

The artistic genius in its imaginative constructions is accustomed to proceed by an implicit half-unconscious form of reasoning. It tends to neglect and even suppress as much as possible a cold conscious logic in these imaginative processes. And it does rightly in this, for cold logical construction is worth little in art. But when we have to pass judgement on things that actually exist, the process requires a cooler observation and a more careful comparison of phenomena. There is a great difference between Hjärne and Hallström in this respect. The professor not only knows more of the relevant phenomena, but he sees more than he says, enough to give a certain measure and reserve to his judgement; the romancer will see nothing and cares for nothing but the point he seeks to make. He is not strong on documentary evidence but relies rather on the higher vision for his case. But he is perfectly sincere in his Germanic enthusiasm and begins his book by formally declaring that the worst and most depressing thing about the war is the way in which "the high and neutral fields of right and just thinking" had been violated in the battle of words. His book ends with a chapter on "Frederick the Great and German heroism" in which he remarks by way of moral that that past history of Frederick's is repeating itself in all essential traits in the struggle we see to-day. "Had Frederick been beaten he would have been a mere adventurer who set Europe on fire for an impracticable end, a miscreant who deserved his punishment. It is only his victory that taught us to see and understand the heroism and moral fortitude with which he took upon himself the wrong in the eyes of men in order that the deeper right which he considered his might secure by victory due consideration for itself in the world judgement."

Very true! Mr. Hallström, we may see, is not wanting in the higher vision, though a little reckless in the lower forms of proof. But the conclusion we would draw from it in Canada is that we must see to it that no victory, nor any ambiguous peace even, puts such a moral crown on Wilhelm II.