

## TOPICS OF THE DAY

### CURRENT EVENTS

If the founders of this MAGAZINE had not decreed, in their wisdom, that it should appear only during the University session, the short summer months would have furnished an exceptionally abundant supply of material for contemporary comment. They have been simply crowded with history. Even now it may not be too late to allude to some of the things that have happened since the publication of our April number—such as Mr. Wilson's message to Congress and the subsequent entry of the United States into the war; the dethronement of the Romanoff dynasty, the Russian Revolution, and the military collapse of that power; the victories of Vimy and Messines; the mission to Washington of Marshal Joffre and of Mr. A. J. Balfour; the downfall of the German Chancellor; the observance (we shrink from the word "celebration") of the third anniversary of the outbreak of war; and the intervention, in the hope of promoting peace negotiations, of His Holiness the Pope. These are some of the events that have passed in marvellous procession across the world-stage in the course of the spring and summer. There never was a time when their march was so rapid, or when their meaning and significance commanded so much world-wide attention. The eyes of all mankind are fixed on the drama that is being enacted before them. In every quarter of the globe all sorts and conditions of men are keyed-up with eager excitement as to the ultimate issue. Perhaps we may find in this some compensation for the agony we are called on to endure. It may be that the solidarity of the human race, its sense of unity and fundamental kinship, is being helped rather than hindered—though at what a cost!—by the fact that four-fifths of mankind are leagued together against the common enemy of freedom and right. Partnership in war may lead hereafter to a more general co-operation