

But their beauty was that of the sleek man-eating tiger cub; their glee like unto the ferocious joy of the carnivorous wild beast which, scenting his prey from afar, exultingly gloats over the anticipated feast of blood. In the meantime German character, never too attractive, was being re-moulded on lines at once cruel and treacherous, unloving and unloved; German ambitions were being cultivated looking more than ever towards selfish ends; the German superman, that creature of efficiency without soul, was ushered into existence; and ample material was being provided for the enactment of the greatest tragedy of the ages upon the world's stage of today. These twin instruments of the Kaiser while filling their own home with glee have for years threatened the peace of Europe and at last have brought about what seems almost to be a convulsion of nature, and caused suffering and death, ruin and devastation on a scale greater than ever known in the history of mankind.

The war machine so carefully nurtured, was finally pronounced good by the Kaiser and declared fit for the preparatory task of further humbling France and rendering her powerless for all time, and of clipping the wings of Russia so that she would cease to be a menace to German ambitions. The Kaiser had carefully watched the trend of events in Europe, and, from the reports of his numerous emissaries in all foreign countries, he no doubt had good reason to think that the day had arrived which found Britain threatened with civil war at home on account of the Irish Home Rule question, with rebellion in India, and unrest and dissatisfaction throughout her colonies. This he felt would render her unable to join in the impending conflict on the continent which he was preparing to precipitate. With Britain a non-participant he counted that quick and decisive action on the part of his army would make it an easy matter to crush both France and Russia. The day was apparently dawning that was to witness the beginning of a preliminary struggle from which Germany would surely emerge victorious. Then shortly would be ushered in a still greater day when Britain, no doubt weakened and demoralized by her internal troubles, would fall an easy prey to the Kaiser's conquering legions. Then, oh joy! victory, revenge and world-wide power and dominion. A great scheme, carefully planned, and so certain of accomplishment. But as the old saw goes, "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-glee"; and the Kaiser found to his cost that he had guessed wrong. Instead of civil war in Britain, as soon as the first note of danger was sounded men dropped their party squabbles. All classes and all creeds, English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh were united as one in their desire to see their common country keep inviolate the treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium. From all over the British dominions beyond the seas also the same desire to curb the arrogant assumption of the braggart nation