

## THE LITERARY DIGEST

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### MUST ENGLAND DESTROY THE GERMAN EMPIRE?

**T**HERE are not in Europe two countries that seem to hate each other more than England and Germany. The two governments are less inclined to quarrel than the people. This mutual dislike has now risen to such an extent that English papers say in so many words: "Germany must be destroyed. The sooner England attacks her, the better it will be for Great Britain and for civilization." We condense the following from a long article in the *London Saturday Review*:

Bismarck has long since recognized what at length the people of England are beginning to understand, that England and Germany must come to blows over the right to levy from the whole world the tribute of commerce. England, with her long history of successful aggression, and convinced that in pursuing her own interests she is spreading light among nations dwelling in darkness, and Germany, with lesser will-force but keener intelligence, compete in every corner of the globe. A million petty disputes build up the greatest cause of war the world has ever seen. If Germany were extinguished to-morrow, there is not an Englishman in the world who would not be the richer the day after to-morrow. Nations have fought for years over a city or a right of succession; must they not fight for £200,000,000 of commerce? William the Witless is bringing the war closer, and England is the only country that could fight Germany without risk and without doubt of the issue. A few days, and the German ships would be at the bottom of the sea or in convoy to English ports; Hamburg and Bremen, the Kiel Canal, and the Baltic ports would lie under the guns of England, waiting for the indemnity to be settled. All we would have to do then would be to say to France and Russia: "Seek some compensation. Take inside Germany whatever you like; you can have it." France and Russia certainly will not lift a hand to save Germany. The war is inevitable and England's best hope of prosperity. The presumption of the German Emperor has brought Germany to a pretty pass.

In the opinion of *The Spectator*, France and Russia would make mincemeat of the powers forming the Triple Alliance, if they were sure that England would not interfere. *The Spectator* informs the Dual Alliance that they are welcome to help themselves to any part of Germany and Austria, and even of Italy, if that power does not know which side of its bread is buttered. We quote as follows:

"There has been an attempt on the part of the German Emperor to get up coalition against England. It has failed, but at

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the same time France and Russia have tried to use the incident to get some sort of assurance that England will not, when the great war comes, join the Triple Alliance. That is a maneuver natural enough under the circumstances. As far as Germany is concerned we see no sort of reason why England should refuse to give an assurance that we shall not side with her. The policy pursued toward us by Germany during the last few years forfeits all claim on her part to our consideration. . . . We could not allow Italy to be partitioned or destroyed. Probably we might find means of protecting Italy without protecting the Triple Alliance. In case of war we might offer Italy a complete and absolute guaranty if she would leave the Triple Alliance. If Italy refused to do that we must, of course, leave her to take her chance. But in all probability she would not show any such obstinacy. The offer of immunity from the risks of war would probably be irresistible. Possibly, however, it will be said that Italy would be bound in honor to stand by Germany and Austria. We do not think that need be a very serious difficulty."

To these opinions, as expressed in influential English papers, the *Kölnische Zeitung*, Cologne, replies, in the main, as follows:

The English themselves acknowledge that it is impossible for them to compete in the arts of peace with us and hope to be victorious. Hence their threats of war, their brutal untruths, their attacks upon the Emperor. These latter especially annoy the Germans, as such attacks are an insult to the whole nation. Englishmen evidently do not realize that William II. has his people at his back. The English will, however, find to their cost that nations, as well as individuals, must show some consideration to others. That Germany is more likely to have the support of the Triple Alliance in an Anglo-German struggle, goes without saying. But Germany does not depend upon this. She is used to fight her own battles, and with her own men. Since the time has passed away when the enemies of Germany could obtain German troops, Germany may look hopefully to the future, tho she should refrain from underrating an enemy. England, however, will find it to her advantage to think twice ere she enters upon an Anglo-German campaign. In war, victory is never assured till after the battle, and England has not such a crushing superiority of men, guns, and wealth that prosperity is as certain to follow a war against Germany as a petty expedition against naked savages.

The *Hamburger Nachrichten*, Bismarck's paper, declares that Germany does not and can not reasonably wish to destroy England by leading a coalition against her. Germany prefers peace, as she hopes to get the best of her rival in the struggle for industrial and commercial supremacy. It is of no advantage to Germany if France takes Egypt and Russia takes India. Hence a war will never be of Germany's seeking.—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*