

The first reason for all wars and for the necessity of national defences, is that the majority of persons, high and low, in all European nations, are Thieves, and in their hearts greedy of their neighbor's goods, land and fame.

—*Ruskin.*

This might apply to all nations.—Ed.

The advocates of war as the great selection of the strong, the vigorous, the brave, seem to forget that the process is negative. War selects men to die, not to live and radiate, or propagate virility and valor. Or it makes them for slow consuming by disease or habitual idleness or debauchery.—*Arthur James Todd.*

THE GREAT WAR—1914

War is hell, I have no doubt,
But what this hell is all about
I'd like to know.

They say, 'tis for truth and justice's sake
To make the old world strangely shake
And bring about Democracy.

Then hell or war must be the cure
That makes the old road straight and sure
To the gates of heaven.

If heaven is bought at such a price
When men are nought but rats and mice
Slaughtered in a trap ;

Then give me nought of hell or heaven,
I much prefer some other leaven
To raise the soul of Democracy.