

still not much compared with those of old established empires and colonial powers, but Germany came late into the field and cannot expect in a few years to rival the work of generations and centuries. There is only one way of doing that and the others all know it. Best of all for him, the Kaiser could sit back and reflect comfortably on the fact that the population of Germany was increasing at a greater rate than that of Britain or France. Why, then, should he go to war and stake all these gains in a mortal conflict with three great Powers, even if he had Austria-Hungary to help him? There is every reason to believe that he knew Italy would not join him in such a venture. It is months now since the Austrian Premier gave a very plain intimation of his opinion on that point.

The security of Germany from attack was unquestionable. No nation in the world would have sought war with her unless forced into it by her aggressions. Even Austria-Hungary, as her firm ally, would have had "peace in our time," as the Prayer Book says, by simply abstaining from stretching out further a despotic hand over the young nationalities of the Balkans.

But the truth is that Germany has been so confident in her military strength, so arrogantly confident, that she has not hesitated to challenge at one and the same time during the last eight or ten years three great European powers by an openly aggressive policy. Not to speak of the feud with France, the Germanic policy in the Balkans has been not only a menace to Russia but a steady series of humiliations, and at the same time it has been just as openly challenging British power on the sea and forcing a very burdensome competition in naval armaments on England.

GERMANIC POLICY IN THE BALKANS.

Professor Muensterberg, of Harvard, is trying to persuade the Americans that Russia is to blame for the present war. She was mobilizing, he says, although the Kaiser asked her not to. No one can tell yet how this new constitutional or semi-constitutional Russia is to turn out as an influence in Europe once she gets on her legs again. She appears to be willing to enter upon better courses, but I would not expect miraculous changes. In the present case, however, it is hardly