

CENTRALIA.

THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR.

BY THE EDITOR.

THREE countries have been forced into a close alliance through the outbreak of the present war. They are Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey. Later on they were joined by Bulgaria whose king Ferdinand is a German prince and whose inhabitants hate the Serbians and fear the Russians, but place great confidence in the Central Powers.

Prussia and Austria had been enemies since 1740. Austria had been the leader of Germany until Prussia grew in power and the Hohenzollern rivaled the imperial house of Hapsburg.

Since the leadership of Germany has definitely passed into the hands of Prussia, which happened in 1870, the old enmity has changed into a close alliance. Austria has troubles of her own with Russia and the pan-Slavic agitation in her own territory. She now needs Prussian help, but on the other hand Prussia needs Austria as a bulwark against the Slavs. Indeed Prussian Germany would be lost, or at least seriously endangered, if the Slavic part of Austrian lands fell into the hands of Russia. Hence the friendship between Prussia and Austria is based on mutual interest.

So long as England treated Russia as her most dangerous enemy, there was no need on either side for a close alliance between Prussian Germany and Austria-Hungary, and it is obvious that England's *entente cordiale* has knitted the friendship between the two Teutonic powers very firmly, indeed so firmly that their old enmities are entirely forgotten.

But how did the third party enter?

England was formerly the patron of Turkey, but since Edward VII founded the Triple Entente, England ceased to antagonize Russia. Russia, the old enemy of England, was needed for the

policy of encircling Germany, so Turkey was sacrificed to gain Russia.

Turkey is the center of the Islam world and there are many millions of Islamic inhabitants in India who, as is well known, form the most active and energetic part of the population. The best native soldiers are faithful believers in the Prophet, and so England deemed it wise to keep on good terms with the Sultan of Turkey, the recognized head of the Mohammedan faith. But since the Teutonophobia spread in England like an epidemic all the old traditions were set aside, and henceforth English diplomacy fraternized with England's old enemies, the French and the Muscovites, while her former protégé, the Turk, 'the sick man of Europe,' was abandoned to his fate. England no longer had any interest in protecting Constantinople and the Dardanelles against Muscovite ambition, and so Turkey was forced to look for another protector whom she found in the Kaiser. There followed the inevitable result of a firm alliance between Turkey and Germany. It is a struggle for life in which Turkey became involved, and how bravely the Turks held out is evidenced by the many English graves around Gallipoli.

The map on page 509 shows us the situation of these three countries now united for the present war in a close confederacy; but what is most significant in this union is the fact that the new alliance bids fair to outlast the war. English diplomacy has taken care that the interests which have formed the union of Turkey with the Central Powers for mutual protection in war will continue in time of peace. A great boycott is threatened by which the enemies of the Entente Powers shall forever forego the blessings of English trade.

English diplomats cherish the hope that such a boycott will have as great an effect as the same measure had against Napoleon I which contributed not a little to his final downfall. The new boycott will again have serious effects, but possibly it will not turn out in favor of England; possibly it will work on the new alliance like a protective tariff, and it is likely to favor the development of the countries discriminated against, for on a closer examination it seems probable that England will cut off her own nose to spite Germany.

Note the central position of the black spot in the map. It fills the space where the three continents of the old world meet; and consider the favorable connections which can be established from here in all directions, with Africa, with India, and through

Persia and Tibet with China. The territory thus united has not yet a name, but its most significant feature is its central position, and so we propose to call it Centralia.

Turkey has not been conquered by either Germany or Austria-Hungary; she has been forced to seek the assistance of the Central Powers. But the result will be the same as if the country had been conquered with the omission, however, of all the unpleasant disadvantages of a conquest. Conquered people hate their conquerors, but the Turks bid the Germans Godspeed. The goodwill which the Turks now cherish for the Germans they would not possess if English diplomacy had not made this new alliance highly desirable to them and a real help in a dire emergency. The Germans are actually looked up to as leaders, and unless they foolishly lose this confidence by lack of tact they will have a great chance of developing the rich resources of Turkey.

