

## LIFTING THE MASK FROM ENGLAND

By Aleister Crowley

THINGS are by no means pleasant, either between the Allies themselves or even between the heterogeneous components of "Kitchener's Kippers." The English despise and distrust the French; the old story about the rout of Mons being caused by the non-appearance of two French armies is still current. The reason of it is variously given as treachery resulting in the shooting of two French generals, failure to receive orders, and various other causes. But the feeling remains that the French did fail to support them, however it may have happened. And as the British expedition was pretty well wiped out, one can understand the soreness of the feeling. On the French side is the deep-seated, inherited distrust of "perfidious Albion." Every Frenchman knows instinctively that if a moment should ever arrive when it would be to England's interest to quit or change sides, she would not hesitate for a moment.

There is also infinite jealousy between British and Colonial troops. The Colonials are contemptuous of discipline and "boiled collars," and each man fancies himself a hero. The British retaliate by contempt of the provincialisms of the Colonials. But worse than all this is the absolute conviction of Scotch, Irish and Welsh troops, as well as of all the Colonial troops, that they are deliberately sacrificed in battle, in order to spare the English regiments. History, of course, abounds in instances where this has been done. In some cases Celtic regiments have been deliberately shelled by their own artillery. You cannot expect men to fight if they suspect this sort of thing. The feeling in South Wales among the miners against conscription is almost entirely due to the idea that the Government would be very pleased if their numbers were reduced by 50 per cent. or so. The feeling in Ireland is, of course, well known. It is this absence of solidarity in the nation, or rather nations, which has been the eternal stumbling-block. This more than any other is the reason that conscription has become necessary.

Another reason for the unpopularity of the service was the complete incompetence and even carelessness shown by the Government in the early days of the war, with regard to providing creature comforts for the men. The usual red tape has also been employed to a devastating extent in the drawing of allowances. Women who can hardly read and write have been bombarded with forms which would puzzle a college professor, and expected to fill them out satisfactorily. The restrictions on drink have caused even greater trouble. Similar remarks apply to the questions of sexual morality. It is no good to appeal to people on the ground that they are high-spirited patriots, possessing all the virtues, when at the same time you are treating them as if they were the lowest criminals, wallowing in every possible vice.

During my stay I was naturally the centre of a great deal of interest, as having spent so long in America. Every one was anxious to know the real attitude of the American public toward the war. I explained that the national characteristics had not in any way been altered by the Atlantic. The Anglo-Saxon was all volubility, sentimentality, and slop. Snobbishness, hypocrisy, and money-bags were the three persons in his trinity. The Irish were jubilant, feeling that the hour of revenge for their long martyrdom had struck at last; but were content to wait and work in the dark for a little longer. The Teutons (I continued) said little. If one judged from the volumes of talk one would imagine that nine Americans in ten hated Germany. But the Teuton, realizing that acrimonious conversation does no particular damage, keeps his breath to cool his porridge. I said I regarded it as certain that America could not openly enter the war without political disruption, possibly of a very violent character. The more thoughtful of those who discussed the matter with me seemed to regard these considerations as an excuse for President Wilson. There was also the argument that America was helping the Allies more by staying out, than she could do by going in. But everywhere I met the same ingrained assumption that there were no two sides to the question; and those who, being incapable of anything but the most superficial thought, reacted simply to facts without consideration of what they might imply, merely overflowed with vulgar abuse.

