

something with which Germany can more nearly cope. But does anybody believe that Germany would stop there? Naval superiority, like military superiority, must always lie somewhere, but it is evident that it is safer for the world in general when they do not both lie in the same hands. Naval superiority alone, however powerful it may be for defence, is no great weapon for aggression. There could be no worse fate for Europe than that supremacy both on land and on sea should be in the hands of the Kaiser and his military aristocracy.

THE KAISER'S AIM.

That Great Britain would stand by France in this war must have been foreseen by the Kaiser, though perhaps he was surprised by the swift and decisive action of the British Government in sending the fleet to the North Sea. There was the bold promptitude of an aristocracy in that, but an aristocracy of another type than the German, and trained to work with democracy. There can be little doubt that Germany has been preparing for a conflict with Britain as well as France as a necessary step to a kind of world supremacy including a great territorial and commercial expansion. It is the ideal which Treitschke and other German writers have ever since the Franco-German war been holding up to their countrymen as the logical and inevitable development of the German nation. It is the old goal of universal domination, the goal of Rome, the goal of Napoleon, that is once more looming up to menace us. Doubtless the Kaiser would have preferred not to fight both France and Britain at once, but he seems to have judged that no more favorable moment was likely to arrive. Britain appeared to be on the brink of civil war over the Irish question, and the great self-governing colonies were only beginning to work at a defensive organization for the Empire.

INTERNAL CAUSES IMPELLING GERMANY TO WAR.

The internal political situation in Prussia has also no doubt had something to do with the Kaiser's decision at this time. The opponents of elective reform in Prussia, the all powerful Prussian nobility in particular, saw that they were about to face a struggle for the equalization of the franchise.