

Great Britain and the Sultan.

England is reported to have informed the Russian government of her intention to make a naval demonstration before Constantinople with the object of compelling the Sublime Porte to acceptance of the proposed scheme of reform for Armenia. The authority on which the statement is based is not very definitely given, and very possibly it may mean nothing more than that the Cabinet of St. James has been sounding the Cabinet of St. Petersburg on the subject.

There is a small section of the British public which would undoubtedly acclaim any action to coerce the unspeakable Turk, but it is a very different question whether the approval of the bulk of the nation would go with any demonstration against Turkey made by England independently of Russia and France. In the opinion of Professor Edward Dicey, "England has done quite enough as it is. She has gone as far as she can with due regard to her own safety and welfare, and if she goes further she is certain to fare worse."

Russia does not appear to be very anxious to unite with England in coercion of the Sultan, and, as remarked in a recent editorial in the European edition of the **HERALD** :—

There is just a possibility that the Sultan, sooner than grant concessions greater than he could dare to make without jeopardizing his throne, if not his life, might throw himself into the arms of Russia and defy England to do her worst. In this event England might find herself involved in an utterly useless and unjustifiable war, with nothing to gain and everything to lose.

Will England run such a risk?