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*BARBARIANS BY CHOICE.*

It does not say much for modern civilization, not to speak of culture, when a prominent citizen of a great nation takes pride in its being a nation of barbarians. Such, however, is the sentiment of a retired general officer of the German army, Maj.-Gen. Von Disfurth, in an article contributed to the Hamburg *Nachrichten*. Although it is not nice reading for the twentieth century, his description of the mental attitude of the German people is well portrayed in his article and this mental attitude explains much that would be otherwise unintelligible, not to say incredible. The evidence unhappily is that the sentiments of this writer are largely those of the rest of his co-citizens. A people having this spirit are a festering sore in the community of nations, and though it would not be possible to blot Germany off the face of the earth, some radical cure must be found when the time comes. The article is as follows:—

“No object whatever can be served by taking any notice of the accusations of barbarity levelled against Germany by their foreign critics. We owe no explanations to any one. Whatever act committed by our troops for the purpose of discouraging, defeating and destroying the enemy is a brave act and fully justified. Germany stands the supreme arbiter of her own methods. It is no consequence whatever if all the monuments ever created, all the pictures ever painted, all the buildings ever erected by the great architects of the world be destroyed, if by their destruction we promoted Germany's victory. War is war. The ugliest stone placed to mark the burial of a German grenadier is a more glorious monument than all the cathedrals in Europe put together. They call us barbarians. What of it? We scorn them and their abuse. For my part, I hope that in this war we have merited the title barbarians. Let neutral peoples and our enemies cease their empty chatter, which may well be compared to the twitter of birds. Let them cease to talk of the cathedral of Rheims, and of all the churches and all the castles in France which have shared its fate. Our troops must achieve victory. What else matters?”