

which to buy her steel—Japan needs a friendly United States, for any rupture of relations or even a prohibitive tariff or an embargo on exports would bring deep distress if not actual ruin. If we consider this aspect of Japan's economic wants, then remember the exalted mission sent to us and its earnest declarations of friendship, we can without any strain on our credulity banish the unworthy suspicions of our valiant neighbour across the Pacific.

• • •

It has been said that the best agency to unite mankind into a co-operative society would be an attack from the inhabitants of a hostile planet.

**From
Mars**

And that is the situation to-day in practical effect. German thought and methods are so strange to those of the rest of the world, East and West alike, that she might just as well have launched her militant legions from Mars as far as the result on the world's peoples are concerned. For all the world is now united against this social outlaw, the super-monster of history, and it is especially the work of the Japanese and the presence of the Japanese commission among us that has emphasised this union of the most widely dissimilar peoples in the destruction of a common menace and in the pursuit of the now common and universal ideal of permanent peace. In effect, this union of peoples in the pursuit of a common effort has produced a world-state whose ramifications are so subtle and whose bonds so strong as to exceed the imagination of the most speculative of our literary prophets. Industry, transportation, shipping, wealth and men are everywhere being conscripted into a common pool and used with the single aim of efficiency and effectiveness for war operations to the exclusion of political or national prejudices or aspirations. Such a world-state in time of war will persist through its own momentum in the peace to come, notwithstanding the conservatives and alarmists and those whose pretence at an understanding of that re-

fractory element called human nature simply cloaks an unimaginative stolidity or a faith-destroying, unfortunate personal experience. The world-state, in effect, must come if we are to achieve the first and most important step toward that ideal of permanent peace which has formulated itself out of this war and which alone can afford the hope to illumine the present valley of the shadow. The common good must transcend those national "aspirations" that are doomed to fall with the aristocratic caste through whom and by whom, in every nation which has been encumbered with their presence, these "aspirations" alone have found expression. A world-state with the interests and efforts of humanity combined against the common inclemency of environment is the only possible road toward permanent peace.

• • •

With the ill grace that might have been expected of him, La Follette in his "defence" before the Senate committee joins the captious and oft-times invidious critics of the administration to be found in certain journals as well as among individuals in their demands for a further official statement of America's war aims. President Wilson has often enough surely reiterated the main principles for which we strive: no indemnities, no territorial aggrandisement, and a stable basis of universal peace to make the world safe for democracy. And he has enunciated those principles so clearly and ably that there can be nowhere those who have the intelligence and interest to grasp them and who have not heard and inwardly digested them. But, of course, what the critics demand is a more specific and detailed account of this country's attitude on the particular intentions of each of our belligerent allies—notably what would be our voice at the peace conference when Italy demands the Trentino; when France, Alsace-Lorraine; when England demands the German colonies she has conquered; and where would our influence fall in the

settlement of the Dardanelles question, the Balkan embroglio, the proposed internationalisation of the Suez Canal, the Straits of Gibraltar and the Panama Canal? A declaration of America's purpose on those points, these critics to the contrary notwithstanding, would be as disastrous as it would be unworthy of our statesmanship.

• • •

There are two outstanding reasons for our silence on our detailed war aims:

Principles American interference
Only in the first place, any
 in the aspirations of
 our allies would arouse

a storm of contention among them and would lead to a "separate peace" opening for Germany's ubiquitous propaganda, while at the same time it would give opportunity for argument in this country, possibly rising to a bitter pitch, that would undermine our patriotism and lessen our war efficiency; then in the second place such a recital of war aims would be absolutely impossible, for we neither understand the European conflict of interests nor is it our business to do so. We are in this war for principle—peace and the rights of individual human beings—and the first and greatest obstacle to the recognition and establishment of these ideals is the German dynastic state. Imperial Germany and all that it implies of aggression in the acquisition and usufruct of domain and peoples must go—that is our job for the present, and we must co-operate with our allies until our combined effectiveness has completed the task.

• • •

This decision—that Imperial Germany must go—is the only consistent

"On the logic that has for its
Nature of objective a world-order
Peace" of peace. A very careful

study, arriving at this conclusion, is made by Professor Veblen in his latest book, *On the Nature of Peace*. The German dynastic establishment, Professor Veblen points out, is by its very nature aggressive and greedy for domain and so will forever

contain a latent power for mischief. Given such a system in working order, side by side with nations whose essential spirit is pacifist while their national honour remains intact, there are three possible courses of action leading to peace. First, there is a possible submission to German domination—a course that might result in an increase of creature comforts but would never satisfy the psychological needs of Western peoples. Second, there is the peace of neutrals that would mean a league of the rest of the world combined against Germany with the necessary resultant of competitive armaments between the two world-orders—nothing more nor less than an accentuated "balance of power" scheme which wrecked the world in 1914 and which affords a solution that those who have the best interests of mankind at heart can never tolerate. There remains, according to Professor Veblen, only the "elimination of the unfit." That "a lasting peace is possible on no other terms than the disestablishment of the Imperial dynasty and the abrogation of all feudalistic remnants of privilege in the Fatherland and its allies, together with the reduction of those countries to the status of commonwealths made up of ungraded men," is the conclusion of a most interesting, sound and stimulating study of the present world-order (or rather world-disorder) and what may come of it.

• • •

Pistols for Two is a little booklet written by one Owen Hatteras that although

privately printed seems
"Pistols for to have permeated the
Two" various literary strata

"about town." It purports to give a detailed and somewhat pithy and spicy account of the intimate habits, customs and manners (or lack of them) of two of earth's curious creatures, by name H. L. Mencken and George Jean Nathan. These two gentlemen, who withal conduct the *Smart Set* magazine, appear to be accomplished in divers ways, but along no line so eminently successful as in their disregard