

adequate mechanical resources may be, and is, there is another and an overruling factor which in the past has enabled the Allies to meet and defeat the most carefully matured and elaborate plans of the Boche, and in the future will enable them to bring the Boche finally to his knees.

The clever critics in civil life must not tell the survivors of Mons, the Marne, Verdun, Ypres, and the Somme that this is a war of mechanism pure and simple; they must not tell the men who know Fleury, Souville, Vaux, Douaumont, Poivre Hill, the ground between Cumières and Eix, with all its intensity of martyrdom, heroism, and tragedy, that only mechanism can give the victory. The notion may be unanswerable in a comfortable study, or in one of the rhetorical outbursts of the Arch-Boche. But it will never do for the men who really know, and who have paid in blood and sweat and agony, in blanched hair or broken health, for their knowledge. It is not mechanism—but, rather, perhaps, it is blind faith in mechanism—which makes the Boche cry “*Mercy, Kamerad*”; and it is not mechanism which prevents any equivalent cry from ever being heard on the lips of a *poilu*, or of one of his British brothers in arms. It may at once be granted that, lacking mechanical resources, no army could possibly survive in this war. It may further