The central position with its several connections will be valuable assets for the Central Powers. This new empire is a group of densely populated countries possessing strong military forces which can march out into all parts of the three continents of the eastern hemisphere and cannot be hindered in their movements by the English navy. It certainly forms a combination which will be a thorn in the flesh of the British empire.

At the same time the total area of Centralia has a command of all the climates that are needed for industrial, agricultural and commercial purposes, which is an advantage not to be overlooked. It stretches from the Baltic down south to the equator and can produce anything needed in civilized life.

Great Britain undertook the war to crush Germany, and the foundation of Centralia will be the unexpected, the undesired and unpleasant result,—unpleasant for English diplomats. Such is the irony of fate in human history! There is always a party or a group of parties who want to prevent a certain change that threatens to come about, and they produce or hasten its coming by the very means they use to crush the new movement. English diplomacy saw the German danger. The Germans were a people who had learned in the severe school of life to do their work better than other people. They possessed qualities in which the British were lacking. They had developed a strong sense of duty and were more efficient in every respect. Recently they had overcome the worst hindrances which had prevented an efflorescence of their sterling accomplishments and had begun to outdo the British in industry and trade. That must not be! England will forgive anything but interference

with her world monopoly of trade, and here was a nation that was winning a place of its own in world commerce. In all peaceful enterprises England was being beaten, and statistics showed that German progress was rapid in every branch of manufacture. What was to be done? The only chance of overpowering and averting this German danger which was so formidable in peace was war—and war came.

We will not blame the English. England had become accustomed to the idea of owning the world. She looked upon herself as the elect whom God had favored with wealth and power and possession of the seas: yea her national hymn expresses her ambition as a divine destiny. The English glory in the thought that Britannia rules the waves! Why should they not try by all means, even by war if they must, to retain their power. The English knew what they were doing when they made a strong coalition, cleverly called an *entente*, for the purpose of isolating their dangerous rival. They forgot all former enmities, both with Russia and France, and engaged these one-time foes with a cunning smartness in the cause of crushing Germany. Such is the situation now; the plan was clever and, humanly thinking, there is no escape for Germany. But

*“Der Mensch denkt
Und Gott lenkt.”*

[Man proposes,
God disposes.]

The God of history has his own plans, and the attempt to crush Germany becomes a test of Germany to prove whether she is worthy to play the higher and greater part for which destiny has fitted her. If she holds her own against her enemies she will be capable of the new and nobler tasks that await her in the future.

The present war is waged with great bitterness and probably will be prolonged to exhaustion on both sides, but what will be the result? It is impossible for the Central Powers to conquer any of the English domains or compel the Allies to make peace within reasonable time. The Allies means England, for England is the leader. England has instigated the war, and the war is conducted for her special benefit. The Allies are really not fighting for themselves but for England, for English commercial interests and for the continuance of English supremacy in the world. This is recognized by all except the French patriots who always live in illusions, and the Russian war party who still hope to get the best of England after the war. Russia expects that after the conquest of Germany the last decision will be brought about by warfare waged between

the greatest power on land and the greatest power on sea; that while England may now remain the owner of the seven seas she will be unable to protect India by her navy against a Russian invasion by land.

English diplomats are very cunning but not far-sighted. They are smart but not wise. Sir Edward Grey has twice in his official capacity declared that there was no risk for England in this war and that victory was easy and perfectly assured.

The English *Daily News* in an article published in September, 1912, speaking with a clear knowledge of English intentions in founding the Entente, not only hesitates to endorse Sir Edward's policy but raises a warning voice. We read: "The center of this coalition against Germany is England. Neither France nor Russia have thought it out nor would either have had such thoughts. It is a liberal England who will appear before the papers of England as organizers of discord, as instigators of war. His [Sir Edward Grey's] actual policy has nothing in its favor, neither right nor honor nor traditional justice."

But England having encircled Germany with a general coalition of all the powers worth speaking of feels sure of ultimate success. Winston Churchill in one of his speeches before the war was confident that Germany could not withstand the attack of the Entente. He spoke of England as "the only power which could fight Germany without tremendous risk and without doubt for the issue."

