

be left out of a new experience which others would go out and enjoy. And it would take him at least six months to train, and by that time the war would be over. . .

At the end of the six months everything would go on as before, a war between England and Germany was a war between a whale and an elephant; he had thought at luncheon that it must go on for years, but a war on this scale could only be a matter of weeks; Germany would just be shewn that she could not browbeat Europe at pleasure, everybody would lose a good many lives and spend an appalling amount of money, but higher taxation, possibly some form of military training, would be the only change. He would go on at Ripley Court or here; some people, apparently—to judge from the state of panic at the Club—were losing money, but others would make a lot—he was one—and, so long as money was in the hands of the same class, it mattered little which members held it; the old social life would go on as before, there was no hope of excitement as in '71—an abdication, a commune. Really, he was a baronet, so perhaps he ought not to talk (though he had not been consulted), but could anything be imagined more ridiculous than the relics of feudalism in England? He would fight on anybody's side if it made England a republic; but it was one thing to make England a republic, and something very different to make the Englishman republican. . .

Because *he* was republican and in despite of Sir Aylmer's warning against "superiority," he had always rather despised the Junker gang in England; he was in it, but not of it; he was really not of any particular class or school, and that explained much—his boredom, his want of sympathy with other people's ridiculous preoccupations, his utter inability to find anything to do. . . . Now that the great house was almost finished, he was out of employment, unless he took over from Hatherly and the London office the English control of the Trust,—which was really *making* work for himself. Of course, he might go on looking for some imaginative use to which his money could be put, but