

THE KAISER AND HIS IDEALS OF CIVILIZED WARFARE.

The kind of Kultur that He Would Like to inflict upon the World.

(By F. Hunter Creech.)

You have frequently heard the question asked, "Why are we at war with Germany, and why are we going to send our troops across the water?"

And until six weeks ago this was quite a common question. But developments and disclosures by our State Department have sufficiently answered that question to those who have been keeping in touch with the situation.

The American people are looking upon the war from a different viewpoint than they did only a few weeks ago. It appears in an entirely different light.

The average man is beginning to realize that America has entered the world struggle for greater and more sacred reasons than that of mere property right; he is beginning to realize that American ideals, American institutions, American character, all these things which make Americanism what it is, are at stake.

We realize that we are fighting a foe of civilization. We realize that only the mechanical and scientific mind of Germany has progressed—that the great moral character of her nation is the same as it was when the brutal and barbaric Goths poured out of the Northern forests and preyed upon the fair-haired daughters of Saxony.

There was much speculation when America first entered the war as to whether or not America did do the right thing. But developments have shown that America was more than amply justified in declaring war on Germany, declared under duress as it was.

May we study for awhile some of the fundamental principles which brought on this war and made it, not only necessary, but, imperatively that America should enter the struggle.

We might have submitted to sinister German influence for a longer period than we did; we might have played hands off when we witnessed the violation of her national honor and oath, which she failed to hold sacred; the destruction of American lives and property needlessly; the raping of Belgium, the countenancing of the frightful atrocities committed against the Americans; the thousands and acts of barbarism and cruelty, that not only shocked all the civilized world but violated all the rules of morals, decency, enlightenment, civilization and culture.

I say we might have played hands off while witnessing all these frightful acts, so utterly inhuman as they were, and then we would have been forced into the struggle.

Perhaps not at this time, but eventually, when German arms had been successful in Europe and blood-just, and desire for territorial conquests and military achievement directed their attention toward the peaceful and wealthy shores of America. War was absolutely impossible. It was up to us to nip the spirit and influence in the bud or, submit to all conceivable national indignities and wait for the grim harvester to overtake us with all the inhuman and barbaric evils the Kaiser has made possible out of war.

The war was not commenced on account of the murder of one of the nobility. That was only the occasion for the applying of the torch to the already accumulated mass of tinder that had been so carefully prepared by the skillful and wicked hand of the Divine Ruler of the Imperial German Empire for years and years past.

he is a rule and power unto himself, and that as an instrument of Heaven he can do as he pleases regardless of the views and opinions of the day.

Perhaps you can gain from the following statements an idea of the estimate the Kaiser would have the world place upon his deeds and motives:

"Here my grandfather by his own right set the Prussian crown upon his head, once more distinctly emphasizing the fact that it was accorded him by the will of God alone, and not by any assemblage of the people or by popular vote, and that he thus looked upon himself as the chosen instrument of Heaven, and as such performed his duties as regent and sovereign. . . . I consider myself such an instrument of Heaven, and shall go my way without regard to the views and opinions of the day." Konigsberg, Aug. 1910.

Again he says: "Forward with God, Who will be with us as He was with our fathers." Imperial Proclamation, Aug., 1914.

There are more than three thousand recorded utterances of the Kaiser, including public speeches, addresses to his soldiers, and statements made to friends and officials for publication. He has spoken his mind perhaps more fully and frankly than any other public man of the day. He dreamed a dream of a world empire over which he reigned as Lord and Master. He was more ambitious than was Caesar, Alexander or Napoleon, and thought he would be sure to realize his ambition. He has tried all the developments and achievements of his devilish ingenuity upon a terror-stricken world, and they are beginning to pile up around him now as evidence of his failure. Yet, he is not willing to admit defeat but rather chooses to sacrifice all that he and his nation has as a last dying effort. He is the bitter, unrelenting, determined foe of a civilization fighting and struggling against militarism, and upon his shoulders must rest the burden and responsibility of the greatest war in the history of the world with all of its hideous and frightful devastation and ruin.

May we notice some more of his remarks:

"So we are bound together, I and the army; so are we born for one another, and so shall we hold together indissolubly, whether, as God wills, we are to have peace or storm. I vow that I shall ever be mindful of the fact that the eyes of my forefathers look down upon me from that other world, and that one day I shall have to render an account of the honor of the army."

And what a hideous account it will be. I wonder if William II will laugh in devilish glee and proudly hold up his head when he renders to his forefathers in the spirit world an account of the army left in his care and keeping. Will he point with pride to German Kultur as manifested in the present war? Will he point to devastated Belgium, blighted by his foul breath, and say, "just an incident, the honor of my army"? Will he point with pride to the deported Belgium women, ravished, torn and bleeding, suffering indignities and hardships a thousand times more horrible and cruel than death! If he does, then the devil will turn his face and blush for shame!

Again he said:

"The soldier must have a will of his own; but you all have one will, and that is my will. There is only one law, and that is my law."

Again: "I consider myself an instrument of Heaven, and shall go my way without regard to the views and opinions of the day."

