

into many pieces, saying unto the awe-struck son of Goschen—"Thus saith the Lord William, High Commander of the Earth and Sea and Sky. Even so will I tear the realms asunder of thy king of shred and patches."

But in all this there is a ray of hope. Germany is still very young. The seething mass of contradiction which we have seen fermenting in her head, above all her hungry impatience for admiration and recognition, show clearly how very young she is, and what a vast fund of saving simplicity lies under all her truculence. She is a *nouveau riche* too, and has not yet learnt good manners or respect for her elders. She still insists on eating peas with a knife. But youth is corrigible, even ill-conditioned youth, like Germany's. England is old, but *ἀμόγρως*, and is still capable of the ancient exorcism of the slipper upon that sensitive part of her young protégé's person which is the only path to his respect, and, finally, let us hope, to his affection. She will, as I heard a cabman's chance remark, a voice-omen by the way, prophetically foreshadow, "knock the hell out of them Dutchmen," that is, expel the devils that have taken possession of them, and send them into the herd of Junker wild-boars down a steep place into her sea, leaving the old Germany of Goethe and our love clothed and in her right mind once more.

England is old but she is an old oak tree. She has grown strong under the blasts of ten thousand hurricanes, and every inch of earth her roots have spread to has been gained in the fight for freedom. She has risen on the ruins of the successive tyrannies of Europe. The Armada of Philip of Spain, the pompous sanguinary pride of Louis XIV, the universal Empire of Napoleon have gone down one after another before her; and now the fall of the Hohenzollern robber-barons by her hand will mark the re-birth of a new and chastened Germany, fit to live and let live in the comity of nations, as well as the passage of her own Empire from a loose aggregate of widely scattered states to a fabric of organic adamant,

Whole as the marble, founded as the rock,
As broad and general as the casing air.

JOHN MACNAUGHTON