

4 PRUSSIANISM AND ITS DESTRUCTION

ambitions and necessities changed it all, her great work has been in things of the mind. Voltaire embodied this common judgment of educated men in Europe two hundred years ago, when he said that "France ruled the land, England the sea, and Germany the clouds." And even now, in the passion and heat of war, there are Britons who cannot be accused of pro-Germanism who recognize this in the fullest degree. One of them has said quite recently :

"The world's debt to Germany for thought and knowledge is inestimable. . . . Germany was a land of dreams. Her peoples from the earliest times had been children of romance, and they became, not only pioneers of thought, but the unequalled masters of certain forms of imaginative art. Of that the mere names of their composers and poets—Grimm and Humperdinck, Schubert and Schumann, Schiller, Heine, Weber, Brahms—are sufficient testimony. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner—no other people has had such genius in the world of blended thought and emotion out of which music springs; and no other people has shown so constantly the power of laborious craftsmanship which musical creation demands. Goethe, who represented in his single work all three of the great movements of German mind—in science, in thought, and in romance—was typical of German capacity, and in his attitude to the world a typical German of his time. . . . The ideal of that Germany was art and culture, not patriotism. Its vital forces were turned to the production, not of political efficiency or military leadership, but of Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason,' Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and Goethe's 'Faust.' This was the Germany on which the figure of the genial professor, familiar to caricature, was founded. To it the world owes, and has always paid, a steady tribute of affection and gratitude."*

* "The Round Table," September, 1914. See also Chap. vi.