

PRUSSIANISM AND ITS DESTRUCTION

CHAPTER I

THE DOCTRINE WE ARE FIGHTING

The importance of "theories"—This war by universal consent due to false theories—The German nation transformed by them—What is the theory that has caused the war?—How the ideals of a people may be changed—What do the Germans hope to achieve by their victory?—For what purpose are States maintained?—What is the ultimate test of good politics?—What does military and political power achieve for the ultimate realities of life?—"The Great Illusion"—The moral, intellectual, and economic foundations of Prussianism—Materialistic roots of militarism—No refuge save in the better mind of man.

"ALL fine-spun theories, all sentimental aspirations and vague generalities, the whole collection of shibboleths treasured by the idealists and the dreamers, are shattered by the first whiff of grapeshot," wrote a popular journalist some years ago. "The ideologues and doctrinaires," he went on, "do not seem capable of realizing the difference between the world of theory and the world of fact—the material world in which we live: that all the argument in the world won't penetrate an inch of armour-plate, and that a syllogism is no answer to a Dreadnought." It is the "practical" view always, one would have thought, that is beloved of the British