Mr. Churchill thought that the English were safe. Such was the view of an English diplomat, and the whole English government undertook the war because with very few exceptions they believed they could ruin Germany without exposing themselves to the danger of suffering in a conflict in which England's allies would bear the burden of the struggle and England reap the advantages.

Yet now it seems unlikely that England will be able to crush Germany, and so it is probable that the result will be a drawn battle. The belligerents are not inclined to make peace at all, and neither of the two parties can be blamed, because any peace made now would be a mere truce since England is serious in her intention to crush Germany; she would make an armistice only for the sake of recuperating her strength and preparing for a new attack. On the other hand Germany cannot be expected to be generous and surrender her conquests, for this is a combat from which a re-establishment of friendly relations has been excluded by the very bitterness of the attack. England has openly declared her enemy to be barbarous and inhuman, and England's many misrepresenta-

tions will make a *rapprochement* undesirable if not positively impossible.

At the same time England has declared that the very establishment of peace shall be a continuation of the war in the line of commercial and industrial activity. Germany is to be cut off from the world market so as either to be compelled to submission or punished by a rigid isolation, and we know England too well not to doubt that she will pursue a rigorous persecution of this method of warfare.

What will be the result?

Centralia, viz., the three empires constituting the alliance of the Central Powers, will be more closely united by England's efforts to cut them off from the rest of the world. The English proposal to isolate Germany and her allies will result in a kind of prohibitive tariff enforced upon the central states, and the result will be that they shall be compelled to develop their own resources without any assistance from the rest of the world dominated by England.

The Germans need cotton; they will no longer have the benefit of the cotton market of the southern portion of the United States of America. The cotton raisers of the southern states will no longer be allowed to trade with Germany, and our American Rights League will insist on obedience to the British demand. American rights to trade with the whole world, including Germany, are to be maintained only so far as Great Britain will permit, and here Great Britain forbids. The result will be that the Germans will develop cotton plantations of their own in Turkey, and there will be a rich prospect for young men in Germany to emigrate to Turkey and join in the colonization scheme. The new colonies will probably be German speaking. Official business grants of the Ottoman empire will give the colonists special privileges to preserve their mother tongue and religion, possibly also allowing them to perform military services under German officers.

Furthermore Ceylon tea will no longer be imported into Germany; but the Germans want tea and so Germany will establish tea plantations in the Turkish empire, perhaps in the territory or neighborhood of ancient Babylon. The English will no longer allow the Brazilians to export coffee to Germany. The result will be coffee plantations in Arabia, and so an unprecedented boom of German colonization may fairly well be predicted in Anatolia.

At present the Turks are behind the times in industrial and commercial development. The mountains of Serbia are not even

yet explored, and since the Central Powers need the territory of Serbia in order to retain actual connection with Turkey the German and Austrian mineralogists will explore the country and develop mines in places containing ore deposits which undoubtedly exist in this part of the world. Under the guidance of German science industries will develop and furnish Turkey with an opportunity of unexpected prosperity.

Thus an agricultural and commercial efflorescence is to be expected in this absolutely undeveloped country, and the entire group of countries which we call Centralia will in more than a mere geographical sense become the heart of the old world. Its prosperity will probably equal English prosperity in spite of its small size, very small as compared to the rest of the world which will be under English domination.

There is no chance now that England will be beaten or conquered by Germany. The God of history does not reject a favored nation so quickly; and it is obvious that the territory dominated by England will be enormously larger than Centralia. The English domain extends over the whole world, for there is no country washed by the ocean waves that does not pay tribute to Great Britain. However, in spite of this enormous advantage which England will keep, Centralia has also its advantages and indeed the future development of human history depends on the use made of peculiar advantages by either power, the leaders of the British world or the leaders of Centralia. Centralia has the uncommon advantage of close proximity between her parts and can establish connections all around. Within her own territory, she will be like a well-fortified redoubt.

The English world is threatened by a division, which means the establishment of two spheres with two independent centers. It seems probable that the United States will be a part of the British world, and present American public opinion favors submission to Great Britain in such a way that the United States will either actually or practically become a member of the British empire.

