

**STEVENSON'S GERMANY,
THE CASE AGAINST
GERMANY IN THE PACIFIC**

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Stevenson's Germany, the case against Germany in the Pacific by C. Brunsdon Fletcher

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C. BRUNSDON FLETCHER

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IN THE PACIFIC

BY

C. BRUNSDON FLETCHER

AUTHOR OF

"THE NEW PACIFIC" AND "THE PROBLEM OF THE PACIFIC"

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THIS volume concludes the argument against Germany begun in "The New Pacific" and continued through "The Problem of the Pacific." It is also an effort to place Robert Louis Stevenson before the world as an important witness in the case; and substantially it is a Stevenson book. Yet to get Stevenson into the witness box the history of Germany's thirty years of intrigue and tergiversation, before he reached Samoa, has to be told. This has brought other important witnesses forward. Broadly, therefore, the book is an account of Stevenson's Germany—the Germany he discovered in the Pacific, ruthless and grasping. Stevenson did not imagine, even so, that the brutal Power he had found out could prove "insolent" in the true Greek sense of the word, and run headlong to ruin. Insolence, when applied to himself and his writings, was a word which moved his most vehement protest. Sir Sidney Colvin says that the particular protest under this head, in one of the Vailima letters, was not uttered by the true Stevenson. It was not like him; and the shadow of death upon him was the only explanation. But in Stevenson's denial there was a real appreciation of the meaning of insolence. He said he had frankly supposed the word to be tabooed between gentlemen. He did not use it to a gentleman and he would not write it of a gentleman. But during his five years in Samoa he learned the larger lesson. As Germany loomed over the group he

realised how "insolent" was her attitude; and he therefore thrust his pen into the fire that was so near to him, and out of its trenchant steel he forged both sword and spear. Yet his main object was to make peace between Germany and Samoa. Hence because he wrote, moved by German insolence, the present book has been made possible.

The documents in the case are, unfortunately, not plentiful, neither have they been easily collated; but they are conclusive as far as they go. For in this connection Stevenson builded better than he knew. Yet even then a verdict upon the accumulated evidence can be reached only as its circumstantial side is allowed due weight; inference has often to take the place of reliance upon direct testimony. Nevertheless, the verdict of dispassionate readers, I honestly believe, will be unanimous. They will say that the Germany of the African atrocities and horrors is the Germany of the Pacific. Therefore German possessions in the Pacific are not to be returned, but retained.

My thanks are due to several sympathetic friends and helpers in the writing of these books. Especially was the late Rt. Hon. Sir William MacGregor, P.C., G.C.M.G., my strong tower. He never ceased to encourage me, and I shall not easily forget his words of comfort and commendation. To the Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, the Hon. J. H. P. Murray, C.M.G., my acknowledgments are due for information ungrudgingly given when "The New Pacific" was being written and for facts made available in his reports, which are so full of evidence of work well done. The Hon. J. Hedstrom, of the Fijian Legislative Council, has also placed me in his debt by supplying me with evidence and information. Mr. Irvin S. Cobb has given me from New York greetings and assistance for which

I am very grateful ; and Mr. F. Graham Lloyd, of London, has placed me under obligation by his untiring assistance in the difficulties due to distance from my publisher. The Rev. R. H. Colwell has also been my willing helper throughout in reading the proofs and in preparing or correcting the indices.

My friends in Australia have always been full of encouragement and appreciation. Dr. F. W. Ward, of Brisbane, has stood by me with words of good cheer ; and by his criticism and weighty advice has assisted me in the development of the argument. Mr. A. Atlee Hunt, C.M.G., Secretary of the Department for External Affairs, has from time to time supplied me with matter of great value. The Rev. J. G. Wheen, Dr. Bromilow, and Rev. Benjamin Danks, among others, have been ready to give from their wealth of knowledge of the Pacific ; and Mr. Percy Allen, who is an expert in Pacific history and affairs, has responded to each call upon his good nature. My cousin, Mr. J. J. Fletcher, M.A., B.Sc., Secretary of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, has helped with friendly criticism as my researches have progressed ; and the resources of his library have been mine for the asking. Finally, my special acknowledgment is due to the Mitchell Library in Sydney. Under its Assistant Public Librarian, Mr. Hugh Wright, the library is becoming indispensable to the student of the Pacific, its affairs, administration, and possibilities.

C. BRUNSDON FLETCHER.

SYDNEY.

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