

A BRITON'S VIEW ON GERMANY.

[Commenting on the rumors in England that English residents in Germany have been suffering persecution, Mr. Louis Hamilton, a member of the English department of the Oriental Seminary of the University of Berlin, publishes this communication in the *Vossische Zeitung* on behalf of his fellow countrymen in Berlin.]

AS an Englishman who has been living in Berlin since 1902, I would like to take this opportunity, in the hope that now at last the truth may reach England, to declare that not a hair of the heads of us Englishmen here in Berlin has been touched; but on the contrary we have been treated with the greatest civility and dignity on the part of the authorities. All that has been required of us is that every Englishman who resides here must report every third day in his own precinct—truly no severe task. There are Englishmen, to be sure, who prefer to go home; but nearly all those whom I know—and since I have been a member of the British Committee here in Berlin for years I know very many—prefer to remain here because they know that they are living in a truly civilized country.

Every Briton who knows Germany, her love of peace and her desire for justice, is indignant at England's quixotic policy. If the gentlemen in control of the British government had had the good fortune, as we have had, to live in this country for years, to learn to appreciate and love Germany in times of peace, if they had the good fortune to see how youngsters of fifteen and sixteen stand under the bridges carrying heavy arms for hours at a time in order to contribute their share to the defense of their country, how white-haired old men don their uniforms to defend their country to the end—then they would know that it is the voice of a justified indignation which is speaking against an infamous invasion. That a Germanic nation—for that is what we English are—should fight with the French, Slavs, and Mongols against their blood relations, no Briton who has lived here in peace and quiet could possibly

dream. I can only repeat the words of an English acquaintance here in Berlin who said to me: "This is not the same England that we knew when we were young." It is to be hoped that they will soon know the truth in England about how Germany is treating her "enemies." I write the word in quotation marks for no Englishman living in Germany is an enemy of Germany, but rather a grateful fellow citizen.