

ships and guns, he would have been in England in six hours, and Britain assuredly would have fallen. Britain had no army to face the veterans who had conquered Europe. Skill, bravery, tenacity are all necessary, but they are of little or no value without adequate preparation.

What, then, is the lesson? The lesson is that if the conqueror once gets possession even for a week, once gets control of the docks and yards where the ships are built and repaired, and the factories where the rifles, cannon, and shells are manufactured, the war is over. No human power will avail to resist him or to oust him from possession. The bravest nation in the world to-day is absolutely dependent for its national existence upon its arsenals and its factories. There can be no longer the spectacle of a brave nation standing at bay against the conqueror which has planted its force in her midst. The bravest men in the world in such a case are no better than naked savages. What does this mean? It means that no chances can be taken; that once lost, liberty and independence, so far as this generation is concerned, are gone forever.

It may be that, when the war began, Germany sought no more than to cripple France and Russia, to the end that it might be prepared for a future contest against Britain. To-day it is clear that her vision goes further. She looks to world dominion. How she will use that dominion let Belgium answer. We have read from childhood of nations having been conquered and carried away in slavery. To-day the peasants of France and Belgium by the thousand have been transported to Germany, there to labour under conditions of veritable slavery. It is not a case of the dim distant past. It is happening now to people who, but a short eighteen months ago, were citizens of proud and happy nations, pursuing their daily avocations with no thought of danger.

THE RALLYING CALL.

This is the condition that confronts us. What then is our duty? It is to give ourselves wholly and unreservedly to the task until it is accomplished. It is a solemn and an awful duty, but it cannot be shirked or avoided. An insistent public opinion has stilled the voice of partisan strife. Nowhere in the British Dominions has the Government received more