

THE RECRUIT TO HIS LADY.

Beyond the Depot wall grows mignonette;  
And I have seen your face in every cloud;  
And, in the West, your hair waves lovelier yet;  
And heard your voice above the bugles loud.

There is no tedium in the day's dull round,  
No guard, no dull fatigue, no sharp command.  
But you have eased them; and the sodden ground  
Blossoms with dreams of your far fairyland.

Stern is our business here, and grim the road  
That leads through training to the battle's roar.  
Duty hath set the task; Love lights the load;  
Hope gilds the outcome with the hues of yore.

So, Loveliness, this old St. Jean's a shrine.  
They say, War's spirit haunts it; I say thine.

William E. Comfort,  
Canadian Engineers Training Depot.  
(In the Montreal Star.)

St. John's, Que.

LET THE ENEMY STARVE  
FIRST.

(Washington Post, Nov. 18, 1918)

The Germans are drawing a little too heavily upon the abundant store of American credulity and magnanimity when they ask Americans to regard them as genuine converts to democracy, deeply offended victims of their late militaristic rulers and especially deserving of the fatted calf of forgiveness. If the German women who are appealing to American women for special favors would kindly hold aloof until some evidence is forthcoming that the German nation is not still a rapacious wolf, harmless only because overpowered, there might be a better chance for them in the forthcoming drastic rationing of the world.

The German people's conversion is too sudden and too voluble to be convincing. Four years of accumulated proof of savage delight in atrocious crimes and robberies cannot be wiped out by a week or two of internal disorders and declamations on the beauties of democracy. The truth is that the German people supported their imperial assassin of nations until his murder machinery was smashed and Germany in danger of invasion. Then they affected a change of heart. Probably they will change their form of government. Very good; so a man can change his coat. But the leopard cannot change his spots, and the German people cannot convince their victims in other nations that

they have become humanized overnight. There is so little repentance visible; so little real evidence of a change of heart. The voice that goes up from Germany is one of regret, but not for crimes committed. It is regret that victory was not achieved—that France and Belgium and the other allied nations were not put in a position to be exploited to the utmost.

When any American is inclined to go out of his way to exhibit his generosity toward the German people, let him reflect a moment upon what those people would have exacted of France, England and Italy if the kaiser had been victorious. Let him glance at what was done in Belgium and Serbia, and what was prepared to be done in Russia. Let him bear in mind that the German people profited greatly in the looting of allied countries, and that no voice in Germany was raised against the robbing of allied countries to feed Germans.

It is not for the purpose of advocating a brutal or cruel policy toward the German people that these remarks are made. Two wrongs do not make a right, and it is not in the nature of Americans to rejoice in the calamities of their neighbors. But it is the nature of Americans to be entirely too generous to a beaten foe. The tendency is not toward retribution and reprisal, but toward an excessive generosity which, unless checked by common sense, swiftly runs into a combination of maudlin slobber and boastful charity. The quality of mercy deteriorates

(Continued on page 15)

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