

GERMANY AND GERMANS

time we shall wish to show, cannot be acquired in a moment. We cannot hate the Germans right up to the end of the war, and then find ourselves generous and sympathetic, able to resume our old ways of working together, and quick to realize our common bonds of religion and origin and our common task. It needs the practice of sympathy through all the days and weeks of this sorrowful contest.

Our sympathy cannot wisely express itself now in urgent demands for peace. The moral necessity which dragged Britain into the war must keep her there till the end is gained. To make a premature peace on an unstable foundation would only transfer the suffering of our time from our own to the coming generation, a responsibility from which we may well shrink. But in kindness to the alien enemies within our gates, in sincere intercession for our estranged kindred, in avoidance of harsh judgments, in gentle thoughts and words, a channel may be found for the love which to those who call themselves Christians is 'the fulfilling of the law'.