

THE WAR FOR THE WORLD

world between two Great Powers coincides so closely with the elemental clash of Good and Evil. Were the contest limited to those Powers, with no complications of Allies—black, white, or yellow—and could we be sure that the victory of England would mean the defeat of Germany and not its spiritual dominance, then, despite England's iniquities and shortcomings in other directions, we might almost say that the coincidence is absolute. For what is Prussian militarism but a re-swamping of the territory dyked and cultivated by the painful labour of generations?

VIII.

Unfortunately the effort to "fight the Germans like the Germans" only begets more Germanism. I am reminded of the police official who tried to arrest some Dukhobors for going about stark naked. In the heat of the chase—for they fled before him—he threw off his coat, and then his waistcoat, and then his trousers, and by the time he had come up with them you could not tell him from Adam or a Dukhobor. Even so the method of military resistance to militarism, which is like the defensive opening of the sluices in the Low Countries, merely co-operates with the oncoming ocean in ruining the territory defended. A deluge—*Watersnood*, as they say in Holland—is now upon us, racing and foaming toward our islet of civilization from every quarter of the compass. Let me give one little example—the book "The Way of the Red Cross," with a touching preface by Queen Alexandra, though as marvellous a record of human kindness as *The Times'* Fund is a journalistic achievement, yet blurs over the fact that the Red Cross is not a mere medical branch of the British Army—if it were, the War Office should pay for it—nor even a voluntary addition to the British Army, but a Christ-like body working "above the battle," and bound to devote equal care to the wounded enemy. It is only, as it were, through a slip of the pen that we learn from one passage of this book that there are German wounded under the care of our Red Cross corps. It seems to be feared that subscriptions would fall off if Britons remembered too clearly that this work of mercy was international work. Here then is a distinct loss of spiritual territory once reclaimed from barbarism—the sea is back again amid the ruins of our groins and embankments. Mr. Bertrand Russell even asserts:

"On the Western front, at least, both sides have long ceased to take prisoners, except in large batches. I have