

in the countries of the German Empire. History, and especially the history of the Bismarckian epoch, has been appealed to, and with convincing effect, for confirmation of this doctrine. Now, if the present war were a conflict between the German Empire, or even the German Empire in alliance with the Austro-Hungarian, and one other power alone, the defeat of Germany might possibly be a salutary chastisement. But that is not the existing situation. If (or we ought rather to say, when) defeated and compelled to accept peace on the terms imposed by the Entente allies, the Germans will be able to say that, with the assistance of Austria-Hungary, and (in a not very considerable degree) of Bulgaria and Turkey, they "held up" the strength of France, Great Britain, Russia, and Italy; they made a complete conquest (for the time being, at any rate) of Belgium, Poland, and Servia; they provided some tough work in the Far East for Britain and Japan; and they successfully flouted the United States.

#### **Self-Esteem of Germany.**

In spite of all the forces, moral and material, arrayed against them, and ultimately bearing them down, they wrought a revolution in Europe and shook the whole civilized world. "If we fell," they will say, "we at least fell gloriously, and we assert, without the least fear of refutation, that not one of the victorious nations could have stood up, singly, against Germany alone and unaided. The very fact that such enormous superiority in numbers of men and quantity of material was required to secure our overthrow proves our strength and our innate capability."

Defeat, then, will rather confirm than invalidate the overweening national (one might add, individual) self-esteem of the Germans. It will be a disappointment, but it will embitter and harden them and leave them malignant. They will give ground under assertion of superior force (the accumulation of which is as yet far from complete), but they will do so in the hope and with the purpose of resuming their enterprise—the domination of Europe, if not of the world—at the earliest available opportunity. There are two ways in which they have assailed the peace, prosperity, and very existence of other nations: the way of trading, and the way of slaughter and devastation. Both are ways of warfaring, for trade, as Germans practise it, is a form of war. For