

political importance and which would eventually control all trade and commerce and even dictate a system of culture and education to other nations. His vanity was overweening and he openly proclaimed himself the Vicerent of God and therefore a superior person to all his contemporaries. To strengthen his position he determined to bring his subjects up as nearly as possible to his own self-conceived high level. That he is satisfied in his own mind that his efforts have been successful is shown very clearly by the following speech which he delivered to his army while it was on its way to the front at the beginning of this war:

“Remember that the German people are the chosen of God. On me, the German Emperor, the spirit of God has descended. I am His sword, His weapon, and His viceregent. Woe to the disobedient, and death to cowards and unbelievers.”

A nation, especially one comprising so many intelligent and highly educated people, that will listen patiently to high sounding twaddle such as this must have attained a peculiar state of mind, and that state of mind was undoubtedly brought about by the introduction of what has already been referred to as German Kultur. Time will not permit us to give anything like a thorough description of that insidious and far-reaching method that has gradually permeated the whole body politic of a great people and made them willing slaves of a brutal and overpowering force. The system adopted though is in reality the culmination of the jesuitical principle that the end justifies the means, and its votaries make no secret of the claim that might is right. Kultur in a few words means the organized efficiency of a nation as a whole and is not an attribute of individuals. Germany has, largely through its influence, been brought to a high pinnacle of power in civil and military organization, while in general education, in commercial ascendancy and in scientific research she has during the past few years come forward in leaps and bounds. But her education has been outside of humanitarianism; her commercial advancement has been made with the object not only of surpassing others in the race but of absolutely crushing all competitors, while her scientific achievements have been devoid of soul, in other words based on rank materialism.

“Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad”; and this much vaunted Kultur has brought about a madness in Germany that has rendered her both blind and deaf to all the teachings of history. Such madness carries with it an ignorant cynicism and selfish vanity, a cruel spirit and tyrannical mind, and has largely been the cause of the downfall of all the great empires of the past. Through its agency fell Atlantis, that fabled home of the first superman, Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome. These kingdoms lasted for lengthened periods, but the downfall of the German empire is assured after a short though brilliant existence