

Bismarck. And the cause of it is mostly fear, Hallström opines; Germany's superiority stares all nations in the eyes. Then Germany also has not followed the fashion of the day. She has dared to get on excellently without "parliamentism" . . . "She has conducted her reforms and progress without putting her destiny into the hands of (parliamentary) quacks . . . and orators who know just enough to persuade those who know nothing at all." Yea, Germany, this honest doctor, has discovered microbes in democracy's most sacred wells and taken "sanitary precautions, like Ibsen's Dr. Stockman, with cold resolution . . . It is a great and wonderful spectacle offered to our time which we had never suspected of being so sublime." Hallström, we see, has exactly reproduced the German's notion of himself as the stern healer of the sick and confused democracy of our time. He is writing during the early period of the war and is enthusiastic over the success of the German armies; his only anxiety is for the effect which this general dislike on the part of "a hostile or indifferent world may have on the German nature." "Is heroism," he pathetically asks, "to become sombre and distrustful and contemptuous of a world that cannot appreciate it?"

Hallström with his Germanic spectacles on sees many things to puzzle over. One of them is the way in which every one seems to spare France in the criticism which is going round. She, it seems, can allow herself all liberties of speech and action and yet escape judgement. So he proceeds to take France down a peg, or two or three pegs. The revanche idea was bad for a nation to live on; French geniality is a quality common to all the Romance nations and is found in a finer form in the Italians where "we Germans" should rather seek it; France has contributed nothing solid to modern political development; French classicism of the 17th century was of less value to civilization than the Italian Renaissance or Luther's Germany; French blandishments led Sweden to her ruin in the Thirty Years' War. As for the French Revolution, mankind paid too dear a price for it. (*O Peter*, what are we not paying for the German one!)