

Not long ago a manufacturing firm at Bienne, in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, received an order from a German business house. The reply was as follows: "—

"Messieurs,—Our firm deals with civilized countries only.—Yours, etc."

Can we afford to take lower ground than those Switzers? We should certainly not be incurring any greater risks. German influence in Switzerland was, and is, strong enough to get vengeance of some sort upon that Bienne firm for the scorching reproof it administered to German culture.

Revelations of German Character.

The statement that by encouraging German trade in the empire we shall be endangering the world's peace and the well-being of our allies will be called in question. There are those who believe that if the Germans are hammered hard enough they will "learn sense," and recognize that they must fit themselves into the world and not turn everything upside down in the attempt to fit the world into their own empire. Such a forecast has all the air and aspect of sanity and "horse-sense." But is it consonant with the revelations of German character and German tendencies which have been forced upon our attention by the war? Those revelations existed, indeed, years before the war began. But very few people took heed of them, and even among those who had taken heed and knew what a storm was brewing, there were some who studiously kept silence themselves and desired that the rest should do the same.

Compelled to Accept Peace.

Those who have read the chapter on "Germany's Historical Mission" in General Bernhardi's book, "Germany and the Next War," probably smiled, if, indeed, they did not laugh outright, at the representation of the Germans as "leaders in the harmonious development of humanity." This conception of Germany's place in world history did not originate in General Bernhardi's mind. He received it from Treitschke and other perfervid German patriots, and long before Treitschke had ever been heard of Germany's "mission of civilization" under the leadership of Prussia had been proclaimed by Clausewitz. For a considerable time past, then, belief in the natural superiority of the German has been persistently, and with ever-increasing passion, taught