

## IRRECONCILABLE!

By GERTRUDE ATHERTON,  
Author of "The Californians," "The  
Conqueror," "The Bell in  
the Fog," Etc.

A few days ago an American whose loyalty has been undeviating from the beginning of the war said to me: "If the Germans win I shall become an immediate convert to their Kultur, arguing that since they had won against such fearful odds, and with practically the whole world lined up against them, their theory of life and conduct must be right and ours wrong."



Gertrude Atherton. The incident would not be worth mentioning if it were not for the reflection that the American race worships Success. For generations it has toadled to wealth, no matter how ill-gotten, and every man who achieves power, by whatever devious ways, is secretly envied and openly courted. The majority of Americans are easy going, indifferent, unidealistic and not very clever. They are also intensely personal and only ask to be let alone. It is possible that the mass, therefore, unless it has a real awakening, would, provided the Germans, in the remote event of victory, were adroit enough to leave them a large amount of individual liberty, shrug their shoulders and say: "Well, guess they must be right or they couldn't win out. Nothing to do but come round. Times change anyhow."

"Abominable Prospect."  
This is an abominable prospect, but it is to be faced. Our world, over here, in the event of German domination, would be divided into two classes—mean converts and proud Irreconcilables—for even in this new and composite country there are enough men and women with high ideals and inviolate souls to despise a race without a gleam of spirituality, of sportsmanship, of decency and good manners, in whom cunning has taken the place of intelligence, and that wins only by driving its millions of cowed subordinates to mathematical slaughter. One cannot even respect such a race enough to hate it. It is as if one had been attacked by a herd of wild animals from the jungle. Those that escape being devoured may at least withdraw as far as possible, not remould themselves into a semblance of wild beasts with a lust for human flesh.

"Cock-Sureness a Bluff."  
I have not the faintest notion that the Germans will win. All the probabilities are against it. Moreover, if one projects his mind forward it is inconceivable that history can read that way. The general conditions of the world are not what they were in the Fifth Century—that is to say, unless the idea grew insidiously that it was the destiny of the Germanic race to win and rule the earth; in other words, that it was the destiny of Earth to revert to the Fifth Century and begin over again. It is incredible that such a thought should take possession of any educated man's mind, but the trouble is that our famous (and offensive) cock-sureness is only a bluff. As a race we are not really sure of ourselves. We prove that by blindly accepting the European-made reputation and hesitating to create and come out boldly for our own. Those of us that think and have the power to visualize the future must be on the alert every moment to counteract this tendency of an uncrystallized race to accept the success of might as a matter of course and unconsciously adapt itself to the "inevitable." We must be known as the IRRECONCILABLES, and if we take a definite uncompromising stand there will be only one result—the men of real courage who might otherwise look upon a new future "philosophically" will not only wake up under the direct example, but will be ashamed to be reckoned as mere numbers in the great mass of sheep or convicts. There is no such insidious lowering of morale threatened as this, because it is not of German, Pacifist or Socialist origin. It is born of common human weakness and national snobbery. The result will be a vast mass of inertia, and only a party of sleepless Irreconcilables will combat and diminish it.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* What did YOU do to win the war? \*  
\* When our brave boys come back and ask you this question, what will be your answer? \*  
\* Can you say that you did \*  
\* EVERYTHING, \*  
\* EVERYTHING \*  
\* EVERYTHING \*  
\* possible for you to do? \*  
\* That you saved and served and sacrificed to the utmost? \*  
\* And that, knowing that the men on the battle line were defending YOUR home, YOUR family, YOUR Liberty and YOUR country, you loyally stood behind them with word and deed? \*  
\* IF NOT, WHY NOT? \*  
\* Think it over. \*  
\* National Security League, \*  
\* 19 West 44th St., N. Y. C. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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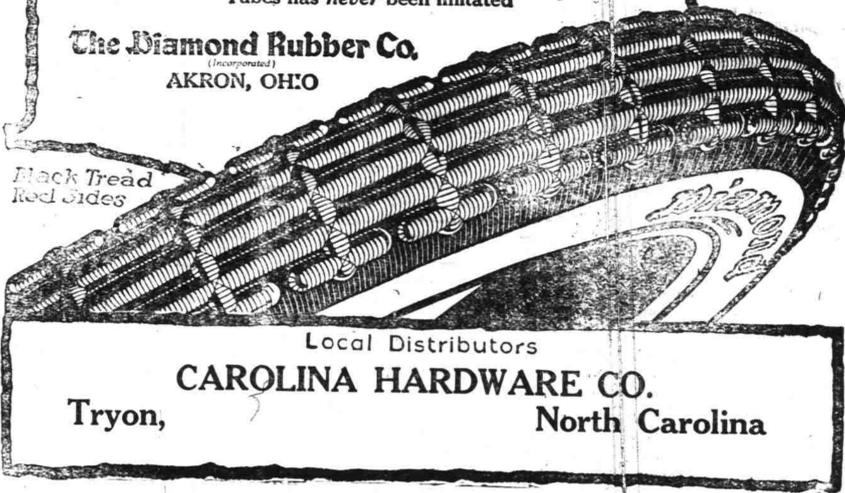
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#### WHICH CAMP?

America today is divided into two camps—Americans and Alien Enemy.  
Those who are not for America are against her—enemies all.  
Those who are idle, selfish or even indifferent are Aliens—alien to American interest.  
Only the workers, "comrades in this great enterprise," bear the honored name—Americans.

The investigating committee reports that many of the great manufacturing firms of the United States have made enormous profits off the people during the present war by sharp and unfair methods, such as increasing their capital stock on paper, paying apparently larger salaries to employees, that is officers, so that they would be entitled to a much larger sum of money in order to come within the limit of per centage profit allowed by the government. The meat packers, as usual, and as was expected, were the biggest hogs, making about \$140,000,000 in profits. Of all the disloyal and mean skunks

on earth it is a person or firm who makes great wealth during such times as this off increased prices in food. The firing squad would prove very popular with the people if a few such individuals were stood up in front of it and made to pay the penalty of all other enemies to our country.

Blackberries will soon be ripe. Seems as if the boys and girls might pick them and sell them and buy Thrift Stamps if they are not more profitably employed.  
Every spendthrift adds to the war's length.

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