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A WAR WITH GERMANY.

Of all the possibilities suggested by our war with Spain, perhaps the possibility of a war with Germany growing out of it is the most preposterous, says the New York World.

By the constitution of the German empire, the emporer is not in Germany. While the emperor can declare war if defensive, to declare war if not merely defensive he must have the consent of the Bundesrath or Federal Council. The fifty-eight members of this body are appointed by the governments of the respective states of the empire, Prussia's seventeen members being outnumbered by the delegations of the three kingdoms of Bavaria, Saxony and Wurtemberg, with the grand duchies of Baden and Hesse, or by the twenty-one members from the smaller political divisions. In order to involve Germany in war with the United States the emporer would not only have to get the consent of the varying interests in the Bundesrath, but he would also have to get the consent of the public opinion, which is the greatest force of all.

If Germany had a just cause of war no doubt the national feeling would respond. But without such injury to the national interest as would constitute a just cause, and without an appeal to the national feeling or prejudice or honor, the intelligence and self-interest of the nation would assert themselves against war. But assuming the improbable, what could Germany do? Send her armies to this country? Absurd and ridiculous! How could she do it? Where would our navy be? And what would be her position at home?

She would immediately have France across the Rhine, and trouble possibly with Russia, Austria and even Denmark. No country in Europe is more powerful than Germany, but none is more exposed to danger. She has not a sincere friend on any frontier. In spite of her triple alliance, she knows that she cannot depend on either Italy or Austria. And even within her own domain she has a great many elements of danger, such as the French in Alsace Lorraine, the Danes in Schleswig-Holstein and the Poles in what was formerly part of Poland. German statesmen know how little they can trust their neighbors and how much they have to look out for France, and they are not foolish enough to make crazy experiments.

As to a mere naval struggle between America and Germany, hardly any comment is necessary. Germany has during the past twenty years built some very good ships. In numbers and on paper her navy is formidable. But the real power of a navy is not in tonnage or even in guns, but in trained aptitude of the race, in the education, development, heredity and breeding produced not by twenty years but by centuries. Before the Franco-German war Germany practically had no warships. In fact, so destitute was she of naval aspiration before that event that there was not even a secretary of the navy in any of the states of Germany.

The whole suggestion of a war with Germany is, as we have said, preposterous. Nowhere outside of Germany is the true German character better understood and appreciated than in this country, and our sure reliance for the continuation of our friendly relations rests on our knowledge of the good sense and intelligence of the German people, who would be almost unanimous in their protest against the mere thought of so unnatural a struggle.

There may be nothing at all in the rumor of an impending disagreement between Great Britain and Russia, but such a rumor is quite enough to keep the powers of Europe occupied with their own interests to the exclusion of any idea of interference in the affairs of the United States or in our relations with Spain.

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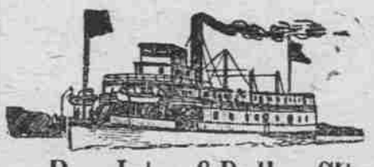

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