

## 10 The German Genius in War

All this arrogant fandango and blasphemous talk of the German "War-Lord" and the "All-Highest," and the claptrap of Potsdam, and the sabre-rattling, is swallowed by the mild civilian as if it were gospel. Ay, and in many a Mess is heard the same creed by officers who detest the Prussian and all his works, and are out to risk their lives to pull him down! It is amazing. But they have all seen it in print, so it must be true! The Press is quite as much convinced of it as Germany and the Germans. The Aristocrat is convinced of it.

It is all Mob Law. The Man-in-the-Street has never considered it with the eyes of knowledge. It may or may not be true. He really does not know. So he believes that it must be true. The Germans are a prolific people; and largeness always impresses the ranks of Mob Law. His own ignorance gives a Mob Law trend to the Man-in-the-Street on all matters of which he is ignorant.

No more dangerous doctrine could be held by the enemies of Prussia for their own undoing. Wellington is reported to have said that the reputation of Napoleon for invincibility had won many of his battles before a shot was fired.

To this danger the Man-in-the-Street has rushed through sheer slovenliness of thinking—sheer indolence has made him lie down with Mob Law.

Well, is it a fact?

The first and most important thing for him to discover is whether the German is supreme in the genius for War.

To discover the truth, the Man-in-the-Street has only to do one thing that is at all *difficult* for any of