

mind, the workings of which now do not anger other men so much as cause them to wonder about the mysteries of creation."

The Manchester *Guardian* prints an almost incredible dispatch from its correspondent at the front, in which he says:

"I should like to put on record in more deliberate detail than was possible in hurried telegrams written at the end of long and laborious journeys the naked facts of the German evacuation of French towns and villages. I have traversed many blasted villages, and have spent almost leisurely hours in Péronne. With such opportunities it is not difficult to tell how much of the ruin has been wrought by shell, mine, or fire, or by army house-breakers. Calculated brutality, scientific evisceration, can not cloak themselves under the guise of acts of war. The facts are these:

"As soon as the inhabitants were driven off and sent behind the great fortified line of which the German papers boast, all that was worth having was carted off and all the rest destroyed. The manner of destruction varied with the thing to be destroyed. In Péronne are many fine trees planted for ornament. The German military authorities, probably from lack of labor, could not cart them away, could not even spend time in felling them. So instructions were given to hack every tree as a hedge-layer cuts hedge-stakes—just deep enough to insure the death of the tree. So the German left 'his mark'—a V-shaped convict's mark cut half-way through each trunk of the avenue. Fruit-trees are more carefully severed than ornamental trees, and especial care has been taken to destroy completely the *espaliers* and prettily trained fruit-trees in which French gardeners take special and peculiar delight. I do not know why, but the sight of these little fruit-trees with their throats cut filled me with more trenchant rage against the German mind than all the rest of the havoc."

Passing on to describe what took place with the deserted houses, the correspondent continues:

"Now for the houses. Along whole streets where every front wall was rent open I could find no vestige of any shell-hole. The work has been done, I am wholly convinced, by small charges of ammonal, one of which was found, and most bravely carried away by one of the party. The quarters of the town where the shells had been directed were very well defined, and it was in these only that the front walls were erect, tho damaged. Within the houses mess and filth were invariable. The general impression of desolation wrought by some bull-headed Minotaur, or vulture-harpy, was etched into the features of a more odious because more human and intelligent monster when the minor individual details of this general wreckage reached the imagination.

"Here was a long mirror hung against the wall. It was shivered by means of a hammer, still lying on the floor. Here was a cabinet with shallow shelves, each of which had been hacked by some blunt instrument. Here again was a Renaissance mantelpiece, finely cut and designed in marble. It had been battered out of shape and pattern by the blunt side of an ax. A certain number of books had been left in a fine library, but the greater number were thrown about the floor and wantonly torn and fouled. No pictures were left intact, no single table or chair or piece of crockery."

THE KAISER BLOCKING REFORM

THE CZAR'S DANGEROUS EXAMPLE has been followed by the Kaiser in refusing to inaugurate widely demanded reforms while the war is in progress. The liberalization of the Prussian suffrage system has been insistently agitated, while the Reichstag by vote, 227 to 33, appointed a committee to revise the Constitution of the Empire. These moves have been countered by the Kaiser by ordering the Imperial Chancellor to submit to him a scheme of reform for discussion after the war. The Kaiser, in his letter to the Chancellor, says that he approves of reform, but is determined to preserve the militaristic organization of the nation. He proceeds:

"I feel conscious of remaining thereby on the road which my grandfather, the founder of the Empire, as King of Prussia with military organization and as German Emperor with social reform, typically fulfilled as his monarchical obligations, thereby creating conditions by which the German people, in united and wrathful perseverance, will overcome this sanguinary time. The maintenance of the fighting force as a real people's army and the promotion of the social uplift of the people in all its classes were, from the beginning of my reign, my aim.

"In this endeavor, while holding a just balance between the people and the monarchy to serve the welfare of the

whole, I am resolved to begin building up our internal political, economic, and social life as soon as the war-situation permits.

"While millions of our fellow countrymen are in the field, the conflict of opinions behind the front, which is unavoidable in such a far-reaching change of constitution, must be postponed in the highest interests of the Fatherland until the time of the home-coming of our warriors and when they themselves are able to join in the counsel and the voting on the progress of the new order."

That this letter of the Kaiser's is, in part, a reply to President Wilson's message to Congress where he said that America fights for "the ultimate peace of the world and the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included," can be seen from the comments of the official *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, which says:

"A certain phrase in President Wilson's speech must be especially pointed out. The President represents himself as the bearer of true freedom to our people, who are engaged in a severe struggle for their existence and liberty.

"The German people, become clear-sighted in war, see in President Wilson's words nothing but an attempt to loosen the bonds between the people and princes of Germany so that we may become an easier prey for our enemies. We ourselves know that an important task remains to us to consolidate our external power and also our freedom at home."

More emphatic still is Dr. Ludwig Haas, one of the members of the Reichstag, who, writing in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, refuses



Photograph by Underwood & Underwood, New York.

CHAULNES: A SCENE OF HORRIBLE DESOLATION.

