

## Visions.

Words can scarce be found to record the thoughts that rush and crowd upon our minds in connection with the frightful conflict that is now being waged upon the soil of Europe, while time will not permit of even a casual reference to many of them. Our hopes and fears alternate as we try to grasp the salient points presented or to realize the important lessons that undoubtedly are being conveyed whether we are in a fit condition to receive them or not. We dare to hope that the war will soon be brought to an end by decisive victories for the Allies, the absolute crushing of the Prussian demon of militarism, and the establishment of a durable peace satisfactory to all the nations. Our fears, though, lead us to dread the result that the demoniacal actions of our frenzied foe may have upon our own people and our allies. This may lead them to carry out bitter reprisals before the war ends and to exact from Germany concessions that will be regarded by her people as so humiliating that it will leave a feeling of deep resentment that will threaten at all times the future peace of the world. Again let us hope that better counsels may prevail and that successful efforts may be made by the diplomats who will arrange the terms of peace, a body of men that will no doubt contain many of the brightest intellects in the world, so as to prevent a festering sore being left in the centre of Europe. This war is being waged with the avowed object on the part of the Allies of bringing about a durable peace and at its conclusion, no matter how strong the provocation may have been on the part of Germany, no feelings of revenge must be allowed to defeat the object in view. Reparation to the fullest extent possible must be exacted by all means, but not revenge. Otherwise we will be but sowing dragon's teeth which will in due time spring up and overwhelm us by a holocaust even greater than that in which we are now enveloped. The cost of this war in blood and treasure will be frightful; almost beyond human computation. Shall we benefit to some extent by the lessons it should teach or shall we return like the sow to its wallow, and refuse to learn wisdom from the awful experiences through which we are passing? I have more confidence in my country and more faith in my countrymen than to imagine that any such calamity can occur. Instead, a glorious vision opens before me in which we become emblematic of the colors of the German flag and emerge from the black and tempestuous night by which we are now encompassed through blood and sweat and agony to the white light of a happy and prosperous day.

The war, while so terrible in its actual results, has fortunately a brighter side to show. The acts of heroism that are witnessed daily, the voluntary self-sacrifices that are so frequently made and the friendships that have already been brought about among