

CHARIOTS OF FIRE

humiliated, we mean that war should not be carried to such a point, nor should such terms be imposed, as will drive the quietest and kindest of her people into a passionate struggle for redress.

However negative our first condition may be, it commits us to a second condition, which is positive and far-reaching : a final settlement must depend upon the will of Germany ; in other words, Germany must reform herself.

All our proverbs about taking horses to the water, and our insistence at the time of the Jameson Raid that we would ' beat our own dogs ', should remind us that the temper of a nation can never be changed by any outside compulsion, but only by the free choice of the nation itself. Indeed, any undue interference from without is more than likely to harden the very tendencies we wish to cleanse away. This can be stated in concrete political terms. If after such enormous sacrifices to their demands the militarist party should fail, if the sword should break in the hands of Germany, it is to be hoped that other elements among the German people will come to power. Others besides the Social Democrats are beginning to be distrustful of the policy that has brought their country to this pass. But on the other hand, if we convince such men that the Allies are seeking to destroy the chance of German progress and cripple her expansion once for all, we shall take away from them the will, and by the same stroke the power, to lead their country in a new path. That settlement, therefore, will be most permanently effective which breaks the power of the military party without embittering the better elements among the German people. God will see to their judgment for the way they used their votes in the past ; it is politic for us to help them to vote rightly in the future. And it is politic mainly because it is Christian.

There is a third condition, which must be lightly touched. It is futile to think of conducting the reform of Germany in isolation from the rest of Europe. Suppose that we succeeded, the moral condition of the rest of Europe,