

**THE WAR AND AFTER; SHORT
CHAPTERS ON SUBJECTS OF
SERIOUS PRACTICAL IMPORT
FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN IN A.
D. 1915 ONWARDS**

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The War and After; Short Chapters on Subjects of Serious Practical Import for the Average Citizen in A. D. 1915 Onwards by Sir Oliver Lodge

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THE WAR AND AFTER

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE SUBSTANCE OF FAITH, ALLIED
WITH SCIENCE

MAN AND THE UNIVERSE

THE SURVIVAL OF MAN

REASON AND BELIEF

MODERN PROBLEMS

THE WAR AND AFTER

SHORT CHAPTERS ON SUBJECTS
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FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN
IN A.D. 1915 ONWARDS

BY

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PREFACE

THE Workers' Educational Association, and other organizations, have provided or recommended for their students a large supply of historical literature connected with the war, and it may be hoped that much of it is being read by those whose voting power—surely under some strange providential guidance—helps to control the conduct of this country's affairs. But the mass of material is so great, and the time for reading so short, that an attempt to concentrate attention on special points and to emphasize some of the more pressing and practical features of the present difficult but hopeful situation, may be useful. It is with this sole but very serious aim that the following chapters have been written.

As I have no pretension to be an historian I shall often quote from other writers when dealing with historical facts and national characters. Of all the readily accessible treatises dealing with the crisis, perhaps the most noteworthy, anticipation of current events and impartial survey of the national characteristics which have led to the present outburst is contained in a book called *The Anglo-German Problem*,

written well before the outbreak of hostilities and published in 1912 by that distinguished Belgian, Dr. Charles Sarolea, Head of the French Department of the University of Edinburgh. I shall quote a few passages from this book to illustrate the clear knowledge possessed by experts a few years ago.

As to the rights and wrongs of the diplomacy preceding this war, our own case is so clear and strong, and so emphasized by our just and honourable—but as it turns out lamentable—unpreparedness, that only a few people here and there, misled by false statements, can require a legal argument to prove it; I do not touch on this subject, but note that an able summing-up by a Swiss-American jurist exists, in a book called *The Evidence in the Case*, by the Hon. James M. Beck, LL.D., of New York, with a Preface by the ex-American Ambassador to this country, Mr. Choate. The book was published by Putnam's Sons early in 1915, and is fiercely interesting.

Only one other tract will I mention here—though from others I may quote—and that is the pamphlet by Professor Gilbert Murray entitled *How Can War Ever be Right?* which I hope will be read by all premature pacifists.

It is highly desirable at the present time to preserve our mental balance. We must, it is true, denounce in measured terms the inhuman atrocities which have been authorita-

tively sanctioned and enforced on helpless victims, and the campaign of lies and slander with which neutral nations have been affronted by diplomatists to whom every trace of the saving sense of humour seems to be denied ; and we must sorrowfully admit that the attitude of those politicians and rulers is approved and followed by droves of misguided patriots. Yet we should earnestly endeavour to distinguish between these recent outgrowths of unholy subservience to a dominating clique, and the more permanent and friendly aspect of the European nations with which we are at war. We should bear continually in mind—hard though it often be—the services to humanity, and the lovable, friendly, and homely past aspects of the majority of our present foes. What real quarrel have we with Austria, with the peasants of Bavaria, with the Rhine provinces, with Hanover, or with the down-trodden Prussian Poles?

To mention no others, we actually have to reckon the Tyrolese among our foes at the present time—they are furnishing sharpshooters to the German army ; and in other only less flagrant cases we are being slain at the call of duty by those who are essentially our friends. To assist them in doing their duty, which else must be repulsive, a campaign of hate has been artificially fostered. This dementia is not reciprocated, and it would be ludicrous were its consequences not likely to be so serious

to those of our number who happen to fall helpless into the hands of a temporarily insane people.

But, while admitting with sad astonishment the terrible Downfall in moral status which has been the accompaniment of half a century's aim at World Power, let us see to it that we remember our own shortcomings also ; and while proclaiming fully and fairly that they are of a kind differing *toto cælo* from those with which we are contending, yet admit sorrowfully enough that we might have done far better in the past, and hope that we may have wisdom and resolution enough to do better in the future.

O. J. L.

May 1915