

Imperial Germany

has been begun but is by no means yet completed, must be the unity of our intellectual and political life, that is the fusion of the Prussian and the German spirit. Prussian State life and German intellectual life must become reconciled in such a way that both their growths become entwined without weakening each other.

Such a reconciliation has not yet been achieved. The representative of German intellectual life is still sometimes inclined to regard the Prussian State as a hostile power, and the old Prussian at times to regard the free and untrammelled development of German intellect as a destructive force. And again and again in Parliament and in the Press accusations are levelled against Prussia in the name of freedom, and against the undaunted German intellect in the name of order.

My late friend, Adolph Wilbrandt, in a pleasing play, has a scene between an official belonging to the North German nobility and the daughter of a savant of the middle classes. At first they repel each other and quarrel. "I represent the Germany of Schiller, Goethe and Lessing," says the woman, and the man replies: "And I represent the Germany of Bismarck, Blücher and Moltke." We often hear similar things from the lips of clever and serious men. Our future depends on whether, and to what extent, we succeed in amalgamating German intellect with the Prussian monarchy. Wilbrandt's play ends with the love and marriage of the budding Minister of State and the charming enthusiast for Friedrich Schiller.