

expense of France and Belgium, we too are involved, and our own existence is at stake. Such struggles are the certain and necessary result of the natural increase of population, for which no one is to be blamed. But they involve the dispossession of a neighbour, and the neighbour in this case is England.

The professed aim of Germany is universal empire, and Germans add that this is the ultimate end of all wars, attributing it to ourselves in our wars with Napoleon, and at other times. This is not quite true, for we have often given back conquests which we might have retained, and forgone them when they might have been made without much difficulty. We may, however, admit that the proposition is generally true. The really important question is this: what are the further results on account of which empire is desired? They may be either altruist or egotist, and we want to know, in each case, under which of these two categories it falls. Let us begin with our own aim in the Napoleonic wars. It was to secure freedom—not only for ourselves, but also for all other nations in Europe, including the Germans—to develop, each and all of them, its own type of civilization, on its own appropriate lines; this may fairly be described as, in the main, altruistic. The aim of Napoleon, on the contrary, was the diffusion of the typical principles of the French Revolution, and the destruction of all that were opposed to them, thereby creating a French empire, with himself at the head of it. This may fairly be called egotistic. Similarly, it is reported of Alexander that his professed aim was to make Greeks of the barbarians. The aim of the Germans is no doubt to make all men like themselves, and to extinguish all conflicting types of civilization. But the advance of civilization is dependent on