

are dear to the hearts of all Americans, and which have made the American people what it is to-day. Their cause transcends all national limits; it is the cause of universal righteousness and freedom and humanity.

In his heart, President Wilson must know this as well as most. For one thing, he is a student of history, and no impartial student of history could wish to see a triumph for the German arms. But he has been obsessed from the very start by his conviction of the importance of keeping his country out of the war. His enemies say that he has one eye open for the German vote. In our opinion, Mr. Wilson is too high-minded a man for any such form of low cunning. It seems far more probable that what has weighed most with him is his consciousness of the fact that a very large proportion of his fellow-countrymen has not hitherto progressed so far as to be American in more than name. The associations of their birth or origin have hindered them from fully appreciating the meaning of the struggle now going on in Europe. They are not conscious as yet that their adopted citizenship has much more in common with British than it has with German ideals,—with the liberty of the individual as against his complete subordination to the state, and with the free atmosphere of self-government as against the irresponsibility of autocratic power. It is this—in addition to the horror and hate of war in general—that must have operated as a restraint on many of those who are charged with the conduct of the international relations of the United States. And we ought not to blame them. We may fairly protest against that form of American selfishness and exaggeration which plumes itself on being dedicated, above all nations, to civilization and peace, merely because it has so far succeeded in keeping out of the war. That is in itself no proof of idealism—rather the reverse! But we can feel increasingly confident, as time goes on, that the great heart of the American democracy is learning to beat in harmony with ours. And we may rely on their support (if we should come to need it) in securing, when the agony is over, *a peace that shall be worthy of such a war.*