

GERMANY'S MORAL DOWNFALL

spell over the entire nation and to have become the view of life of the whole German people. It has found expression in many quarters, but there is reason to believe that Bernhardt's infamous book, *Germany and the Next War*, is its best exponent. This book and the conduct of the war reveal how completely brutality and diabolism have taken possession of the nation, and how thoroughly the national morality has been undermined.

The conduct of the Germans since the armistice has been further evidence that as a nation they have lost any moral character they may have had, and are now devoid of honor or of shame. Exposed as no nation ever was in their perfidious lies and treachery, they show no signs of national contrition. Base and brutal in war, they are ignoble and craven in peace. Nothing could better disclose the canker that has eaten away their national character. Their cruelty when they thought themselves victorious has been more than matched by their cowardice when they found themselves vanquished. Their heartlessness to the peoples they enslaved and starved has been out-