And he has gone his way, hand in hand with his Satanic Majesty and the grim shadow of death, working devastation in the hearts of all people everywhere, tearing down and defacing institutions which it has taken ages to construct, committing atrocities and acts of barbarism wherever he can place his finger. Bismarck truly said, while the Kaiser was still Prince William, of Prussia:

"In him there is something of Frederick the Great, and he might become as despotic as Frederick the Great."

He has become doubly so and a parliamentary government has not had the ability or the courage to check his wicked power.

The Kaiser surely gave a good index of his intentions when he told his soldiers to make themselves more frightful than the Huns under Attila, so that no enemy for a thousand years would mention the name of Germany without a shudder. And no enemy of Germany will mention her name for a thousand years without a shudder, just as will no friend of civilization. His motto has seemed to be, "Death and hunger, murder and lies upon earth, peace and good will toward the devil." What a strange course for one to pursue who claims a Divine Alliance. If the Kaiser had claimed an alliance with the devil and claimed himself to be an instrument of hell then, judging by his deeds, the civilized world would have believed him. There is nothing in his character than can appeal to the finer

senses of any man. He has brought the dark ages face to face with the new world. Standing up to his knees in the blood of the innocent women and children whom he has murdered, in the most terrible sense of the word, with a drawn face seared with savage lines, a brutal countenance, a gory dagger in his hands, he stands on the crimson shores of Europe gazing towards the West, like a lion at bay, and there he sees the firm and determined face of Uncle Sam, and he knows that his course is run.

It is the unnecessary brutal things which form the greater part of the condemnation of the Kaiser. Utterly inexcusable acts of cruelty for which there can be no motive save that of vengeance. And the things that he has countenanced and ordered in this respect would fill volumes. A few examples for instance:

The sinking of the Belgian Prince on the 31st day of July, 1917, when thirty-eight members of the crew were coolly and deliberately drowned after they had left their boat. Their life boats were smashed with hatchets and their life-belts were taken away from them and they were left on the deck of the submarine for about an hour when, without any warning, the submarine suddenly submerged leaving them to their fate. The details of this crime form a very interesting and tragic story.

Another instance of the Kaiser's inhuman methods is the treatment of prisoners of war. Every imaginable indignity is heaped upon them. Not only that, but the German government furnishes them practically nothing to eat and in several cases have placed prisoners in fever-infested cells so that they may contract the terrible disease and make their ride the easier.

One of the most tragic chapters that has ever been written in history is that of the German treatment of Belgian women and children. Ravished, deported, in fact, about the most merciful thing that Germany did to the women and children of Belgium was to gather them in crowds and mercilessly shoot them down. Horrible! We have to close our eyes and shudder when we think of it.

Only a short while ago Belgium was one of the principal centers of human activity. Now the silence of death reigns over its mines and its factories. The Belgium of today is for its inhabitants merely a cage whose bars are formed of German bayonets. They have been robbed of everything, money, provisions, material and machinery. The man in the trenches fares a great deal better than the one left at home. The women and children are in a starved condition, absolutely destitute. And the Kaiser stands off and smiles in shallow mockery. An instrument of Heaven! What a conception of Heaven he must have! Our Spirit of Americanism has been our boast since the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Do not the pleading hands of Belgian women and children appeal to that Americanism?

And we might go on and on and cite instance after instance, such as the cutting off of the hands of little children so that the next generation would be powerless as an enemy against Germany; the execution of Edith Cavell; the murderous warfare upon helpless and innocent non-combatants, the countenancing of the frightful atrocities committed in Armenia, too horrible and inconceivable to mention. In short, there has been no act of brutality, barbarism, cowardice, sneakishness, any extremity of murder and debauchery that the Kaiser and his cohorts would not commit. His whole policy has been repulsive and odious to an enlightened people. And if what he has displayed to the world has been a fair sample of German Kultur God grant that we may never have any of it; but rather, that we have the plain old American kind where we at least realize that the best there is in any man is the woman there is in him, and if man ceases to respect woman then he has lost all self-respect and has descended to the lowest plane of our social standard!

Quoting from the Literary Digest, "Crushed and starving Belgium cries out to us in agony. Devasted Poland, Serbia, and Armenia—the broken, tortured little peoples of Europe—reach out to us in unspeakable suffering and need."

"And France! That friend and comrade who gave blood and treasure on our soil to help us to our birth of freedom! That France, after one hundred and forty years, is now struggling to save her own life and freedom! She sees us grown rich and strong. She is looking towards us earnestly, confidently. And if she averts her gaze it is to see the tragic ruin of her northern provinces."

Who can doubt that America was justified in entering the war! Europe kneels on her western shores and gazes toward America. Her garments of white are torn and tattered, her hair falls in flowing waves about her head, she sees a mighty rainbow span the great Atlantic, and in its many colors she beholds a flag of a

nation. Behold! it is the Star Spangled Banner! She rises and with a mighty shout exclaims: "America's hosts are coming, a thousand thousand strong." And America will be there to see that the Kaiser, the greatest autocrat in history, and his principles shall perish from the face of the earth!

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