

the following statement: 'All of the leading and influential papers in America are now against Redmond.' Commenting on this statement, our contemporary remarks: 'As we happen to see from week to week the great majority, if not all, the papers in question, we are in a position to characterise the statement as wildly extravagant. In the first place, among the ten journals named by the author of the book as bearing out his assertion, there are several that have no real claim to be called either "influential" or "leading"; and, in the second, ten is a rather small percentage of the papers usually called Irish-American. The *Chicago Citizen*, whose "Irishism" and Americanism are both above suspicion, more truly than the author quoted, represents, we feel certain, the great mass of intelligent, thoughtful, and judicious Irish-Americans—or, better perhaps, Americans of Irish birth or extraction.' Our contemporary then quotes from the *Chicago* paper as follows: 'To us it is not only wicked and absurd but unpatriotic and treasonous to put any consideration, or any animosity, above and before love of Ireland. It will, of course, be understood that duty to the Stars and Stripes is paramount: but, after this, devotion to the old land is the feeling that possesses us. For it we are willing to forget for the time being. For it we have resolved to give our support to the National party. Our friends who differ from us—and we are speaking of those who are honest, as many are—take another view of the matter. With them hatred of England is first. To this the welfare of Ireland must be subordinated. Let the dear old land suffer—yea, even suffer a great deal—if England can only be made to suffer a little. Ireland is not only asked to sacrifice all prospect of Home Rule, but to degrade and disgrace her tried leaders, that revenge upon England may be had. The things for which we labored and hoped for over a century must all be immolated to the Moloch of vindictiveness.' The *Live Maria* then gives the following cordial and hearty and valued endorsement of the *Chicago Citizen's* sentiments: 'Mr Redmond and his collaborators in Ireland may rest assured that the noisiest portion of the Irish-American press is far from being as "leading and influential" as it likes to believe itself. And they may further rely with perfect confidence on the whole-hearted sympathy with which their policy and action, in this most critical period of Irish history, are viewed by the really influential Irish-American press and by the vast majority of its readers.'

An After-the-War Surprise

Germany is always threatening us with surprises, and hinting darkly at the unexpected and unimagined things that are still in reserve for her enemies. It may be admitted that in one or two instances these threats have duly materialised. There has been the mammoth siege gun, and there has been the cruel and deadly gas. So far as the former is concerned, there is reason to believe that a substantial limit, if not an actual check, to its usefulness has been devised. According to one of our local war correspondents Mr. A. Spence, of the *Dunedin Evening Star*—who has unquestionably shown himself exceptionally well informed in regard to matters connected with the great struggle, the gun plots or artillery gardens made use of by General Joffre at Verdun, have thus far been eminently successful in keeping the huge howitzer at a distance. In regard to the gas, owing to the variability of the winds it can hardly become a constant or reliable factor in military operations; and in any case it can be met, and apparently is to be met, by reprisals in kind. That is a horrible thought; but it is just possible that if the Germans once get a fair taste of their own medicine it may end in both sides dropping the inhuman business.

The latest surprise which is promised us is a phenomenal revival of German trade and industry immediately after the war, to an extent and with a rapidity that the rest of the world at present does not dream of. It is described at length and in the most glowing terms by a German writer, Frank Koester, in the *New York*

Tribune. 'The post-bellum surprise of the world,' he writes, 'is going to be the rapid recuperation of Germany. Scarcely will the last echoes of the field guns have died away when a revival of industry will begin which will be unparalleled in history. The whole world will be bare of German products and tired of substitutes and makeshifts. Particularly in her chemical industries she will again supply the world, and enable, for example, the million American workmen now out of work through lack of materials of manufacture of which Germany has the monopoly to resume their occupation, and thus assist in the restoration of prosperity in this country. All Germany herself will be stripped of surplus stocks of all sorts of manufacture, exhausted by ordinary wear and consumption during the war when her workers were away. To meet these demands and to replenish her shelves will require a degree of activity never before seen. Her markets throughout the world will be hers again without question, for the competition which, like a blizzard, swoops down on the stricken rival will retreat before the coming again of the German eagles of trade. Germany's recuperation thus will not be the painful and parched process of the South, but a startling quickening and an unexampled stimulation of industry, and the various agencies which have contributed to her commercial, industrial, and technical pre-eminence in the past will be vastly more active in the future. Indeed, Germany at peace will prove a far more formidable rival (to America) than Germany at war.'

Exactly how this is to be brought about, and why no other of the belligerents can possibly hope to accomplish anything of the kind, is quite simply explained. It is German 'kultur' that makes all the difference. The elements of recuperation which will enable Germany to take her place again in the lead of the world's commerce and industry will not, however, be possessed by the nations with which she is at war, so that their recuperation after the war will not be by any means as rapid. The reason for this lies in the nature of the organisation of the German Government, which is undoubtedly the most successful and satisfactory governmental system that has ever been organised. It is largely to the wonderful efficacy of the system that Germany owes her position to day, and it will be to that efficacy that she will owe the rapid recuperation which she will enjoy and which is destined to surprise the world. The German governmental system differs from all other systems in that it is a directive rather than merely a corrective element in the lives of its citizens: that is to say, the Government is in effect the partner of every citizen, a willing, a welcome, and an able aid in the factory, field and counting house rather than, as are most Governments, merely an officer on fixed posts a block away. Much is heard of Prussian militarism these days, but militarism is only one phase of the German system, the principle of the co-operation of every element of the nation with every other element. German industries, agriculture, commerce, banking and education are just as well organised as is her military, and it is this extensive organisation, the principle of '*Ein für Alle, Alle für Einen*' (one for all, all for one), which is in reality the much misunderstood and vindictively criticised German kultur. This instantaneous and unprecedented development of German trade is to take effect, be it remembered, whether Germany wins or loses. One must at least admire the thorough-going optimism of this sanguine Teuton.

The Pope's Neutrality

It is a great tribute to the real and commanding influence of the Pope that both sides in the present world struggle are anxious to secure his adhesion to their cause; and this although they must know that as the spiritual father of Christendom, with thousands of his spiritual children in every one of the warring camps, it is altogether out of the question, and not even remotely possible, that he should really take up the role of partisan. Apparently on the off chance that if they