

intermission. It has converted some, and silenced others, and, with or without their real assent, carried away all.

This policy is really at bottom Prussian rather than German. But Prussia is at present the dominant power in Germany, and it has succeeded in impressing its spirit upon the whole nation.

The fact is that, when all disguises are stripped away, this Prussianized Germany stands upon the old naked doctrine that Might is Right. Never in the history of the world has this doctrine been applied in such a systematically logical way. Not only is the right of the stronger vindicated and excused after the event; but strength is laid down as the ultimate principle on which right is based. Wherever, in the actual condition of things, the rights of possession do not exactly correspond to the strength of the possessor, it is assumed that they are hollow and ought not to be respected. Stated in its bare form, the doctrine goes back to

the good old rule, the simple plan,
That they should take who have the power,
And they should keep who can.

With this assumption firmly fixed at the back of its mind, Germany has come to be profoundly discontented with the existing state of things in Europe and in the world at large. It believes that other nations—notably ourselves—have possessions far in excess of their deserts, while Germany itself deserves and needs far more than it has. 'Are we to acquiesce,' the Germans are represented as asking—'Are we to acquiesce in England's possession of one-fifth of the globe, with no title-deeds, no claim, except priority in robbery?' (Cramb, *Germany and England*, p. 106). It is true that