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The Hour of Expiation Is Now Beginning

Our generation sees the principles involved in this war but it is not quite sure it can see the end. Therefore it cannot be repeated too often that this war is not like any of the other wars born in all countries in all centuries between two or more states of conflict of well defined political and economic interests. It is a species of chaos in which, little by little, the whole of Europe is precipitated and dissolved: it is the first and terrible result of that folie des grandeurs which in recent times have disturbed with its turbid ravages the legitimate pride in its great successes.

Let us try to understand well the deep meaning of the events that have appalled the world during the last year. Who was it who wished this war, who prepared and provoked this war in the hour that seemed propitious? The case has been judged: it was Germany.

But what was Germany before that fatal 1st of August, 1914, when the earth suddenly seemed as if it opened at our feet, and the sky was about to fall? It was the admiration and model of the world. No nation was so much admired in the last decades even by those peoples who were to be its first and its most unhappy victims.

But how was the scourge of Europe able to mask itself for so long as the model of the world? Analyzed in that sense we discover the mortal weakness of our times! We admired Germany not only as giving an example of industry, of order, of enterprise, of ability in organizing the forces of individuals, but also, and chiefly, because she had been victorious in two wars; because her riches, the number of her sons, her fabric and her power grew visibly; because she forged much iron and made many machines; because she was reputed invincible, because she was feared and envied her.

Bowed Down Smiling Before Boasting Power.

Partly intimidated, partly dazzled, we bowed down, smiling obsequiously before this dark and overbearing power who boasted of having overthrown and of meaning to overthrow too many of these boundaries before which our fathers taught us to pause as before sacred places.

We all pretended not to remember that Germany had prepared the war of 1870 with diabolic art so as to make believe she was attacked when she was the aggressor.

We pretended not to see, when, in order to maintain her iniquitous gains, Germany forced Europe to engage with her in the strife of unlimited armaments which has been the real cause of the present ruin.

We did not blame her, rather we praised her, for seducing our minds with her philosophy to the point of absurdity, confounding the criteria of truth and falsehood, of good and bad, that men had held as most sound and clear; for adding, by her science, every year new arms to the arsenal of violence and fraud.

Hour of Expiation Is Now at Hand.

Germany was strong, stronger than her neighbors and rivals. Germany had conquered, was conquering and would conquer! Germany, therefore, was in the right!

The century had left its youth behind; the fables learnt in childhood were no longer believed—the fables that justice conquers and that the overbearing are always punished.

A generation, who were certainly educated to nobler things have reasoned thus for forty years.

Having destroyed or put aside as antiquated all the old measures of virtue and of vice, of merit and of guilt; not having known how to create new measures—for she had mistaken the signification of limits and tradition—our generation was reduced to measure the power of a nation too accordingly to ordinary weights and measures.

And now begins the hour of expiation of this long error. Thus encouraged by her own success and by the world's thoughtlessness, this power, Germany, has grown and grown—until one day she persuaded herself she could fall suddenly on her frightened admirers and crown herself with victory.

When the danger became manifest the world awoke from its stupor and forged the chains of a formidable protective alliance, each link of which becomes stronger and more closely soldered every day.

And even to this alliance success came slowly and with difficulty; but this is not surprising because for half a century we have all worked unceasingly to make Germany great and powerful.

It is necessary that we keep these thoughts always present in our minds if we are not to relax for a moment the strength of thought and deed which is necessary to the people of

Europe in order to confine within the limits of justice and wisdom this excessive power.

This is the common duty of all non-German Europe, as it was their common guilt to permit the growth of the excessive German power.

Partly from a sincere desire, partly under the pretext of learning in their schools whatever the Germans could teach, Italy—let us own it frankly—has let herself be too much Germanized in the last thirty years. At least part of the intellectual and moral disorder from which our generation has suffered so much is due to German ideas and teaching. Through these we were losing our sense of right and justice in the great affairs of the world; our sense of the humanities in art, philosophy, literature and politics; the ambition of perfection in too many branches of culture and of industry.

Days When Italy Covered To Germany.

Hence the madness which made us one day, in order to secure peace, lend our ears to the voluble disseminators of infallible specifics for the rejuvenation of Italy, Europe and the world; another day to hasten to run-around in the Sirti; and on still another when we wished at all cost to take possession of the castle in the air existing only in our own imagination, and getting furious with ourselves because our wish could not be fulfilled.

Well, whatever trials we may have to face, and they are not likely to be small or few, we ought to bless them of in this world crisis we lose our wickedness, our rancour and even the memory of these days when, almost without perceiving it, Italy covered at the feet of Germany as if she were a protected power.

It is our duty to help Europe to weaken the German hegemony, which in reality was only a mask counterfeiting empire placed on the monstrous face of a new tyrant; the tyranny of an oligarchy of great manufacturers, of great armament makers, of great merchants, impatient to spread their goods.

Duty To Help Europe In Danger.

It was our duty to help Europe in this danger, because if Germany and Austria were to win we too should have to bend beneath the yoke of this new tyranny to save ourselves from a grave peril.

