

CHAPTER II

THE GERMAN GENIUS IN WAR

THERE is a widespread belief that Germany, whatever her other failings or shortcomings, however great or little in her various activities and enterprises, has at least the supreme genius for War—that she is mistress of the Science of Strategy.

That is to say, in other words, that Germany has some bag of tricks whereby she can overthrow and compel her Will upon any enemy that stands in her way and opposes that will.

The Man-in-the-Street, in the railway carriage, in the 'bus, in the office, in the club, in the shop and in the home, here and in America, and in neutral countries—in Turkey and Greece and Bulgaria to their undoing—probably in Italy and Spain, and maybe even in France—amongst those who detest Germany most—in a vast number of cases holds, in some articulate or inarticulate fashion for which he does not attempt to account, that Germany is supreme in, and has the supreme genius for, all matters of War, above all in Strategy—leadership in battle.

There are many things that concur to lead the Man-in-the-Street—even when he is in fighting kit to-day—into this idea, nay 'tis a very creed, so freely and shrewdly put about and arrogantly supported by the Hun, and believed in by the Hun with keen intensity—and hope.