

other rivalries are not at the base of all this horror. But commercial and scientific Germany is not the real Germany. Must then we give way to the Teutonic idea? For what reason? Have we too not a right to live and thrive in our own free way? Must we yield like the Roman Empire to a new Teutonic invasion? Let us trace rapidly then the rise and revelation of modern Germany and its aim. Let us justify ourselves. We fight not for conquest but in defence of our freedom. To all difficulties there is usually a key. Of all unusual situations there is usually a true explanation. The key to the present situation lies in these memorable words of the German official account of the negotiations which failed to prevent war:—"Faithful to our principle that mediation should not extend to the Austro-Serbian conflict which is to be considered a purely Austria-Hungarian affair, but merely to the relation between Austria-Hungary and Russia, we continued our endeavours to bring about an understanding between these two powers."

Now, the Congress of Vienna had met many years before and there the nations of Europe after centuries of struggling had agreed upon a status quo, a Balance of Power, which is the only hope of peace. The whole trend of human events since the beginning of history has through all the horrors of all the wars led up to this solution. Nations had at last agreed upon the relations and extent of the powers of Europe and had said at the Congress of Vienna, "there must be no more wars of conquest or bad faith, we have agreed upon our boundaries." Belgium, Serbia and similar small nations made up the exact adjustment of the balance, and were thus guaranteed their independent existence. But lo! in 1909 Austria seized Bosnia and Herzegovina, of the Balkan States, without warning or excuse. Europe wondered. Then came the declaration of this war of Austria upon Serbia, and the expressed refusal of any reference to arbitration. The agreement of the Congress of Vienna became for Germany and her Ally a dead letter. But for Britain, France and Russia it still exists and that is what is meant by "keeping faith" with Belgium and Serbia. In the last analysis it is the balance of power in Europe, and therefore the security of the Entente Nations that is at stake. If France becomes a third-rate, defeated power, the British Empire goes with it. Germany dreams of a great Colonial and friendly empire, and she has transferred her affections from Brazil to Canada. It is for Canadians to give the answer.

Who then is to blame for this interruption? Who has defied the compact of the Congress of Vienna. Not Britain, not France, not Russia, nor Italy, Serbia or Belgium. We may well and seriously again ask ourselves what are Germany's intentions.

It is at this point that the sketch of the history of German development becomes especially illuminating. Prussia—Brandenburg in 1620 had about 1,000,000 inhabitants. The Thirty Years War had made it even poorer than before. The people were without hope. The Great Elector instituted the present "system" which he applied not only to military affairs but to civil affairs as well. Under this system the monarch is the sole ruler. By dint of energy and economy, and robber-raids he enlarged the boundaries and prosperity of his provinces. Popular government in Prussia had failed. Autocracy had succeeded.