

## BERNARD SHAW'S PROPHECY.

BY THE EDITOR.

GEORGE Bernard Shaw recently expressed his view of the present situation in the *Chicago Examiner*, and he comes to a remarkable conclusion which, though it sounds almost incredible, contains a great deal of truth. He predicts a combination between the English and the Germans because of similarities in their character and in the tendencies of their politics. Mr. Shaw says:

"The war suggests strongly that a combination between the Germans and the English is inevitable, because they abuse one another in exactly the same terms, and hate one another in the same way.

"They understand the French, Poles, the Italians, the Hungarians, and the Irish very imperfectly; but they understand one another like brothers; and they are regarded by the other nations as the chief dangers to the liberty and peace of the world.

"They have largely peopled the United States of America. In spite of their misunderstandings of the French, Irish and Poles, they are accustomed to them and have an admiration for them which is sometimes affectionate and often ridiculous."

Mr. Shaw thinks that the Germans and the English can live together and work together comfortably; "for they share the same religion and irreligion, the same feudalism and liberalism and democracy. They wear the same sort of clothes, eat the same sort of food, and intermarry without the least sense of miscegenation.

"Thus, from Warsaw to San Francisco you have a clear unit of civilization; and if Germany, as is probable, has after the war to choose between alliances in the East and in the West, and, choosing the West, consolidates friendly relations with the United States, neither England nor France can prudently stand out of the combination, their accession to which would integrate the Netherlands and Scandinavia almost automatically."

The truth of Mr. Shaw's statement lies in the fact that both peoples are of the same stock; in fact they separated within historical times and have lost connection only through the strangely different development of their own languages, also within very recent times. Although the Saxon language of the Anglo-Saxons broke down under the Norman conquest, English is the most recent lan-

guage that developed from the Saxon. Saxon schools and education in general were neglected in Britain under the influence of the Norman-French army of William the Conqueror, while in Germany the old Low German language, spoken all over northern Germany, yielded at the time of the Reformation to High German, the language of Luther's Bible translation, which thus became the language spoken all over Germany.

Thus two changes, one in England and one in Germany, gave a different appearance to a language which prior to 1066 was still practically the same in Britain and on the continent, being a Low German dialect akin to the Dutch language of the Netherlands. There are no other two nations in the world which are so closely kin to each other as the North Germans and the English, and it is really because they are so similar that they are at present at war. They are both natural leaders and have come into conflict because two cannot be leader at the same time. Whether Mr. Shaw is right in prognosticating a combination is another question, and we quote him here because his remarks are worthy of note.

The question, as he also says, has a religious background, for England and northern Germany are typically Protestant, while the nations whom they have subjected (I refer here mainly to the Irish and Poles) are predominantly Catholic, and it would be easy to find parallels between Bismarck's Polish policy and the English policy toward Ireland. Though the former is not as severe as the latter they show points of contact, and we will say that while England has absolutely exterminated and replaced the Irish language the Germans have not succeeded in extinguishing Polish, which is still a great power and seems to look forward at present to a revival under a German protectorate.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### WERE THE EARLY CHRISTIANS PACIFISTS?

BY A. KAMPMEIER.

During the present European war Christianity has often been spoken of as having broken down, or as not having been lived up to, else the war would have been prevented. This view, as it seems to me, is based upon an ignorance of the political beliefs, for there were such, of early Christianity. It is true that Christianity entered the world with very lofty moral teachings, the highest, we might say. It taught the purest morality, summed up in the words, Love thy neighbor as thyself; it taught non-resistance, non-revenge, even the love of one's enemies; it made no distinction of race or social position: "There is