

have been no exception. Therefore it is impossible for the powers to acknowledge an international court of justice. The nations and their governments are supreme and cannot submit to an international court without surrendering their own authority. The only form in which such a court could be established would be as council of advisers which could be appealed to in the case of justiciable quarrels among the powers. Such cases frequently turn up in history, and it is desirable even for great powers to avoid wars whenever possible; but in the present case it would have been hard, if not even impossible, to have the question settled by an appeal to an international court. The truth is that the quarrel between Austria and Serbia was a mere accident which served as a pretext for the war, for the real war is not directed against Austria so much as against Germany.

It is the phenomenal growth of Germany—or, as English diplomats express it, the aggressiveness of Germany—that is the reason of the war. German trade and commerce had begun to outstrip English industry and English trade all over the world. Germany was outstripping the English in iron manufacture and had become a dangerous competitor even in England's own colonies. At the same time the emperor began to build a German navy, and England foresaw danger. Although the German navy was only about one-half the size of the English navy her ships were good and all of the best and most modern type; her crews were at least as well trained as English sailors, and England had no means to prevent the further growth of Germany except by war, and under these conditions war could not have been avoided even by an international court of justice.

The occasion of the war was the assassination of the arch-duke, heir to the throne of Austria, combined with Russia's intention to protect the little Slav state of the Balkans; but after all that the war might have been averted if the powers had desired to do so. The real issue was the strain between England and Germany, and the decision of this does not involve the fate of Serbia but rather the question whether England or Germany will be the determinant factor in the future development of mankind.

An arbitral court of justice will be possible under one of two conditions: Either the influence of one power will predominate, or all must agree on the main principle and have the sincere intention to keep peace. It would have been possible to establish a lasting world peace if England, the United States and Germany had been able to come together and agree on the general principles of international justice. It would not have been impossible to establish an international court on that basis had not England seen a different chance of eternal peace which was to establish the British empire as the dominant power in the world. This would have established peace after the pattern of the *pax Romana* which was the international court established for the world by the Romans in ancient Rome. The end of the war will be the beginning of a new era in history and the nature of that era will depend on the outcome of the war.

A WORLD UNION OF WOMEN.

Mention should be made of the commendable efforts of one international organization of women in the interests of world peace and amity. It is called "The World Union of Women" and has its headquarters in the neutral country

of Switzerland, Passage des Lions, Case Stand 16894, Geneva. Something of its objects and program can be gathered from the membership pledge which reads as follows:

"1. I the undersigned agree to work with all my strength for the establishment of a permanent peace and for unity of thought throughout the world;

"2. To abstain as far as possible from unnecessarily spreading news or reports which would raise feelings of ill-will or bitterness or hatred between individuals or between nations;

"3. To try to make known facts which tend to increase between men and governments mutual esteem and understanding;

"4. To do all I can to make known the work of "The World Union of Women" among the circle of my friends and acquaintances, so as to gain for it members and adherents."

Another organization in sympathetic affiliation with this international movement but with special reference to our relations in the Far East is the "Woman's International Friendship League" which has its center at Washington under the presidency of M. Virginia Garner. The corresponding secretary is Miss Josephine C. Locke, 2388 Champlain St., Washington, D. C.

NOTES.

Mr. C. Crozat Converse, the well-known American composer, has ventured to publish with Breitkopf and Härtel, New York, six German songs for soprano or tenor. How bold to show a familiarity not only with the German language and put German words to music, but also to prove an appreciation of German music and give evidence of having been a student in the German school of so-called classical traditions! Mr. Converse's songs are melodies and might have been written by one of the old masters of German birth. Like McDowell's compositions these songs prove that American composers are capable of following German precedence and can develop a music that will be recognized in the home of classical music.

The songs are "Exhortation to Joy" by Hölty, "Wer sollte sich mit Grillen plagen"; "Melancholy" by Eichendorff, "Ich kann wohl manchmal singen"; "Delusion" by Hartmann, "Ich glaubte, die Schwalbe träumte"; "Rest in the Beloved" by Freiligrath, "So lass mich sitzen ohne Ende"; "The Nightingale" by Eichendorff, "Möcht' wissen, was sie schlagen so schön bei der Nacht"; "The Imprisoned Singer" by Schenkendorf, "Vöglein, einsam in dem Bauer."

Mr. Converse is not of German descent, but his intimate familiarity with German music almost makes of him a hyphenated citizen. Music is like German speech; so it has been stated in England and is repeated in pro-British circles in the United States that German music by Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Schubert, etc., should be shunned, yea that music should be abandoned altogether until a new and purely English school originates. Mr. Converse has not ventured into creating a new British style of music but has followed the old Hunnish taste. He has not even shown any objection to German words, and musicians still clinging to the antiquated German style will be pleased with his compositions.