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A TRIBUTE.

When early this year the news became known of the catastrophic avalanche disaster in Switzerland, which was accompanied by fearful loss of life and property, a wave of sympathy swept over a large part of the world.

Thousands of messages, not only from heads of States, but also from people in all walks of life, many of whom had never even set foot in our country, reached the Swiss Government.

It was a most touching demonstration of fellowship in adversity, which the Swiss people have deeply appreciated, and will, I am sure, never forget.

Indeed grief knows no boundaries nor frontiers, and the sorrow of one member of a family is shared and felt equally strongly by all those nations which are bound together by Christian ideas and thoughts.

The expression of sympathy especially from this country has made a deep impression on our countrymen across the sea.

The friendship between the British nation and Switzerland, founded on mutual respect for each others institutions, and a similar outlook on life in general, has never been marred by wars nor has it ever flagged throughout centuries and rests on a sound foundation. The saying, that the real proof of friendship shows itself in its true form mostly in times of distress, has proved to be true in every sense of the word. —

* * *

The tragic loss, which this country has just sustained, when 75 gallant sailors, the crew of the submarine Affray, have disappeared, has caused deep sympathy and grief throughout our country, and we tender our most profound condolences to our British friends in this, what can truly be called, a national calamity.

These valiant men have died in the service of their country, and will rightly share the honour and glory of their brethren who have died on the battlefield or on the ocean waves, and will henceforth live in the hearts of every true Briton; they will equally be honoured and remembered wherever deeds of gallantry and devotion to duty are respected.

Why, one may ask must all these calamities come upon this fair green earth? A world in which science and human love and fellowship strives daily to improve the common lot.

Whilst the shadow of death is still vivid in our memory, and when young men are torn from their families and from their nearest and dearest, we, who are left behind, can but reverently bow our heads before so much sorrow.

The Editor.

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