

"THE GERMAN REPUBLIC"

A curious similarity of basic idea with the widest divergence in its working out is to be found in Mr. Wellman's rainbow-tinted vision and one of the essays in Mr. Wells's book, reviewed above. The similar idea is the possibility of the birth and growth among the German people, soon, of doubt in the righteousness of their cause and of distrust in their rulers and war leaders. Mr. Wells treats it robustly, in the clear light of things as they are and human nature as it can be expected to act. Mr. Wellman's book is a beautiful vision developed and set forth in such a light as never was, along lines of conduct that human nature has never followed. He sees the seed of clear vision and right thinking slowly and gradually springing to life among the German people in camp, in trench, in battle line, at home, in city, in field, in village. Then rapidly the new ideas grow and weld the people into unity of thought and purpose. And the outcome is the establishment of a German republic with the royal family, humbled and acquiescent, sent to live on the

island of Heligoland. A complete revolution, without the killing of a single person or the shedding of a drop of blood, is made in the home government and the foreign policy and the attitude of the nation and its people toward other nations and peoples. And so the gates of the millennium open and the world fares forth upon a new day of peace and love and happiness, with the German republic in the van. Mr. Wellman evidently believes ardently in his rainbow-coloured dream and in a personal letter, enclosed in each volume, to each reader of the book he asks every one who shares his faith to write to him. And in all justice to him it must be granted that to conceive and make known a beautiful vision, however far and starry its hopes, is a first step toward bringing to pass any small portion of its features. Moreover, without any doubt, his volume, put into German and dropped from aeroplanes, along with Mr. Wells's essay, into the German army and German cities and villages would be far more efficacious than bombs in bringing about the German republic for which he hopes.