

## GERMANY'S MORAL DOWNFALL

### II

Various explanations have been offered for the terrible conduct of the German army of conquest. Some writers, aware of the traditional barbarism of the German armies, and forgetful of the decline in morality since 1870, attribute all the savagery to the German temperament, which, as a distinguished Frenchman, M. Journelle, has recently said, displays a "weakness of conscience and latent criminality." The same writer goes on to say that "all the brutality, perfidy, and savagery manifested by Germany from day to day is not to be explained by any philosophic theory, or as a systematic policy. Temperament is an essential part of it. Moreover, there must be a special lack of the moral sense, an inherent deficiency of the sentiments of justice, honor, and charity. There must be an hereditary perversity."

These strictures on the German temperament, no doubt, can be made with much justification. The Germans as a people, and especially the Prussians, are cruel and brutal, and less amenable to refinement and morality than the other peoples of western