

various degrees and phases, but its last phase in Germany seems to be a sullen recognition that the price she has paid for Alsace-Lorraine is mounting up very high. Germany has expansive ambitions and the hostility of France means that there is a powerful voice and vote against her at the council table of the Great Powers and a certain foe in the event of war with any of them. Whether Bismarck meant it deliberately or not, his policy in 1870 has forced the German nation to be a nation under arms, an armed camp with a military autocrat and aristocracy in command of it. No doubt that has its advantages as a training. It has made the German practical, energetic and a shrewd calculator. I think Prof. Muesterberg is right in his view that their new industrial energy and commercial enterprise have one and the same root as their military discipline and imperialism. What is certain, at any rate, is that they are vigilantly supported and protected by the Government. But, all the same, the strain of this position is making the Germans more sombre than they used to be, less free and genial. In Berlin they all seem to work as if there was something on their minds, as if something were hanging over them. The old geniality and honest simplicity of the German character are disappearing, they have become rudely, almost ruthlessly, practical. You can see the change in their literature also. The old humanitarianism of Lessing and Herder (both Prussians) and the idealism of Schiller have given place to the bitter idealism of Nietzsche and the stern principles of "world policy."

So the Kaiser may have made up his mind to end it. If Germany triumphs, she will take all old Lorraine and something more, perhaps Belgium, as well with its great shipping port of Antwerp, and reduce France to a second-rate Power. There will be no one in Europe to say her nay, no one to raise a voice of power against any methods of subjugation she may choose to employ. And she will perforce be an armed camp for another century, but an armed camp in Roman dignity and ease. If she fails, she will have to surrender some discontented non-Germanic provinces and some oversea possessions: she will lose much of the commerce she has built up largely by means of her military power and prestige. Her dream of domination will have ended, and it is safe to predict that there