

THE CURE FOR WAR

other nations is righteous. This difference of race, if it has any reality at all, which it often has not, is a physical difference. It may be that Teutons and Latins and Anglo-Saxons are born with different bodies ; but assuredly, if the soul exists, there is no racial distinction between their souls. As Crashaw said, 'Souls are not Spaniards too.' And Christianity said that also to the slaves whom it welcomed into its universal brotherhood. But the doctrine of race insists that souls are Teuton or Slav or Latin, that some men are born in a state of racial salvation and others of racial damnation from which they cannot be degraded or exalted ; and naturally each nation which holds the doctrine of race believes in its own salvation and sacred mission. So this question of racial superiority can only be settled by conflict, and even that will never settle it, for, as we know from history, nations rise and fall and rise again, and a nation that is beaten once in war will not therefore believe in its racial damnation but will try to prove its salvation in some future conflict. The doctrine of race is always preached by nations lately victorious. The Germans preach it now, and it is discredited among us only because they preach it and have wearied us with their talk about the superiority of the Teutonic race. A little time ago we ourselves were always talking about the superiority of the Anglo-Saxons and the decadence of the Latins. The future of the world, we said, was with the Anglo-Saxons ; and all the while we had to discover, as we have now discovered, that there is no such thing as an Anglo-Saxon or a Latin race.