

GERMANY AND GERMANS

devotion to the Empire seems to have blinded parts of the nation to the claims of honour, truth, justice, and humanity, but it has led also to the 'superhuman bravery' which our men at the front describe with regretful admiration.

For, indeed, the German Empire seems to the German 'the lordliest life on earth'. We must remember that the men and women who were the parents and teachers of the soldiers now in the field spent their youth in the glory and exhilaration of the newly-founded Empire. Their childhood was inspired and thrilled by tales of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the heroic venture of its enterprise, the gathering of kindred armies under one leader, the sudden and magnificent success, the devotion of soldiers, the gallant figure of the old King, the chivalrous Crown Prince, the irresistible march on Paris, the glory of the day at Versailles when brothers in arms met at the enemies' gates to form a new unity which should outshine the ancient splendours of the Holy Roman Empire. The capture of Alsace-Lorraine and its forcible retention within the Empire seemed only the recovery of a province lost in an hour of weakness two centuries before, and it was confidently expected that the lapse of a few years would revive the dormant sense of German nationality. It was the recall of a missing member of a family, unwilling, no doubt, for the moment, to return to his deserted kindred, but sure to be won in time. The change in the map which made the Rhine, as the song says, 'Deutschland's Strom, nicht Deutschland's Grenze,' aroused an enthusiasm such as we can imagine best by remembering our own joy when the Sirdar entered