

## THE WAR SPIRIT OF GERMANY

### 1. THE LACK OF POLITICAL EDUCATION IN GERMANY.

Germany is a young state. She is younger even than Canada for the German Empire came into being only in 1871, while the Canadian federation dates from 1867. German civilization is of course old and German society is, in many ways, still feudal in character. The upper classes of Germany are exclusive aristocrats in spirit, scorning to admit social equality with manufacturers and merchants. They have traditions extending back through many centuries. Noble birth counts for much more in Germany than it does in England, though England is still a land of sharp social distinctions. But as a state Germany is young, with the inexperience and the over-confidence of youth. In some aspects even of her culture Germany is young in comparison with such an ancient state as England. Goethe used to say that, had he been born with the language of Chaucer and Shakespeare as his mother tongue, he would not have tried to write poetry for he would have felt that all that he could say had already been said during the long literary history of England. Still Germany, too, has a long record of achievement in the world of thought and art. She produced a Luther and a Dürer before the days of Shakespeare. It is only in political life that she is undeveloped.