I found one man, however, who appeared fairly well acquainted with the real situation in America. "The whole affair," he said to me, "is evidently politics and graft. Wilson does not mean to get into trouble at any price, because he knows that it would mean his political ruin. He sends these idiotic notes to us and the Germans, merely in the hope of catching votes. The fatuity of his whole proceeding is obvious. Neither we nor Germany are foolish enough to take any notice of him. The old dog has no teeth; and if he had, he would not dare bite. Why do not the Teutons avoid these tedious diplomatic exchanges by painting their torpedoes in plain letters: 'Peace on Earth, Good-will towards Men,' 'I should hate to be misunderstood,' 'With the compliments of the season,' 'To show our affection for America,' and re-christen the U-boats 'Oscar III,' 'IV,' and so on? What the Yankees do not understand is, that this little scrap with Germany is only a family quarrel. We are mostly of the same blood, our royalties are closely related, our languages are cognate, our interests are not particularly conflicting. We shall very soon kiss and make friends and proceed to recoup ourselves—by taking over North and South America as going concerns. Wilson's blundering diplomacy has given both of us every excuse for making war when it suits our convenience. The British and German Navy are both entirely unimpaired, neither of us have lost a single capital ship, and if necessary we could send over an invading force, not of a few hundred thousand men, as their alarmists diffidently suggest, but of just as many million as might be necessary to reduce the whole continent to the status of a conquered province. In any case, that is the only natural state for them. They have lost all idea of liberty. Look at their Blue Laws and their Lizzie Laws. Look at how they permit themselves to be exploited by people with no moral or social superiority, but merely greater skill in robbery. Look at the way in which they endure our impudence, which is far greater than any Germany has given them. Trust me, we'll make another India of the U. S. A." The ignorance and bad taste of these remarks are positively alarming, when one considers that the man who uttered them has an international reputation as a thinker. Evidently the war has been too much for his poor mind.

I had only been about ten days in London when my psychological studies were definitely interrupted in a manner wholly unexpected. I asked an old friend named Carruthers to join me in a chop at the Club, and we had reached the coffee (fortunately) before the waiter appeared and informed me that a gentleman was waiting to see me on business. I guessed that the blow had fallen, and went out as a sheep to slaughter. I was right. A very polite individual introduced himself as Inspector Simpson; but instead of placing gyves upon my wrists, he merely hoped that I was well, and could he have the pleasure of a few minutes' conversation with me? I was, of course, only too delighted. He then said that the Government was not at all angry with me; they did not wish to prosecute me, oh dear, no, far from us be any such thought! I realized for the fifteen-hundred-and-forty-first time in my life the inestimable value of family connections and close friends in high places. I told him, however, as in duty bound, that I should glory in suffering for the truth. He reminded me that this was England, and that the truth would never appear. I had no further remarks to make. "Well, I said, "What can I do for you? If you don't want to prosecute me—what is it? Do you want to make me Foreign Secretary? You might do worse. I would have the boys out of the trenches by Easter. It only needs a little give and take, a little common-sense." No, he said, the position was this: Averse as they were to any public scandal, the press would certainly get wind of my presence in London, and embarrass the Government by insisting upon making a fuss. He therefore proposed to call for me in his automobile at eight o'clock the following morning and wish me Godspeed.

I asked him whether he could not postpone the journey for twenty-four hours, as I had some very important business to settle

with my lawyer the following morning. His paws retracted for a moment, exhibiting the claws beneath, still in a half hidden way. He was very sorry, he said, but his orders were formal. He was sure that I would not put him to the inconvenience of getting them changed. There was such a lot of red tape about these trifles. . . . I knew what he meant, and agreed. So I excused myself to my guest, took a taxi down to my lawyer's home in the country, and spent the night settling up my business. In the morning Simpson took me down to Tilbury in his car, and put me on to a transport, one of six. There must have been fifteen to twenty thousand men aboard. Our little flotilla steamed out of the Thames, and the following morning I was put off on to a fishing smack which took me into Flushing. I was terribly puzzled at the time, to know what on earth these ships were doing sailing north. But the mystery is now clear, from information received. It appears that there are still so

many spies in such places as Calais and Dover, that they do not care to send transports through the Channel, as their presence is sure to be reported to the enemy; they therefore send them around the north of Scotland into the Atlantic where their destination could not be spied upon.

As for me, I went to stay with a good friend of mine near Amsterdam, where I was joined by someone from Berlin who had a special desire to hear my news, and communicate his own. A small and selected part of the very interesting conversation which I had with him may form the subject of another paper. He went back after three days, and as for me, once more I concealed myself and sailed for the Land of the Free by the *Ryndam*, where my knowledge of English was increased by the personal instruction of Father Neptune as to the meaning of the term seasickness.