At present the pro-British sentiment in the United States is very strong; we seem to have forgotten our American ideal of independence. We made ourselves free in a bitter fight and through the blood of the fathers of our republic we maintained our freedom in the face of the defeated English army under General Cornwallis. But the present sentiment is so friendly to England that there are Americans now who regret that the revolution against England's dominion took place at all. The Boston Tea Party has been de-

nounced as a childish freak unworthy of our fathers. Benedict Arnold should be reestablished as a good patriot whose foresight was keener than George Washington's and who will soon become the patron saint of modern Americanism.

We are on the brink of openly avowing that we ought to have remained faithful subjects of the English crown. There is for instance the American Rights Committee who stands up boldly and unreservedly for the Britification of America and demands a most intimate reunion with England as the ideal of the present American policy.

England's method of ruling the world has assumed the guise of being thoroughly "democratic." The truth is that Germany is more democratic than England whose actual constitution is thoroughly oligarchical and whose pretense of democracy is obviously hypocritical. It is a mask put on to flatter the common man who is virtually excluded from any influence upon British politics. The idea is comforting even though there is no truth in it.

A circular bulletin of the American Rights League, No. 6, March 13, 1916, entitled *America's Foreign Policy* answers the question "What Then Shall We Do?" as follows: "Throw our sympathies on the side of England and her allies, pursue this line as the logic of events requires. After the war put ourselves into the closest and most sympathetic relations with Great Britain and France."

And why? This is also answered in the same circular: "Great Britain is the nation which can do us the most harm of any or all on earth, and with her on our side we need not fear the whole world. With her then we should most heartily cherish a more cordial friendship and nothing would tend more to knit the affections than to be fighting once more side by side in the same cause." In other words, the American Rights League proposes to be submissive to Great Britain, to fight her wars and obey her as if we were a colony of the British empire.

Now the question of the future will be, Shall Great Britain retain the rest of the world, including the United States, or shall the United States preserve its independence and remain a free country? English diplomatists will not formulate their demands so bluntly; they will first propose a harmless alliance of all English speaking races and then gradually solidify this alliance into a political union.

Germany is surely going to maintain her freedom and establish a rival dominion in Centralia which will not be subject to the Eng-

lish yoke. But what will become of the United States of America? It would be difficult to decide the question now, but it is to be expected that if the old American spirit is not yet dead we may still preserve our independence. If we do, it will be in spite of the efforts of the press subsidized or partly owned by Great Britain, and in spite of the aspirations of the blind followers of the league falsely called "the American Rights League." It will be a hard fight, the harder because our political parties use the traditional British method of hypocritical misrepresentation and falsify the issues. Submission to England is regarded as the cause of humanity and the establishment of highest civilization means obedience to British rules and British ideals.

Note the name "American Rights League." The league really means to submit to Great Britain and positively proposes to abandon American rights. Is not the name inappropriate? It is not so much inappropriate as characteristic of the Anglican method of presenting an issue.

If in the English world an association were organized for the purpose of wolfish practices, English diplomats would probably not call it a Lupine Conspiracy, but "The Lambs Club" or "The Ovine Association," and its members would glorify the ovine ideal of sheephood. They would hang up in their club rooms a copy of Van Eyck's classical picture of the adoration of the Lamb. So for instance, if the English arm their merchant ships for the purpose of attack, they claim that the guns are intended for defense only. If they make a rigorous alliance for both defensive and offensive purposes, English diplomats do not call it a confederation, nor a coalition, nor even a union, but an *entente*, a mere friendly understanding of a harmless nature. If intrigues are planned threatening the peace of Europe, the arrangements outlined for future procedure are mere academic talks and are designated as "conversations" and so all through! The British lion presents himself as an innocent lamb.

The founders of this republic were men who stood up for their rights. In those days it was more true than now that "Great Britain is the nation which can do us most harm," but that was no reason to them for submitting to Great Britain, but for fighting against her tyranny.

