

WHERE GERMANY IS UNCIVILIZED.

No Nation in the World Has Reached Perfect Civilization, but Germany is, of All Powerful Nations, Furthest in the Rear.

BY BENJAMIN A. GOULD

CIVILIZATION does not consist in knowledge: that is often one of its least important attributes. Neither does it consist in religion or in the much misused term of culture in the sense of what the Romans called the humanities.

It is almost impossible to give to civilization a definition which will not fall short at one point or another; it is inclusive of so much which is ethical, which is scientific, which is governmental, which is artistic, which is social, that to know what the word really means we have to study the history of all that has happened since the birth of man with a view to understanding its bearing upon what man is to-day and what he may become during the development of the future.

Complex and Simple, Too.

A true civilization must be both exceedingly complex and exceedingly simple, however paradoxical this may sound. Its simplicity lies in the fact of its universality, of its catholicity, of the fundamental broadness that must make it applicable to every unit in the body politic. Its complexity lies in the need that it be equal to the assimilation of every discovery and every advance, and that it be able to meet every new condition and new need. It must be above nothing, no matter how small, and beneath nothing, no matter how great.

One of the clearest evidences of civilization is toleration. This presumes a broadmindedness which can eliminate the relative unimportance of personal views wherever these views do not ripen into action prejudicial to the existence and growth of civilization. This toleration applies to many things, social as well as religious.

If the world were truly civilized, it would of necessity mean an end to war, for war would be quite superfluous,

and could accomplish nothing of value. This is the truth underlying Norman Angell's Great Illusion. That war has been brought about by a nation is in itself a proof of the lack of civilization of that nation, and when the methods of carrying on the war are even more barbarous than the fact of its inception, this proof is doubly clear. No matter how the analysis of present European conditions is made, one of the most salient facts that becomes evident is that scientific and educated Germany is fundamentally uncivilized.

In its very derivation, civilization is what pertains to the citizen, and differs but slightly from politics in its broadest meaning. It would therefore seem impossible that in an autocracy, where the citizen as such has but little influence, a true civilization could fructify; and a consideration of history will emphasize this fact. More of the essentials of a true civilization will be found in the town meeting of the New England village, with its unadulterated democracy, than in the scientific complexities of a German militarism.

Cannot Bind the Free.

We look back with horror upon the Inquisition, and regard the acts of a Torquenada in trying to compel a belief in the Roman Church by means of rack and wheel as the acme of barbarism. But wherein does this differ in kind from the acknowledged intention of Germany to spread the virtues of its "Kultur" with fire and sword and to impose them upon unwilling peoples?

The Pilgrim fathers sought the right to worship as they chose, and like the Huguenots of France, were willing to suffer for this fundamental of freedom. Can Germany believe that in this twentieth century those who have been bred to an appreciation of the right of individual choice will be content to have a German system to which