## WILSON WANTS WAR

Why Henry Ford Was Snubbed by the President

By George E. Miller, Staff Correspondent of the *Detroit News*

*("All the imps of hell never devised a more infamous lie than the declaration that has been made that President Wilson wants war," declared Representative Pou in the course of a recent debate on the McLemore resolution in Congress. We feel justified in pou-pouing the statement of Mr. Pou. For it appears now on corroborative evidence that Mr. Wilson made his bellicose statement not only to numerous members of Congress but to Mr. Henry Ford before the latter embarked on his pilgrimage for peace. The author of the following article is one of the ablest newspaper correspondents in Washington. Is Mr. Pou willing to brand both Mr. Henry Ford and Mr. George E. Miller as "infamous imps of hell" in order to save the President's reputation?")*

**J**UST what was said by the President to throw Congress into a riot of apprehension, and to keep it in a turmoil of doubt ever since, representatives and senators in their rage are revealing right and left. They charge the President with saying:

"It would be a good thing for humanity for the United States to get into this war. By doing so the war would be ended in a few months."

Practically everybody who attempts to quote the President's language uses these words or their equivalent. It was the circulation of this statement among the members of Congress which caused the excessive excitement of last week and led to the introduction of the resolutions notifying American citizens to keep off armed belligerent merchant ships.

### Discovery a Shock

It is this same statement which fills members of Congress with distress and doubt over the President's demand for a vote of confidence. The discovery that the President is fervently on the side of the Allies came as a shock to many of the statesmen, although it was not news to some other people.

One man to make the discovery as long ago as last November is Henry Ford, of Detroit. On the twenty-third of that month he called at the White House to enlist the President in the cause of peace. The President was the first man to whom Mr. Ford revealed his purpose of sending a peace ship to Europe. He hoped to make it the official ship of the United States operating under the direction of the President, as he had reasons to believe the other neutral nations would join willingly if the United States led the way.

### Ford Tells of Conference

Mr. Ford related the conference with the President to me as soon as it was over, and I immediately set it down with the understanding that I was not to cripple the peace ship project by printing it at that time.

The interview between the President and Mr. Ford revealed two things on which these men agree, but differ wholly as to the method of accomplishing the same. They agree that this war is the most ghastly horror of all the ages and that to end it would be the greatest blessing that could now be conferred upon mankind. That is one thing. The other is that all nations should disarm.

### Differ on Methods

In discussing methods they were in total disagreement. Mr. Ford insisted that the quickest method is the best; that the disinterested neutral nations ought to set up a high court of arbitration in the

shape of an international peace congress and that body to work without ceasing until peace is secured.

President Wilson saw no chance to stop the war by that method at this time, and did not believe the moment would arrive until the militarism of the German Empire had been crushed. Mr. Ford was startled by this unexpected revelation of the President's sympathy for the cause of the Allies. He held stoutly to the opinion that to disarm the Germans would be so much better than to crush them that the entire civilization of the world ought to be marshaled to that end. He was bitterly disappointed that the President could not see this in the same light.

### Pay No Attention

While the President agreed fully with Mr. Ford that all nations ought to disarm, he held to the opinion that the United States was not in a position to propose such a thing and would not be until it also was armed to the teeth. At present, with the limited forces at the command of this republic, the President appeared to believe that the heavily armed nations would not pay attention to a disarmament proposal from the United States.

Mr. Ford tried to impress upon him that the negotiations of a peace at this time necessarily must involve a disarmament agreement to which all nations on earth would become a party. He pointed out that the nations at war are killing and maiming at least 20,000 men a day, perhaps more; that this formed the most potent disarmament argument ever offered for the use of civilization; and that he saw no hope of world disarmament if this slaughter were to be continued deliberately, under the patronage of the greatest neutral nation, until one of the belligerents was crushed. Mr. Ford and the President split hopelessly on this point.

### Financial Ruin

Mr. Ford tried to tell the President that if it was to be regarded as necessary for the United States to spend half a billion dollars at once for armament to force the world ultimately to disarm, it would accomplish more in the direction of world peace to offer the money as a part of the peace proposal by agreeing to spend it in the construction of homes for the people made homeless by the war. Also, that to continue to spend money in this country for armament until the United States would so preponderate in arms as to be able to overawe all other nations and thus compel disarmament simply meant financial ruin for some nations, if not for all. For of course they would try to keep peace with the United States as far as humanly possible. But he could not perceive that he shook the President in his position.