

Constantinople, and convertible some day into a great Germanic empire with its subject peoples. What have Germans to do in those old Slavie lands anyway? Before that simple fact Prof. Muensterberg's denials of a German policy of expansion can expect little credit. Nor is it quite fair to represent the conflict, as Prof. Muensterberg does in a recent issue of *The Fatherland*, as an inevitable conflict between "the onrushing Slav world and the German world." He seems to forget that in the Balkans the Slavs are where they belong and have always belonged, at least since the migrations and wanderings of the early centuries, while the Germans are where they can only appear as foreign conquerors.

THE IMMEDIATE AIM IS TO CRIPPLE FRANCE.

Russia is still in a stage of political and economic transformation and was in no good position to become a ready or willing aggressor at present. But she was obliged to mobilize unless she was willing to submit tamely to further Germanic encroachment. In such circumstances Austria-Hungary's attack on Serbia could be nothing but the signal-gun for a general European war, and it would be fatuous to suppose that that signal was given except in concert with Germany. Germany began by formally asking Russia's intentions, but hurried at once with a million men to the French frontier and invaded without warning the neutral states of Luxembourg and Belgium.

What kind of a war are we to call this? The best name the Germans themselves can find for it—and they have been discussing it openly enough for some time past—is *Präventiv-Krieg*, that is, Preventive War, only its meaning is not to prevent war but to strike first. And this *Präventiv-Krieg* is really directed against France. To cripple that power is the first step to all further steps for Germany.*

The enmity which has existed between France and Germany since the latter took Alsace-Lorraine in 1870 has had

*"In one way or other we must square our account with France if we wish for a free hand in our international policy. . . . France must be so completely crushed that she can never come across our path."—*von Bernhardt*.