

THE WAR AND THE RACE QUESTION

cannot say what may come of it ; but things that seemed impossible before seem so no longer in the new day.

It was such a change in our temper as this that Christianity might have brought about, if it had been effectual. It is somewhat humiliating to think that it has been brought about, not by Christianity, but by participation in a war. The reason, one supposes, is that the British public generally has risen to the level represented by ' Love those who love you ', but not yet to the Christian level of loving in advance. It could not show any warmth of goodwill to the oriental stranger while he was still a dark mystery and his goodwill problematic ; the war has given occasion for him to prove his goodwill, and we hold him out the hand.

However true it may be that war is the outcome of sin, and productive of sin, we must recognize here too how good things are in strange wise brought out of evil by the divine art running through history. It looks as if the human family would really have made a step towards the ideal of brotherhood by waging war together, as if the cynic had some truth on his side, who said : ' There is no bond like a common enmity.' Each people will soon feel of all other peoples but one that they are brothers in arms ; we cannot imagine ourselves without a kindliness for many years to come towards French and Russians and Belgians. No doubt the fact that one has to make an exception in a brotherhood so conditioned—' to all other peoples but one '—shows it imperfect from the Christian point of view, shows something fatally defective