Then there was no need to organize an American Rights League; Americans had no rights, but they wrested their rights from Great Britain. Our present generation lacks virility. The American Rights League feels the weakness of America, so its members

advise seeking protection from the English navy. It is claimed that "with her [Great Britain] on our side we need not fear the whole world." The fathers of our republic were more manly, and it is certain that they would be ashamed of their descendants if they could read this declaration of the American Rights League. Can we not develop enough strength to be able to defend ourselves? Is there any reason for us to fear any one, if we rely on ourselves as our fathers did? Have we become such contemptible cowards



CARTOON FROM "PUNCH" IN 1861.

or weaklings that we must seek protection under the Union Jack or the apron of our national grandmother?

If the ideals of the American Rights League become the dominant thought in our modern Americanism it is certain that our American independence will soon be a thing of the past. We may retain our freedom in name by being officially declared independent, but our freedom would mean that we shall voluntarily obey the British government. The proposition is well and clearly expressed in a British cartoon which we here reproduce for the benefit of those

of our American countrymen who have a longing to join the American Rights League. The picture, reproduced from *Punch* of December, 1861, shows the substantial figure of John Bull with the Union Jack waving over the sea and the United States standing in front of him in a most ridiculous posture of incompetent bravado. The cartoon is labeled, "Look out for squalls," and John Bull is saying to Jonathan, "You do what's right my son, or I'll blow you out of the water."

Is it possible that the American spirit will be revived? Yes it is possible, but as matters stand at present it is not certain. I am sorry to say that the American spirit manifests itself in only a limited number of old Americans and shows its most intense feeling mainly in the hyphenated Americans, the German-Americans and the Irish-Americans. Its force is almost lost in the eastern states but it may still be found in its old vigor in the west. The Germans have always been good Americans and are still. They have come to this country because they believed in American ideals, but their views of American ideals were those of Washington and of Lincoln, not of Mr. Roosevelt nor of Mr. Woodrow Wilson who now denounce the hyphen as un-American.

The editor of *The Open Court* has always been a patriotic American and he knows no hyphenated American who is not a good American, but in the face of the many assaults made on the hyphen, he begins to feel that the old American spirit is dying out and that a new race is rising here which is sick of the old American ideal and creates a new pro-British patriotism, forgetting what Great Britain did to America in former days.

In the year 1863 an anonymous poem appeared in *Harper's Weekly* which expresses the spirit of the old Americanism, but at present our administration is pro-British, and while Germany is naturally our ally and should be treated with a friendly neutrality we antagonize her as if we were Britons, and the true Americans are denounced as traitors to the cause of humanity. There are however some Americans left who still cling to the old-fashioned ideals and with reference to the poem of 1863 (quoted in full in *The Open Court* of November, 1915, p. 700) Mr. John L. Stoddard laments the present lack of manhood and true American patriotism as follows:

"We have forgotten it,—England's 'neutrality,'
We have surpassed it by one of our own,
Based on a specious but shameful legality,
Masked by a smug, hypocritical tone.

“We have forgotten how England then treated us,
 Jeered at our losses, our struggles, our tears,
 Shouted whenever our brothers defeated us,
 Captured our vessels with swift privateers.

“We have forgotten how England then rated us;
 Nothing too vile of us then could be said;
 Snobs and aristocrats,—all of them hated us
 Now they despise us,—our spirit is dead.

“We have forgotten how England then scornfully
 Ridiculed Lincoln as ‘ape’ and as ‘clown,’
 While a whole nation, in reverence, mournfully
 Laid him to rest and immortal renown.

“We have forgotten her earlier ravages,—
 Cities destroyed on our shelterless shore,
 Use in her ranks of the scalp-hunting savages!
 Read we the lives of our fathers no more?

“We have forgotten it all; and, though stronger,
 Tamely we yield to her shameless decrees;
 Souls of our sires, respect us no longer,
 While we thus cringe to the Scourge of the seas!

“*Make* us remember it, lest our servility
 Finally meet with the craven’s reward;
 God of our fathers, restore our virility!
 Up from our knees! It is time for the sword.”

These lines are a terse hymn of lamentation written by an American Jeremiah.

Let us hope that America will recover from the pro-British infection which has come upon her. May God restore our manhood and preserve our independence; may He illuminate our souls that we may be fortified against the sinister and insidious British intrigues and ever remain faithful to the old American ideals.