

The Times in London, the *Novoie Vremya* in St. Petersburg, the *Messagero* in Rome, and the yellow press in North and South America sound the same note. Without deciding that most of these journals are in the pay of Anglo-French capitalists, as some maintain, the fact is that with very few exceptions every one in the world has for decades received his news from the Thames and the Seine; and consequently he looks upon Germany not with his own eyes, but with the eyes of the English and the French.

The first important psychological basis for this extended hatred of Germany, is this artificial suggestion: it is no natural national sentiment, but an artificially fanned and nurtured hatred whose ravaging flames now burst out against the Germans.*

This suggestion produced a veritable national insanity in the outside world—a psychical epidemic like the superstitious belief in witchcraft which prevailed in Europe till the middle of the 18th century and to which millions of men fell victims. For “to-day, thanks to suggestion and psychical infection, millions of persons have fallen prey to insanity, a benevolent people is become malevolent; the most orderly, the most licentious; Germans, ‘Vandals,’ ‘wild Hordes,’ ‘raving beasts,’ or, as an American newspaper sees fit to call them, ‘the Apaches of the Nations.’” The author is rightly indignant at such calumnies and brings to mind the truth which Bismarck never in fact forgot, whatever he might say about talk not being companies or words battalions, namely, that a mighty force dwells in lead pencils as well as in lead bullets.

As in physical epidemics, the plague, cholera, etc., one can always trace the infection to some “carrier” or other, so in psychical epidemics there are a very few—often indeed only one—who are the carriers of the infection. But there is more than the “carrier”; there is the producer of infection, the very germ of the evil.

* The author conjures up from his own consciousness a perpetual and world-wide “Hymn of Hate,” which no one outside of Germany had ever heard of and no one outside of Germany can even now discover.