

in the arts of peace. Meanwhile there are signs that, though the end is not yet, it cannot be indefinitely delayed. The victorious Italian offensive is fast reducing Austria to a state of collapse, and internal conditions in Germany seem to be such that she would go a long way, if she could, to avoid another winter's campaign on the western front; and if she survives the winter, the armies of the United States will be ready for her in the spring. Her war-mad Emperor, it is true, tries to keep up the courage of his soldiers by shouting "Onward with God." On the other hand, a recent writer, after dwelling on Zeppelin raids, and poison gas, and submarine sinkings, says that England has "recommenced to believe in the Devil."

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Some of those who are now quite friendly to the Allied cause have been so far misled by German misrepresentation as to deprecate further discussion of the origin of the war, and to regard that as labour lost. We are all in the fight together, they say, and our great aim should be to make an end of it without too much talk. But much of the courage and inspiration of our fighting men must continue to be drawn from a consciousness of right. We may, of course, admit the truth of the German statement that they are conducting a "war of defence." That statement is true to-day. It is true in the same sense as that in which it is open to a burglar to say that he is only trying to protect himself against arrest by a policeman. Notwithstanding every German denial, conclusive evidence is accumulating that the war in its origin was a war of aggression. Truth will out. Even the Germans themselves now officially admit that there never was any bombardment of Nuremberg such as French airmen were falsely alleged to have attempted before the outbreak of hostilities. And whether the meeting that was held early in July, 1914, was or was not a meeting of the Crown Council, formally convened at Potsdam, it is obvious from the new evidence that some such conference took place at which all arrangements were made for the outbreak of war on a scheduled plan. The Emperor was then