

The World's Progress.



THE EMPEROR WILLIAM AS A
POLITICAL CARTOONIST.

The somewhat bumptious young Emperor of Germany delights to figure in a variety of characters. In a cartoon before us he is sketched as the "Lightning-Change" Emperor. In the morning he appears in the costume of an English tourist, at noon as an admiral of the fleet, two hours later in yachting dress, then as sportsman, and in the evening in clerical costume. We believe he does preach on his flag-ship. He issued a poem accompanied by his own music. His favourite rôle is posing as the War Lord of Europe. In the above sketch he appears as a political cartoonist. The original was sent to the Emperor of Russia and copies sold at a charity bazaar. It is thus interpreted :

"On a plateau, in the light radiating from the cross, stand the allegorical figures of the civilized nations of Europe. France is shading her eyes with her left hand. Germany, armed with shield and sword, attentively follows the approach of the calamity. Russia leans her arm on the shoulder of her martial companion. Austria endeavours to win the co-operation of reluctant England. Italy, standing between them, also closely watches the danger. The archangel Michael, points to the approaching horror. At the foot of the plateau is the vast plain of civilized Europe. The power of darkness, seated on a dragon,

approaches amidst destruction. Buddha, advancing upon the Chinese dragon, will devastate Europe." Under the sketch the Emperor wrote: "Nations of Europe, defend your most sacred possessions."

The Emperor's critics, Russia, France, Italy, and Germany herself, announce strong dissatisfaction with the part the respective nations are supposed to bear in his allegory.

The Emperor might look nearer home for more menacing danger. While Armenian Christians are being slaughtered by the thousand he selfishly stands aloof and will not risk a single Pomeranian grenadier in what would be a nobler crusade than that to rescue from the infidels the empty sepulchre of Christ, namely, to save from massacre His living image. Nearer home still, the nation is restless under an intolerable war burden. The Socialists and Democrats are the strongest party in the Reichstag, and the most vociferous. Four hundred arrests have, within a few months, been made for *lese majesté*, or speaking disrespectfully of the Emperor's crown and dignity.

It was perhaps this sense of unrest at home that led to the somewhat gushing congratulations to President Kruger in the Transvaal. It is an old trick of autocrats to divert criticism from home troubles by "spirited" foreign policy.

We think that Great Britain has taken too seriously the gush of this intensely