

## Patriotism in the British Empire

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**I**T has often been said, in the course of the last few years, and it has been frequently repeated within the last few months, that Germany had been brought into the war by "the Bismarckian policy." I do not believe that this is exact. When William II. mounted the throne Germany had a preponderant situation in Europe. The Triple Alliance was real and solid. Italy manifested sentiments by no means amicable to France. The eventual adversaries of Germany were isolated, the able policy of "The Iron Chancellor" had succeeded in creating a profound antagonism between France and Italy by urging France on against Tunis, to which Italy had pretensions. By encouraging France in her colonial conquests he had brought her to an anti-British policy, which withdrew England from her, and he had fanned the flame of opposition existing between Russia and England for many years by pushing Russia to a hostile attitude towards Great Britain. As France and Russia were thus found to be opposed to England, Germany could count on the support of this latter power, or, at least, upon her friendly neutrality, in case of the present war breaking out on both eastern and western frontiers, that which Bismarck dreaded most of all.

If Bismarck so much desired England's friendship, it was not only on account of her naval power, but because he well knew that Germany could not count upon the loyal support of Italy, allied only in as much as England would remain neutral or friendly.

William II. was scarcely mounted upon the throne when he declared, to the hearty applause of the sycophants by whom he delighted to be surrounded, that "inspired by God, he was responsible but to God," and that He alone would direct him in his personal policy. He resolved to be his own counsellor. In fact, he has not chosen secretaries of state for foreign affairs, but scribes and ambassadors who have been appointed by favour, and not for merit.

The Emperor was gravely mistaken in all his foresight, and he had sustained the most terrible diplomatic defeat even before the