

ablence which alone can lead to settlement of these conflicting claims is not compatible with national prejudice.

I know that this is an hard saying; that I am asking divine qualities to manifest in human minds; that even before the war there were very few people who used reason in preference to passion as a basis of action, and that now, when every man is wounded either in person, pocket or family, it appears unthinkable that even a few of them should lay aside their sense of injury. But, after all, the fever caused by wounds is temporary; in a little while the patients will no longer consider how to avenge their injuries, but how to recover from them; and any decent political doctor is sure to recommend complete rest and quiet, with a diet not too stimulating or excessive. No doubt the saner minds will recover first; and they must be organized, so that their voice may be heard and obeyed.

The first task is to remove the silly lie of national hatred, the demoniac and irrational illusion misnamed patriotism. If a "patriot" would think for a fraction of a second, he would see that while it would not do much damage to hate the population of Uranus, it may be a serious folly to hate the people in the house next door.

France needs the friendship of both England and Germany more than anything on earth; and should be ready to make the greatest sacrifices to get it. Had Germany made friends with France in 1871 by greater magnanimity, the present war would have never occurred, or have been with Russia only, and all over long ago.

Julius Caesar was as good a statesman as he was a soldier, and we all know how he treated conquered nations. His aim was always to leave them stronger for the conquest.

Porfirio Diaz rounded up the banditti by making them his rural police, with regular pay and plentiful privilege, more than they were getting as robbers. It would have taken him years to burn out their nests.

The English made India, or rather the Indian upper class, loyal by good administration; for one example, the late Maharaja of Moharbhaj found his income increased in ten years from three to eighteen lakhs of rupees. He might have skinned every native alive and failed to turn the three into four.

So rash gain means loss in the end; and generosity brings its own reward. Suppose that Germany keeps Antwerp, and wins also Calais, as the price of peace. It only means that friendship with England would be impossible, that England must arm against her desperately, that Holland must join with England, that France must continue her feud, that the people of the conquered territory will make her occupation a series of revolts and repressions. If the coal were gold, and the harbors twenty instead of two, it would not be worth it, as a business proposition.

The same line of argument is to be applied to each demand; it will be found destructive. For example, what does England want with German colonies, now that half her adult males are killed or crippled? The naval question will settle itself, in a way which I proposed in a paper, "The Future of the Submarine," which was published some time ago in *The Fatherland*. As to indemnities, the subject demands yet another separate treatment; but the plain summary of it is this, that you cannot get blood from a stone, and the nations may one and all put any such nonsense out of their heads.

The only re-arrangements desirable or possible consist in small adjustments; and in order to discuss these we shall throw back our minds to Europe before the war, and identify the sore spots.

V.

IF the man in the moon suddenly dropped into New York, his first question would be to ask why the world was fighting, what any one of the belligerents hoped to gain. He would get no satisfactory answer. As the Crown Prince said, this war is, of all wars ever waged, the most aimless and stupid. The lust of Russia for Constantinople is the only positive ambition; England's fear of losing sea-power the only other factor, and that is negative. On the whole, Europe had got on pretty comfortably for a century. The Crimean war, the Italian furies, and the war of '70 were the only disturbances of any size or importance, and it is just in these three neighborhoods that the soreness still remains. The peacemakers, inheriting the earth as per divine promise, were threatened with law suits by the rightful heirs. It is desirable to deal with these matters in some detail, for there is an abstract principle of settlement which can be applied to all of them, and which, if radically adopted, may lead to lasting peace.

(a)

Alsace-Lorraine. The historical quarrels as to the true character of these districts are extremely absurd. We are not concerned with the question as to whether they were old-German until 1680; they belonged to the cave-man in 140,000 B. C. To settle the dispute is not difficult; the present frontier is not so bad, and a very slight rectification is all that is necessary. I urge Germany to be magnanimous in her own interest, and to give back to France those very French communes which are almost her cradle; but this is a small matter. The essential virtue of a frontier population is intensity of patriotism and contentment with the existing government; and this should be assured by transplanting any disgruntled elements with compensation full and generous. These communities should also be made prosperous at whatever cost to the central government; they have suffered more than any through the war, and stability is to be assured by prosperity.

But the root of the trouble is the presence of people who thought, however wrongly, that they were French, in a German province; their enmity has weakened Germany. They, and they alone, have kept alive the hostile feeling; for the true interests of France and Germany conflict nowhere. The result is that Germany has hundreds of miles of frontier to defend, instead of to repose on. She is encircled, instead of having a broad and fertile base. A Franco-German alliance is the natural possibility of the future, and the hope of every man who cares for civilization. An arrangement to share Belgium, including a land settlement scheme by which German sympathizers should be in the German section, French in the French section, might help to heal existing wounds. That is the answer to the menace of bandit Russia and piratical England.

(q)

Trieste and the Trentino. It is difficult for one in whose veins the blood of the human race flows to write with sweet reasonableness of Italy. The attitude of Russia is excused to one's larger humanitarianism by a consideration of her savagery and barbarism: Tartar sauce is Tartar sauce. Even the icy cynicism of Sir Edward Grey may have been founded on the fear that clutched his heart. But Italy was in no danger, and Italy was at one time the headquarters of civilization; yet we find her acting with the most cold-blooded calculation, awaiting the moment to strike her sworn allies, watching their blood run till she thought it was safe to risk robbing them. It is the most infamous piece of blackguardism in the world's history. There is nothing to parallel with it, even in the private life of the Borgias or some of the later Emperors