

THE WORLD PROBLEM

man Empire," and (or), perhaps, "The Rise, Decline, and Fall of the British Empire," for neither is the ultimate of history, but a passing element in human evolution onward to its divine consummation. In the future it is to be hoped that the culture of all the schools will include Universal History, truthfully taught and analyzed, with all its meaning for universal man, its lessons for every race and age, its gradual unfolding of man in the shadow of himself and in the light of God.

The philosophy of war as stated in James 5: 1 ff, has been amply justified,—the internal war of soul against spirit, the selfish demand for plunder, for pleasure, pursued by force and supported by a religion degraded to an accomplice. The combination is easy when religion descends to an institution of state-owned ecclesiasticism, as an instrument of militarism, and imperialistic aggrandizement. "The Rise, Decline, and Fall of the German Empire"* will illustrate the law of history which has been frequently emphasized in these pages; the legitimate and noble struggle against odds; the rise into independence, wealth, power, dominance, ambition, expansion, splendor, accompanied by a steady decline in spirituality; the development of soul in all the "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life," but with the decline eventually the perversion of the spiritual structure into the idolatry of a self-centred imperialism; a drifting away from the things of the Universal Father, of the Universal Brotherhood of nations and of man, into the vortex of final extinction. The law of the Christ comes true again, "He that seeks to save his soul"—the self-centred seeking to obtain, to grasp after more and

* Which it is hoped will also include, "The Rise of the United States of the German Peoples," to describe the beginning of another era of a different kind.