that move the pawns and the knights and the king upon the chess-board of the world.