

ENTERED THE WAR

The United States would have made her choice even earlier had she not been faced with the problem of overcoming her own rather superstitious but easily understandable devotion to the idea of a self-sufficient and geographically aloof isolation. "We are thoroughly aroused," comes now the message of a deeply patriotic American, "and as determined as we have been patient. . . . All during the war I have been much depressed, but now there is a wonderful lightness of heart and an almost passionate yearning for suffering. We have no right to be exempt."

It is quite clear, then, that the American national consciousness, although it had come to feel that the time was nearly ripe for the co-operation of the country with the Entente Alliance, was stirred into a remarkable and almost unanimous determination that America should do her part, on account of several occasions, or contributory causes, likely to induce war, some of which had existed from the beginning, while others appeared more or less simultaneously with the final ripening of the moment which has been spoken of above.

These several occasions may be briefly set down as follows:—

First, the faithless invasion of Belgium by the Germans, the atrocities that followed, and the callous and brutal oppression of the civil population.

Second, the traditional fellowship between the United States and France.

Third, the growing feeling of kinsman-like sympathy with the British Empire as it suffered and