

THE SADNESS OF THE WORLD

THE world is sadder than ever before, but this sadness is not all evil. There is in it much of inspiration, much of nobility, much of unselfishness. The determination to accomplish, the unalterable decision to do what is needful regardless of cost, the grim certainty that the devotion of all that is dearest to danger and to death is warranted and justified, imparts to our sadness a quality of pride which ennobles it.

The nature of the sadness in England and in France seems quite different from that in Germany. In the first two countries there is a singular lack of bitterness in it; it is the result of obedience to a duty almost religious in its purity; of a sacrifice to all that is loftiest in human aspirations. The call of the spiritual has been heard, and the resources of these countries are being dedicated to the purposes of the existence of mankind, the advancement of the world of men. There is little of malice, little of hate, nothing of fear; only an understanding that the biggest thing is happening which has ever taken place, and a knowledge that the people must be