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THE GREAT STORM AND STRESS.
A Ministerial View.
This England of Ours Not Dead Yet!

Speaking at the anniversary meeting at the Littlehampton Baptist Church on Wednesday, which he attended for the purpose of supporting the Pastor (the Rev. F. J. Flatt), the Rev. E. W. Howes, Minister of the Congregational Church, remarked that we were passing through a time of great difficulty, of great storm and stress, which had lasted during the past few weeks. He thought it had taken a good many of them some time to adapt themselves to

The New Condition of Things
in which they had found themselves. Certainly it had taken him a good time, and he was not quite sure that he had yet found his bearings. At any rate, he had spent a good number of sleepless nights over the condition of Europe at this time. They had thought that, as far as civilised, let alone Christian nations, were concerned, war was a thing of the past, and that they had arrived at that stage when it was no longer possible. But they had had a rude awakening, and they had to face a new condition of things. They had to face not only an altered map, but something else besides; but he believed—and it was the only, or at any rate the great and abiding consolation—that in this present catastrophe God was indeed trying them and

Refining Them As By Fire,
and that what they did need at the present time was a more real and therefore a stronger faith in the living God as revealed to them in Jesus Christ. And side by side with that stronger faith he thought they did need a greater kindness of soul. One of the most hopeful things was the great number of young men now coming forward, leaving happy homes, and placing themselves at the service of their King and Country. It was a sign that this England of ours was not dead yet, but that it would respond to what it believed to be a righteous cause. Surely the self-sacrifice which was now being exhibited was a thing which was worth having, and was one of the most hopeful signs of the present time.