
THE GREAT "I AM!"

By ROGER.

*The moving finger writes, and having writ
Moves on: nor all thy piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it.*

OMAR KHAYYAM.

WHEN the world is in the throes of tragedy, when millions of heroic men are offering their lives so that freedom may not be destroyed and barbarism shall not dethrone human trust and kindness, the melodramatic roars and antics of the Kaiser are not to be examined as seriously as his outbursts in peace. They are not important events of war. His indiscretions of the past twenty years had enforced attention because they were extremely dangerous. His own Chancellor once had to promise the Reichstag and the German people that William the Second would hold his tongue in future. The satirical journals of Munich, a vitriolic school, thought it well to excoriate the All-Highest on suitable occasions. Germans many times felt his egomania, amusing to outsiders, to be humiliating for themselves.

Now that the sword is drawn, ten thousand boastful telegrams a day by the Kaiser will not win the war for him. But his orations have a certain pathological interest; for they remind us of the kind of man we have to deal with when the day arrives; and, what is more to the point, since the Germans themselves are now said to revere the Kaiser as a figure truly representative of the spirit of Germany, they help us to see more clearly what is in the mind of the enemy as a nation.

There are two new documents from the hand of the Kaiser which demonstrate that the war has taught him nothing. In a manifesto to his own people, the head of the army which has used poison gases and flame projectors, and slain and outraged the women and children of Belgium, the head of the navy which has stained the hands with the murder of fifteen hundred innocent people