Cities abandoned by the Germans to fall back on the fast-vanishing Hindenburg line have suffered severely. At Chaulnes, for example, there are no houses, churches, streets, or trees; nothing is left but stone heaps, débris, and mud.

to recognize the President in the guise of the liberator of the German people:

"President Wilson wants to liberate Germany from autoocracy, and for the sake of this delivery he has blest us with mountains of American munitions. It takes astonishing American ignorance regarding everything European and a huge lack of tact to venture to suggest such a foundation for our liberty.



THE DAWN OF DOUBT.

GRETCHEN—"I wonder if this gentleman is really my good angel, after all."

—Punch (London).

We will take care of it ourselves. The German democracy rejects liberty by the grace of Mr. Wilson.

"It would be better if he thought first of making over his democracy of corrupt officials and his democracy of industrial magnates into true democracies before bestowing his blessings on Germany."

If Germany will reject democratic ideals imposed from without she certainly seems to wish for some reforms from within. Maximilian Harden, the editor of the Berlin *Zukunft*, boldly demands a constitutional monarchy on the English model.

He sneers at the Kaiser's rescript as insincere, and says that the outlook for an autoeratic Germany is very black:

"Our fate depends, not on bits of territory which European States can no longer take away from one another and can no longer hold to their own permanent advantage, but upon the acquisition of higher spiritual values. Elevate the conscience of mankind and light up the German house also! Then what the enemy demands too loudly, but what we in secret feel to be a necessity, will come to pass. The will of the people will be free and Germany will know for what the dearest children of her bosom are dying and suffering!"

Even the Kaiser's pronouncement has not stilled the more radical papers. The *Berliner Tageblatt*, in an editorial signed by Dr. Theodor Wolff, says:

"The President drew a line separating democracy from the Imperial Government and gave the German people a hint to do likewise. It is necessary to answer that the German people must not be held in bondage and must remain the masters of their own house.

"The refashioning of the form of government of the German Empire is becoming daily more imperative. The way is clear for that cooperation and coresponsibility of the people's representatives which is known everywhere but in Germany. It is a fallacy to believe we can do without a parliamentary régime or conduct a sound foreign policy in a country with its institutions of state so different from those of other nations as to create an atmosphere of strangeness, but it is equally a fallacy to see in such a refashioning a weakening of the monarchical idea."

The Kaiser's promises are received with ill-concealed suspicion by the Berlin *Vorwärts*, which remarks:

"The Easter festival of the third year of the Great War, 1917, will it go down in history as a day of resurrection of old Prussia to new life? It has brought us a promise that, it is true, is not the resurrection itself, but that is certainly more hopeful and more positive than all preceding announcements.

"However, we can't help but remind the Throne that it was the speech of 1908 which first promised this reform, which is yet to be fulfilled. Our various disappointments led us to mistrust the surely honest promises of the Chancellor, not that we doubted his good-will, but we doubted if he would have the power to carry them out. But in view of this proclamation we may look more confidently to Prussia's future, being certain that it can not again vanish among the dead phrases and dust of documents."

Conservative views, on the other hand, find typical expression in the semiofficial Berlin *Lokal Anzeiger*:

"All mature-minded politicians will be grateful to the Emperor for his resolute intervention in the unsavory conflict of recent months. Abroad, as at home, this message will have a useful effect. There can be no interference in our affairs so long as we have a strong monarch, sure of himself, who in his own time finds the right way. To-day, as before, the Emperor can with assurance place his trust in every German. The German people stand behind him and his Field-Marshal, and behind no others."

HUNGRY ENGLAND—The privations of war are now beginning to be felt in England, and the people are discovering that glory is not the only concomitant of battle. The London *Daily News* writes:

"In this country we are only just beginning to realize, for the first time in living memory, the hard reality of insufficient sustenance.

"We, like the rest of Europe, must learn to eat less than we want. We shall be sustained, no doubt, by the belief, which all available information indorses as valid, that Germany and Austria have not merely less than they want, but less—far less—than they need. The talk of starving Germany loses something of its note of confidence as the possibility of our own starvation is seen to be less inconceivably remote than it was a year ago. This is no bad thing.

"War means in a great measure consuming the future in advance, and the fruit of that disastrous anticipation is often not reaped till after peace returns. The artificial illusion of economic prosperity has been one of the evils we have already had to fight against. It will clarify our judgment and broaden our perspective to realize to what straits the world, enemy, ally, and neutral alike, may at length be brought."

A gloomy picture of conditions among the poorer classes in England is painted by the London *British Weekly*:

"An Englishman most fears want. He will bear up against poverty, and women especially will bear up, so long as there is a limit set, so long as there is no fear of actual privation. We meet every day those who are gallantly accepting the demands of their country by a sudden slaughter of almost all needs. But many who are saying little or nothing see the poorhouse before them. They say: 'What will become of me in my old age? What will happen to my wife and children when I am gone?'

"Small tradesmen see their little businesses collapsing. They toil like slaves, and all in vain. The strain of approaching destitution becomes unbearable. It is easy to say that there are worse things than poverty, and this is true, so long as poverty is within limits. But if it extends to the want of necessities, to misery, humiliation, and actual hunger, it is terrible to bear."