

WHY THE UNITED STATES

conquerors. But so long as nations and individuals fight instead of co-work, we can at least expect the defeat of the very worst and the success of all that will best serve to bring about in the end the very best."

The second letter contains the following vigorous words:—

"You ask how I feel about the U.S.A. and the war. My thoughts and feelings have exactly paralleled those of Woodrow Wilson, and I think his have paralleled those of the majority of us. As I size us up, we are an idealistic people tempered with a good deal of pragmatism. It was our pragmatism that kept us out of the war when we might have entered, and now it is our idealism that has taken us into it when we might keep out. The fact is we have never really been in doubt as to the issue; that is why we have not hastened to enter. Could we have foreseen that without our assistance the war would drag on for three years and take such a heavy toll of life and property I believe we would have entered when Belgium was invaded. You see, when the war broke like a bolt out of a clear sky we were all so surprised that we didn't know what to think or do—complete 'unpreparedness' for anything of the sort—and the first thing that came to mind was the thing oftenest dinned into our ears—Washington's advice to beware of entangling alliances with Europe. Of course, we thought that it would all be over in about three months, and that the Powers