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SOME PROGNOSTICATIONS AND A PREFACE, WITH AN APOLOGIA FOR NOT BEING PRO-GERMAN

"This war is in reality a life and death struggle between two forms of State—one retrograde and no longer capable, the other far advanced and capable of the most powerful activities. Either Germany with its organisation and ideas will be destroyed in this war, or England, if it is to live at all, must rebuild its institutions and introduce that Continental form of State of which Germany is the most shining example."—PROFESSOR EDUARD MEYER.

"Because these (German aims and methods) have a loathly side, and because these endanger our commerce, our institutions, our very existence, we must not, in our perfectly legitimate anger, ignore the fact that they could not have given Germany her present strength without much good being mixed with the evil."—"MORNING POST," February 8th, 1916.

"Fight the Germans like the Germans."—MR. AUSTIN HARRISON.

I.

IN these dark and unbalanced days, when mass-psychology can ill support any contradiction of the prevailing temper, it is necessary, I am aware, for an obdurate Anti-German like myself to walk somewhat gingerly. But if I am unable to surrender myself to the current idolatry of German State institutions and the contagion of Prussian militarism; if the enthusiasm for German organization leaves me cold, and the scrapping of Magna Charta hot; if I have shown in so much of my work—as a writer in a popular Labour organ, the *Herald*, complains—too great a bias against Germany, and ignored the cultural and socialistic sides of her State-concept, something must be allowed in extenuation to the force of early impressions. For it so happened that my very first experience of Germany was one calculated to quicken my instinctive loathing for the Bismarckised State, and to crystallize my vague intuitions of the coming clash between British and German State-concepts in a WAR FOR THE WORLD.