

**ENGLAND & GERMANY.
REPUBLICISHED
FROM 'THE OBSERVER'**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649293247

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AUSTIN HARRISON

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REPUBLISHED FROM
'THE OBSERVER'

BY

AUSTIN HARRISON

A 11330
12.4.43

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

1907

PREFACE

THESE letters, which appeared originally in *The Observer*, are reproduced, with the kind permission of Lord Northcliffe, at the request of a number of people known and unknown to me, who thought them worthy of preservation. A few corrections and expurgations have been made, and they have been slightly added to. Otherwise they stand as I wrote them, partly while travelling abroad. If they suffer from tautology, I would submit the opinion of De Quincey, that in a newspaper tautology is a virtue; as for the iterative method, that, in dealing with a problem of this nature, was part of my deliberate intention.

Since they were written a calm has fallen upon Europe; the relations between England, Germany, and France have sensibly improved. Not one whit the less the problem of power

and Empire remains—I claim—as it is here stated.

For the rest, as the German Queen, “Great Catherine” of Russia, said: “All politics are based on the three words—circumstance, conjecture and conjuncture.” The wise State provides accordingly.

August 1907.

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