

the old semibarbaric methods of Russia were ever able to do. And she could then do it untrammelled by the public opinion of Europe.

ISSUES OF THE WAR.

There may be some room for doubt and discussion as to the causes of this war, but there can be little as to the great issues it involves. The ideals of Germany at present are those of a military aristocracy. It is to carry out those ideals that the strenuous Prussian discipline has extended its iron hand all over the land. Those ideals involve, just like those of old Rome, the reduction of all possible rivals to a condition of helpless subordination; they involve the practical suppression of the independence of small nationalities; they involve a form of military rule and privilege dangerous to civil freedom. The triumph of the two Germanic Powers with their Magyar comrade would mean the cessation of that kind of democratic progress which gives the peoples a voice in the decision of war and peace and in the making of their own destinies. It would threaten, I think, all that kind of progress which is based on the general public opinion of Europe. Of course, I do not mean to say that such ideals are consciously accepted by the German people as a whole, but only that they lie on the road that Germany is taking. German Liberals would naturally deny this and point to their struggles and the growth of the socialist vote. But there is the experience of thirty years to show that they are practically helpless in the current that is carrying Germany on her course. There is much unreal talk and superficiality in our modern humanitarianism, no doubt, but none of us would like to change it for this new type of military despotism which is seeking supremacy in the world. The present war has many aspects of racial, military and commercial rivalry, but its most fateful aspect is that it is a struggle between humanitarian ideals and those of a military autocracy. The open contempt for international law which Germany has already shown in Belgium and elsewhere merely lifts an edge of the curtain.

Germany has been aggressive enough in a practical sense, but her greatest aggression has been a moral and psychological one on the spirit of Europe, and consists in that universal militarization which turns a nation into an armed camp as ready