

We had no quarrel with the people of Germany. We even had no quarrel with the autocratic Imperialistic Government of Germany. So long as that system suited or apparently suited the ideas and the purposes of the German people, they might have gone on and on and on, suffering as they might be, tyrannized over as they were, denied opportunity for self expression, wonderfully successful in their arts, in their sciences and in their trade. No one wished them ill so long as they confined themselves to their own tasks of self-development. But when, unsatisfied with the marts of the world and with the acceptance of the standards set in the sciences of Germany, they let the dogs of war loose to dominate in the every-day affairs of the human family the world over—my tribute to Belgium in her agony; my tribute to France in her gallantry; my tribute to Great Britain, and to you men of Canada for the magnificent response which all have made, declaring to the German militarist machine: thus far shalt thou go and no farther; back from France, back from Belgium—and then we will talk peace terms with you.

It is needless for me to refer to the causes which finally brought the people and the Government of the United States into the struggle. You are, perhaps, better informed than I am upon that phase of it. But the conscience and sympathies of the people of the United States were with the cause of the allied countries, for on one side, the side of Germany, stood a dominating force, a militarist machine perfected in the science of murder; the denial of rights and opportunities; and on the other side—our side, yours and mine—was the spirit of freedom, the spirit of democracy, a sense of justice to all mankind; a willingness to afford opportunity to the peoples of all countries to work out their own destinies as best they could. Theirs the side of reaction, power, the domination of might; ours the side of opportunity for the free development of the human. There was no other choice; there could have been no other choice. Perhaps this incident of recent occurrence has not attracted world-wide attention, but I desire just to mention it as indicative of the whole scheme which underlies Germany's prosecution of this war. In the Prussian diet recently the Chancellor declared against a proposal which had been presented in that body for universal manhood suffrage in Prussia. The most significant statement made by him in opposition to that proposal was that if universal manhood suffrage were to come to Prussia, it would be worse than

losing the war. Is this not typical of all that preceded the war, and of the manner in which the war has been conducted by our enemies?

It is not understood among the people of Germany that there is any possible efficiency in any activity of life unless it is founded upon might and power, from above, leading down. It is the contempt which they hold for men in democratic countries. They believed that the people of democracies were wholly inefficient, incapable of co-operating man power or of willingness to be diverted from the ordinary avenues of industry, business, trade and the discussion of democratic policies in order to become a potent force in the defining of the rights of the people in common. It is that contempt, that lack of understanding of the fact that, when once the consciences and the hearts of the peoples of democratic countries are aroused, they become a potent fighting force that brooks no opposition to its triumphant conclusion.

The Central Powers of Europe, Germany and Austria, have as their Ally, "Civilized" Turkey. It is said among English-speaking countries: "Tell me your company, and I will tell you who you are." To say that the Allies of Germany and Austria are Turkey and Bulgaria is a sufficient answer to the inquiry in regard to keeping company. On our side we have whom? We have France, Belgium, Italy, all the Dominions of Great Britain, and the Republic of the United States of America. It does not require much enthusiasm or much understanding upon which side liberty loving men are willing to throw their lot. It has come to pass in the world's history that we are no longer great distances from each other, for we now speak in terms less of miles than of hours and minutes and seconds, and when our countries are so closely united in terms of information by telegraph, by wireless, when we are in such close touch physically by fast-going trains and by fast-driven steamships, when we have the flying machines that have dominated the air, when we have our newspapers and magazines, when we meet in each other's territory so frequently, when we are in such close communication in business, in all the affairs of life there is a law of contact by which we acquire some of the characteristics of the peoples with whom we come in touch.

The time was well chosen by the German Imperialist machine to inaugurate this battle when we were the least prepared for it, but, in my judgment, it had to come at some time or other. As Lincoln in his time