

CHARIOTS OF FIRE

it easy to grasp religion except through the medium of some earthly example. Talk to us of God Himself and it all seems very abstract ; but our hearts leap to Him when we see some man ranging himself on God's side. The servant of the prophet saw no help for his master until his eyes were opened and he saw the chariots of fire. For the ordinary man that is the way in which God becomes plain ; indeed, it was to appeal to such that our Lord took flesh and dwelt with us ; there was no other way for the ordinary man to know God.

Let us, then, attempt to review some of the main evidences that a spirit is abroad which will help to create a great commonwealth of united civilization, the embodiment of Christianity in the life of the nations. We shall find much cause for encouragement.

In the first place there is the fact that the strongest appeal to undertake and prosecute the war is the appeal of right. Self-interest may jump with morality, and in some quarters we read Jingo arguments which would match anything in Bernhardi ; yet, speaking broadly, it is the argument of duty towards an injured people that has reconciled a peace-loving country to participation, and sent the best of the young men of England to the fighting they have been brought up to hate. Nor does this apply only to those claiming to be swayed by duty. Many of our soldiers would be shy of admitting that the argument from justice had much to do with their desire to serve their country, and yet it is safe to say that of this very type few would have volunteered if they had not felt subconsciously that right was on the side of adventure or pride of country or whatever else made them enlist. To say that many German soldiers feel in the same way, so far from exploding our argument, is rather a cause for encouragement. That they should apply moral standards to facts misunderstood makes them more dangerous as foes, and how they can square their belief with their conduct passes our understanding ; yet an immature, or even a mistaken, belief in goodness contains the promise of a new day.