

The latest contribution comes to us from France and is of a character to justify all reasonable expectation, even when we recall the training which French ambassadors have received in clearness and exactitude of expression. A strong dramatic effect is created by the inclusion of despatches and reports dated 1913, which are published in Chapter I under the title, "Warnings." These close with Jules Cambon's report of November 22nd, on the conversation between the Kaiser, General von Moltke, and King Albert.

For two reasons this report is of the highest significance. Not only does it disclose the attempt which was made to "get at" King Albert, but it throws light on the Kaiser's own attitude towards the question of war or peace. There has been such a wide difference of opinion regarding the spirit in which William II entered the war. Did he act primarily upon his own judgement, or did he suffer the General Staff to dragoon him into compliance with its wish? Cambon reports "from an absolutely reliable source" that the Kaiser is thought to be completely changed, and is no longer disposed to use his personal influence for the maintenance of peace. "As William II advances in years, family traditions, the reactionary tendencies of the court, and especially the impatience of the soldiers, obtain a greater empire over his mind. Perhaps he feels some slight jealousy of the popularity acquired by his son, who flatters the passions of the Pan-Germans, and who does not regard the position occupied by the Empire in the world as commensurate with its power.....For the rest, the Emperor William is less master of his impatience than is usually supposed. I have known him more than once to allow his real thoughts escape him."

The French despatches abound with picturesque incidents and striking scraps of information, as reported by the chief ambassadors of the Republic. The account of Jules Cambon's exciting journey from Berlin to Copenhagen has already, in partial form, been made known through the newspapers, but the full story is far more graphic. Best of all are those fragments of conversation between diplomatists at every