

ality that is our great obligation as a neutral people. Sometimes our sympathy outruns our reason. But even those of you who may sympathize with Germany, will agree with the principle that it is not right for a nation to utilize her power solely for her own advantage. For the German "Kultur" I have the greatest admiration. In science, art and letters, as well as in efficiency, she has lifted herself in the memory of a generation to a position of pre-eminence among the nations of the world. Her achievements in every field of human accomplishment command our instant respect—but she has lived for herself. Her national strength has been bent solely upon self-aggrandizement. Her ideal, if I am permitted to understand it, is for a Germany that will grow greater at the expense of other peoples less aggressive, less vigorous, less fortunate.

Germany is not alone in this error. Indeed I am not at all sure that Great Britain, in her assumption of suzerainty of the seas, may not have been the inspiration for Germany's ambition. Russia and France are by no means blameless, and the entrance of Italy into the war, so far as I can discover, is prompted by no considerable motive except that of national aggrandizement.

I know that this is the history of nations. I know that might has ever strengthened itself at the expense of the weak. But is there no other way? Must selfishness always be supreme?

It would seem to be a fair analogy, that a nation is like an individual, subject to the same general laws and principals that govern the growth and conduct of an individual. Now the first law of life is self-preservation. The very first thing a human being has to learn is to keep himself alive, to protect himself from danger, to provide for himself food and shelter. In a very real sense a man's first obligation is to himself. But in this the man animal is no higher than the beasts of the field. Again, the man finds himself the member of a family, and to that group or to individuals of that group, he recognizes an obligation. He works for them, fights for them, is ready if need be to die for them. This is praiseworthy, of course, but it represents no high order of unselfishness. We find the same thing among the brutes. In a more advanced state, a man and his family recognize their interrelation to larger groups, as neighborhoods, communities and states. This we call loyalty, or, if applied to the nation, patriotism. Devotion to country is the greatest loyalty and has ever inspired men to the highest thoughts and actions. The word patriotism, loyalty to America, brings a glow to our eye and a warmth to our heart.

So far has the man progressed in this process of socialization. He has recognized himself as a member of a family, a tribe, and then of larger groups, finally merging into the great nation of modern times.