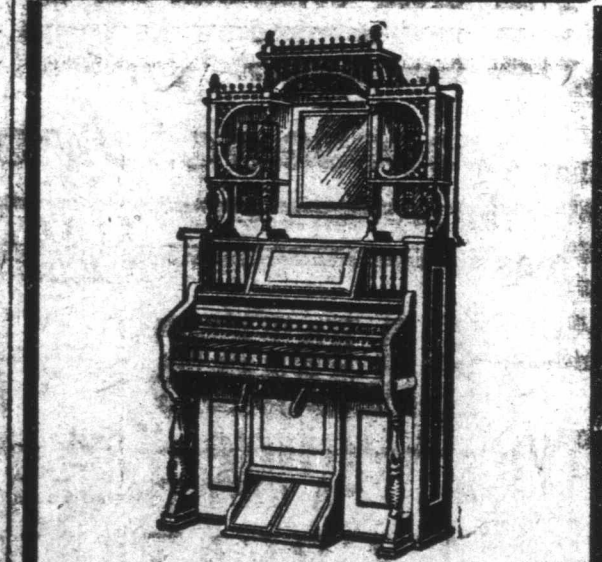
No nation can make itself the object of admiration of other nations except either as Germany has done, through fear or else through glorious actions that, at least in part, are for the good of all.

We have not succeeded in terrifying the world—and I do not think that after the war of this last year anyone will ever be able again to terrify the world. We have done great and glorious service to the world; but it was in far-off times—and men's memories are weak.

It is not out of place to renew old memories and place them side by side with the new and glorious work.

If we fulfil our whole—civil and military duty to the end; if fortune favors, as it certainly will favor, our cause, if we also can deliver a telling blow against the Empire of the Hapsburgs, if Italy, too, is present on the banks of the Bosphorus on the day when non-German Europe retakes possession of Constantinople, if we can put barriers to the German ambitions across those paths which it is our duty to defend, the adequate recompense for so many sacrifices will not be wanting.

Italy will be greater in a better Europe, liberated henceforth from that servile admiration of numbers, of quality, of power which has been the greatest sin of our generation.



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RUSSIAN ARMIES NUMBER MILLIONS

Czar's Forces Have Not Been in Such Good Shape For Months.

AT THE RUSSIAN FRONT, via Petrograd, Dec. 7.—The next forward movement of the Russian armies will be in a number of millions, not army corps, according to the statement of high army official. The armies are in better shape than for many months, said this official, and quite capable of moving forward at any point. But a new board, plan of campaign contemplates much more than the taking of towns and territory by drives at this point and that.

The Russian staff is well satisfied with the net result of the strategy during the past summer, and is asserted, is willing to bide its time for the inception of the new campaign. A contented army, well fed, clothed and housed and weekly steam-cleaned is the first Russian army, as seen by the Associated Press correspondent during a ten days visit to the positions along the eastern front.

The army is in snug permanent winter quarters but is ready at an hour's notice to march.

Within a mile of the firing—and firing is kept up intermittently, day and night, both from the trenches and by the batteries—are thousands of men camped in half under ground cabins of logs covered with sod and soil, proof against cold and almost bomb proof. Abundant forests furnish plenty of material and the men are clever at cutting and concentrating. There are quarters for the officers and for the men, officers club and mess quarters, and, strangest of all, steam baths, in which the men take turns at being thorough steamed and scrubbed. They are then furnished with fresh under garments.

In one section inspected by the correspondent 2500 men were camped in a patch of woodland, twenty acres in extent, but the impression gained, on a drive through the camp was of one tenth that number. An enemy air-man would have difficulty in locating the camp at all.

The bath houses of log construction with a tight compartment containing a stone stove or furnace. Shelves range around these sides on which the bathers lie. Water thrown on the hot stove provides a dense steam, after an hour perspiring in such an atmosphere and scrubbing by men detailed for the service the soldiers come forth parboiled but thoroughly cleansed.

In the officers club rooms tables are arranged for the seating of forty or fifty. At a special breakfast recently given an orchestra of twenty pieces, recruited from among the enlisted men, played airs from the various operas in excellent style. A chorus of a dozen soldiers alternated with Russian folk songs.

Food is plentiful. Not only is there a variety but certain delicacies are served at the officers mess. Three pounds of bread are served per man, a liberal quantity of meat and "kasha" or boiled buckwheat.

The men are all provided with long ulsters, lambs wool caps, good woolen underwear and stout boots.

The correspondent was struck by the universal good humour of the men on the way to the front. Train after train was passed filled with soldiers. Most of the trains were composed of freight cars fitted with bunks. At the doors and windows smiling faces appeared, the men chaffing one another and hurrying out with little tea kettles for hot water which is provided for in quantities at every station of the country.

Trenches at one point visited were scarcely 200 yards from those of the Germans. There was a labyrinth of deep passages intercepting one another, braced by stakes. Soldiers stood at the port holes, alert for the least sign of a movement across the way and keeping up a desultory fire day and night. Over head at intervals whistled shells from the Russian and German batteries.

VERY HIGH TIDE

Saturday the highest tide within the harbor. Water covered several of the wharves, notably Ayre's, Pitts', Fearn's and others and perishable goods on them had to be quickly removed. Horses in some cases, notably on Horwood's eastern wharf could not get down to deliver freight at the sides of craft.

Candle and other lights are supposed to burn blue and dim when invisible beings are present, especially when they be evil spirits.

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