

GERMANY AND GERMANS

the war that we find in Britain, or the same imperious claim to see all the diplomatic correspondence that preceded it. These things the German has not been trained to consider his affair, but almost the deepest thing in his heart is the thought planted there in early childhood of the beloved Fatherland, the glorious Empire, the gallant Kaiser, the almost divine mission of the German race.

Therefore the average German is not responsible for the war in quite the same degree as the average Englishman, who certainly had clearer information and greater freedom in expressing his opinion, and we should be slow to include him in the same condemnation as those leaders of his who, as far as we can see, deliberately attacked the peace of Europe. And if we look away from the war, and remember Germany as we knew it before last summer, how much room there is for the sympathy, admiration and gratitude which are the springs of international goodwill.

It would be useless to deny that there are elements in the national characteristics on both sides which tend to obscure our fundamental likenesses. Much that is best in either is common to both nations, devotion to duty, stubborn courage, tenacity of purpose, respect for principle, patriotism, and the love of simple things. But there are many superficial qualities antagonistic to a good understanding with each other. The North German habit of mind is uncongenial to us in its stiffness, clumsiness, boastfulness, sentimentality, and absence of respect for the feelings of others. Nor is ours congenial to Germans—our quiet consciousness of unspoken superiority, our irritating reticence, our maddening tranquillity in great matters, our annoying crossness over