

one must be very credulous, indeed, to see in that the real cause of the war. "No ! the deeper one delves into the psychology of nations, the more clearly one sees that we are hated, not for our weaknesses, but for our strength ; far more do their virtues than their faults make the Germans disliked—not what there is in us to blame, but what there is in us to praise—our achievements and our success were a thorn in the eye of our adversaries. Because Germany has become too great, England would make her small, and that is why now she puts other people, France and Russia, forward to fight for her, after her ancient fashion ; that is why Germany now sees the flower of her youth bleed in battle."^{*}

Having satisfied himself of the actual cause of the war, the writer proceeds to investigate the objective foundation for this hideous envy in England's heart—the *fons et origo mali*.

He finds it in Germany's foreign trade, which twenty-five years ago was but half that of England and little more than that of France, but in 1914 was 85 per cent. of the English and more than 150 per cent. of the French. England nevertheless should not have complained, for while the German trade increased threefold, the English doubled itself; and surely competition should not lead to a struggle for existence. The author then indulges in a long and boastful description of Germany's material progress and wealth, of the increase in population—"in the neighbouring country (France) the number of coffins, even in years of peace, overtakes the number of cradles" (that is irresistible) while on the contrary in Germany the births are more in number than the deaths by 800,000.

But particularly irritating was it to England that Germany began to contest her superiority on the water. Shortly after 1000, Germany wrested from England the blue ribbon for the swiftest Atlantic liner, and then she produced the floating palaces *Imperator* and

^{*} The writer indulges here in a pun, "Darum blutet jetzt Deutschlandes Blüte." "The flower (bloom) of Germany now bleeds."