

conquer France, and absorb Belgium and Holland, and the northern parts of France, and to take over the Dutch colonies, as a preliminary step; most of them say that Russia can wait until the rest have been disposed of. Many frankly announce the absorption of Denmark and Sweden; all of them declare that the Danube, as well as the Rhine, must be in German hands from source to mouth. All offer the Mediterranean to their allies; but let it be clearly understood, that Germany means to be also the greatest Mohammedan Power, and to possess Constantinople, Asia Minor and Egypt, and to rule the troublesome races—such as the stubborn English—by the use of Mohammedan soldiers. All of them snap their fingers at the American Republic and its Monroe doctrine, and point out that pretensions unbacked by soldiers and the engines of destruction, are of no avail against the Nation in Arms, whose rallying cry (as Bernhardt puts it) is, "World Power or Downfall!"

And being a logical and a painstaking people they compute the rival forces. They claim that Germany has six million trained soldiers and Austria two millions; a total of eight millions, for they have decided to ignore Italy which was nominally a member of the Triple Alliance. Against this eight million, they reckon the French at three million; but, in their pride of having beaten them once, they say they can beat them again, although they admit them to be their most formidable opponents. They reckon Russia as able to bring only two million into the field, arguing (I think wrongly) that most of the Russian forces are needed to maintain order in Siberia and Manchuria, in Turkestan, and the Caucasus, and to hold down the Socialists in the towns and the Finns in Finland and the Poles in Poland. Moreover, they con-