

THE WAR FOR THE WORLD

which, as the Hague Conference proved, burdens all Europe with an ever-increasing tax for armaments and is ready to sow the waters of the world with submarine mines : a Germany from which we turn shuddering. It only needs the dispossession of the Poles for Germany to lose her last lingering hold upon those whose respect is not for might but for civilization. Let her true patriots look to it, let them learn from the case of Hungary that even from a material point of view it does not pay to defy humanity's slowly-evolved ideals of right and justice. Each of us can see the mote in his brother's eye, and justice has thus still a certain almost universal support among those unconcerned in the particular issue—naturally always the majority of mankind.

"Writing on the first of the year, I can but wish for you and your brother Poles, that the new year will witness the collapse of this lamentable and impolitic policy."

XII.

At the May meeting of a peace society, some six months before Sinkiewicz issued his appeal, I find myself rebuking the shallow optimism of the late Mr. Stead, with whom I had already crossed olive-branches at a prior peace meeting, when after a tour of all the crowned heads of Europe he reported enthusiastically that the millennium was almost upon us :—

"I take the opportunity," I wrote, "of reminding Mr. Stead that more good will be done by facing the brutal facts of life and the European situation than by allowing the wish that war shall cease to be father to the thought that it is ceasing. When Mr. Stead and I were last together on a peace platform he maintained that I was unduly pessimistic in the face of a most glorious prospect of universal peace and disarmament. I said it was very doubtful if disarmament would be brought at all nearer by this Conference, and that Germany was the enemy. Mr. Stead insisted that the Kaiser was the greatest peace lover in Europe, and apparently only wore so many uniforms for amusement. I venture to repeat that those who preach against war must never under-rate its glamour, and particularly the great vested interests which depend upon its continuance. It is only by education,