

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE
WORLD? A
REVELATION AND A
WARNING, PP. 2-185**

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What's Wrong with the World?

A Candid Inquiry into the Under-
lying Spirit and Its Trend That
Made Possible the Great World War



A REVELATION AND
A WARNING

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DEDICATION.
TO A FREE AMERICA.
ITS PERPETUAL PEACE,
BASED ON THE RIGHTEOUSNESS
THAT EXALTETH A NATION.

FOREWORD

THE war is over. Now thank we all our God! The war spirit is waning. It is not dead. War-thought and war-talk are rife around us. This is natural. In a sense, it is well. The soul of humanity was too terribly torn, too shatteringly shocked. The thought, the feeling, the wonder, the amazement cannot be easily laid aside.

For a generation or more serious men will speculate and wise men will write on this world tragedy. Our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will read and think and debate and wonder how it could have been possible.

The world has been upheaved. Humanity has been outraged. Fury and madness and despair and agony indescribable for a time turned men and women into demons and made Flanders fields a shrieking, seething hell. Abandoned old age, helpless invalids, anguished mothers and famished children have been martyred by the million through the hunger blockade. The lands mourn. The anguish and the agony cry day and night unto heaven. Broken hearts and broken hopes in broken homes that will never be mended in

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this world display their mute despair. No man can estimate or tell it all. Eternity will feel it. God knows it.

Thinking people, people of a serious mind, ought to want to know what all this means. They should give the most earnest heed to these emphatic lessons of recent history.

Such people do want to know how such an unearthly calamity could fall upon our time. And how could the principal actors be the nations that were regarded as the most civilized, the most cultured, the most Christian in the world?

While the wild war, with its wild war spirit, was on there seemed to be little time or inclination for careful, sober thinking and investigation. The promoters and leaders of war know how to create a war psychology. Only too well did they succeed.

Some of us, even while the war spirit was wild, did pray for a right spirit, for wisdom to understand. Some of us did want to halt humanity in its headlong, heedless onrushing to hate and murder. We did want thinking men to think. We did want considerate men to consider. We did want men of judgment to judge, to judge righteous judgment. We did want to help those who were confused and unsettled and wanted to be right.

To this end we wrote a series of papers for the **American Lutheran Survey**.

Perhaps the time was not opportune. Possibly the venture was bold. But the papers were read. Kind words, words of appreciation came to the Sur-

vey and to the author. Many more came after the armistice had been signed and men were again breathing more freely. They came from all parts of the church, from men high in the councils and in the esteem of the church. Many of them requested that the articles might be put into book form.

After much prayer, consideration and consultation we send forth this little book on "What's Wrong With the World?"

Already the market is flooded with war-books. It is going to be glutted. Thus far we have not seen a single one that considers the subject impartially, without prejudice or partisanship and from a positive, Christian standpoint. We know of none written by an American Lutheran.

The stream of hurtful, poisonous, pestilential books is flowing in. They are permeated with sentiments that foster unbelief, skepticism, rationalism, bitterness, hate. They are ruinous to that spirit of sweet charity that should characterize every true Christian.

Our young people are reading these books. Their minds and hearts are being poisoned. Shall we offer no antidote? Shall we not show them the truth? And will not every pastor who is solicitous for the welfare of his young people call their attention to this book and help them to get and read it?

The book desires also to help the pastor to decide the much discussed question as to the church's duty and work in the period of reconstruction at home. What foolish things, what hurtful proposals are

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being preached and published on this subject. Let us as Christians prove all things and hold fast that which is good. We would fain help in the proving and in the holding fast.

A chapter has been added on the Peace Treaty.

With hope and with prayer we send out this book.

G. H. Gerberding.

Maywood, Ill.