

by them all, for he is their supreme ideal, the superman of the whole super-race of seventy million Germans. He preached 'shining armour' and 'mailed fists,' and his people firmly believed every word. 'Madman?' Not much. He gave Germany a development in trade and wealth which was bigger than their wildest dreams. He drove up her birth rate. He typified their glorification of material force. He is, perhaps, the only living sovereign who could have deliberately signed the atrocious lie about the Dumdum bullets which he cabled to the President of the United States, and yet preserved the approval of his people. He announced himself as God's vice-gerent on earth and Germany as God's chosen nation. Germany was delighted. She thoroughly agreed. She believed in him right through, and she believes in him still, and she is practising with all her might the gospel he preached and made possible. For the ruthless militarism of Frederick the Great was developed to its highest point by his descendant."

In this Kaiser-worship, as in many other respects, the Germans are in much the same stage of development as the English centuries ago, when the king was almost deified.*

Not unlike the English of Elizabeth's time are the Germans in their lust for material advancement at the expense of other peoples, and they far overtop any generation of Englishmen in their inordinate self-esteem.

Another striking characteristic of the German mind is its childishness. Be it remembered that childishness and utter cruelty are quite reconcilable. The German cannot rid himself of the idea that saying a thing often

* I hope I do not offend the susceptibilities of anyone when I refer to the eulogies of King James I. by the translators of the Authorized Version—in any other connection, one would be nauseated by the fulsome flattery of the "most dread sovereign,"—like the "Sun in his strength" whose coming "to rule and reign over us" was the cause of "great and manifold . . . blessings." The conventionalities of official life are still preserved in form, but while we say King George is King "by the Grace of God," we know and he knows that he is King by grace of an Act of Parliament.