

I am glad to hear you say that America is loyal everywhere. It is the right and duty of every citizen to see to it that this loyalty is entire, that those persons who are found uttering pro-German or anti-ally sentiments are arrested and brought before our department of justice. No person should have any regrets about being able to render such a service to our cause.

But that brings me to think again about something that I have thought about a good deal lately. We have said a great deal about pro-Germanism and have condemned it violently, but we have said comparatively little about the use of the German language, and what could be more pro-German than the German language, what could be more anti-American in these times? It is the official language of "Kaiserism," it is the agent by means of which it was sought to spread abroad even in our own fair land the much-despised German "Kultur."

We have taught the German language in our schools. We were told it was next in importance to English itself. Now we find it hard to explain why German was any more important to our American than French or Italian or Spanish. In our churches we used the German language in the practice of our religion, in many instances among people who were born in America and educated in its schools and who certainly could more readily understand the English language. No one can easily explain the reason for the last mentioned stubbornness.

Just before I left America some one suggested in my presence that we ought to bar the German language from a place in the course of study in our high schools. To this I objected. In our ardent patriotism we should be careful not to run off on a tangent, we should bear in mind the essentials and forget trivialities. Thus I argued. I had studied German, I could speak and even felt in a measure prepared to teach it. Was not the German language the language in which Goethe and Schiller expressed such noble truths and beautiful sentiments. There are