

THE DECREASING VALUE OF NATIONHOOD

ONE of the most important things taught by this war is that the value of nationhood is lessening. This may seem an extraordinary assertion, but none the less I believe it to be true.

In the early development of mankind, the nation was of paramount importance, and was necessary for the physical safety of its citizens. The first nations were little more than the restriction within geographical boundaries of the old tribal relationships, which theretofore had been merely sociological and not dependent upon location. They were a direct and natural result of the development of tribes from wandering communities, subsisting on the chase and following wherever the promise of game might lead them, into agriculturists with a definite interest in a definite locality. The need for mutual assistance in self-protection had caused the organisation of the nomadic tribes; this same need continued even after their wanderings had ceased, and was the basis of the establishment of nations. These early tribal and national