

## The Causes and the Progress of the Great War.

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**T**HE brain of Bismarck produced the German Empire. The material out of which he founded and maintained this fabric was the military caste of Prussian landlords, who lived solely for the profession of arms—they are generally called “Junkers,”—and the industry and docility of the rest of the German Empire. The mass had to be welded together by the prestige of victory: so he fought, conquered and robbed little Denmark in 1864; and fought and beat Austria in 1866, but did not rob them of land, and so did not alienate the German caste which rules that Empire; and finally fought and beat and robbed France in 1870. On the strength of these three victorious campaigns, the German people have ever since been intoxicated with success, and have convinced themselves that they are invincible by land, and that any sacrifice of individual liberty is worth making for the glory and the expansion of the great German Empire.

And prosperity followed fast: not so much (as the Germans believe) from their prowess on the battlefield, and the advantages which they gained by the constant rattling of their sabres, and the bullying of their rulers; but chiefly from the good sense and energy of the industrial classes during the long years of peace and commercial development.