

HOW BELGIUM SAVED EUROPE

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How Belgium Saved Europe by Charles Sarolea & Goblet d'Alviella

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CHARLES SAROLEA & GOBLET D'ALVIELLA

HOW BELGIUM SAVED EUROPE

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WITH A PREFACE BY
COUNT GOBLET D'ALVIELLA
BELGIAN SECRETARY OF STATE



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PREFACE

DR. SAROLEA has described in a masterly book, "The Anglo-German Problem," the antecedents, or rather the factors, of the present war in which Germany declares that England is her principal enemy. I know of no book that expresses better the mentality of the two nations on the eve of their inevitable conflict, and events have borne out in a striking manner the author's logical deductions.

To-day he deals especially with the part that Belgium has played in this formidable struggle, and the sufferings she has undergone through having remained true to her duty as a neutral nation. I am certain no one can read those tragic pages without becoming more than ever confirmed in his conviction that we are fighting in the cause of right, of liberty, and of civilization. They lay bare to us the true meaning and

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reveal the true value of the German "culture" of to-day, and one shudders at the thought of the regime that its promoters would impose on Europe if Germany were to be victorious.

I know of no more disconcerting fact than the facility with which honest and peaceable Germany, gentle, simple, and conscientious, humanitarian and idealist, the Germany of Lessing, Kant, and Goethe, has in one century been transformed into the Germany of William II, of Zeppelin and Krupp, which is exactly its antithesis. Whether the reversion of the Germans to the habits of their barbarous ancestors be a phenomenon of atavism or a contagious aberration sometimes to be met with in the psychology of nations, it must be admitted that to-day they are unanimous in turning their backs on human progress. And worst of all is, German intellectuals are probably acting in all good faith when they uphold the superiority of a culture which authorizes, and even attempts to justify, such atrocities as those of which the Belgians have been the victims.

Dare we hope that Germany, reduced to her proper limits, cured of her megalomania by her disasters, rid of the Prussian Cæsarism which is

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at the root of the evil, will return some day to the traditions of a past which even her most bitter opponents recognize to have lacked neither in glory nor advantage to humanity? I should not myself dare to answer this riddle, and I think M. Sarolea himself would hesitate to compromise his reputation as a prophet in attempting to solve it.

Meantime one duty is open to us—that is, to carry on the war to the bitter end against the Germany of the Hohenzollerns and not to stop until any reiteration of these aggressions against peaceful neighbours who only ask that their rights shall be respected has been put beyond the range of possibility. Such is the one condition of any lasting peace.

GOBLET D'ALVIELLA

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