

WHAT THE PRESENT WAR MEANS.

MR. Carnegie's Temple of Peace at the Hague has been opened just in time to look out on a general European war. To add to the irony of the situation Mr. Carnegie, casting about in his inaugural speech for a possible guardian of permanent peace, fixed upon the German Kaiser as its main hope and stay. The great ironmaster's appeal was natural enough, of course, and a well-timed use of a good opportunity, for the Kaiser was then the strong man in Europe, and it is only the strong that can keep peace or do much towards it. But the question is always, has the strong man got all that he wants?

If the Kaiser has not quite got all he wanted he has certainly got a very great deal in the five and twenty years during which he has ruled Germany. He has succeeded in spite of some democratic opposition in building up the great German military machine to the utmost extent that the nation can bear. Even the Socialists in the Reichstag voted for the extension of the conscription last year, being pacified partly by the fact that the additional expense was to be laid only on the wealthy classes. Within 12 years or so he has raised the German navy from a position of insignificance to the second place after Great Britain's. He has seen a great German mercantile navy grow up whose oversea commerce is already about three-fourths of that of the world-wide British Empire. German bankers and syndicates under his protection have extended their operations and planted their agencies all over the Near and the Far East. German industries have risen rapidly to a commanding position in the markets of the world. Germany has been getting her slices of the globe, too, naval stations and points of vantage; she has got slices of territory in Africa, part of New Guinea, with many adjacent and outlying islands in the Pacific; she has got a port and two hundred square miles of territory in China; she has got (from Britain, by exchange), Heligoland, a rock fortress, which now protects the German coast instead of threatening it, as formerly.

Naturally she has encountered keen competition, and some opposition in this expansion, and it is true her holdings are