

## TOPICS OF THE DAY

### THE VICTORY AT WASHINGTON

When President Wilson said that a man might conceivably be "too proud to fight," he must have been thinking of a vulgar street brawl. Now that it has come to what is called "a real show-down," the President's hat is in the ring, like the most practised fighter of them all. Or, to take a figure more appropriate to his relations with the country whose future was for a time supposed to be on (or under) the water, Mr. Wilson has nailed his colours to the mast, as we knew he would. Till now he has been imploring his fellow-citizens to "keep the scales of their judgment even," which Mr. Root and others have found difficulty in doing. The latest offender, Professor Royce of Harvard, said in so many words in Boston the other night that "it is as impossible for any reasonable man to be in his heart and mind neutral as it was for the good cherubs in heaven to remain neutral when they first looked out from their rosy glowing clouds and saw the angels fall."

But now the President has put his foot down. True, the question was primarily one of domestic policy,—responsibility for the conduct of foreign relations as between Congress and the Chief Executive of the State. But a sigh of relief has gone up from all those whose patience was rapidly becoming exhausted. So at Washington the bands are playing, and the Stars and Stripes float from the Capitol! In spite of party differences, Congress has shown itself to be solidly behind the President. For the rapid dénouement in a long drawn out act, the Germans have only themselves to thank. Their tortuous diplomacy, as exemplified in the correspondence about what they call the "Lusitania incident," the status of the submarine, the defensive armament of merchantmen, the rights of neutrals on the high seas, etc., has left them without a friend in the world. Even the German-American has