

## TOPICS OF THE DAY

### ENGLISH- SPEAKING SOLIDARITY

Events move forward so rapidly on the great world-stage of the war that it is hard to keep abreast of them except in the columns of a daily newspaper. Just as our last number was issuing from the press, formal notice was given to the world by the President of the United States that he had severed diplomatic relations with Germany. A good deal may now be forgiven to Mr. Wilson—including the historic phrase “peace without victory,” over which so much ingenuity was wasted in the effort to explain that the President had not meant what he actually said. To us it seems that a great reflection on his powers of lucid utterance was implied in the fact that so diverse views of what he did mean were put forward in the leading articles of the New York press and elsewhere. But all that is over now, and we have never forgotten that Mr. Wilson has had peculiar difficulties to contend with. His resolute attitude has been acclaimed by the vast majority of his fellow-citizens, and at the moment of writing, the United States is at least potentially one of our allies. Whatever may be meant by “armed neutrality,” and however long the interval may be that separates it from actual war, it is plain and obvious that the United States can no longer live on friendly terms with Germany. There is no more need for her to bolster up the cause that has meant for us from the outset selfish aggression, conscienceless wrong-doing, and brazen lying. The German Chancellor told the Reichstag that he could not understand why Mr. Wilson had acted as he had done: it would seem as if he had never heard of the incident of the *Sussex*, or of the undertaking then given by the German Government to Washington. Yet all the time the Chancellor’s colleague, Herr Zimmermann, clearly foreseeing that the President would not be able to act otherwise than he did, had been directed