

PROPHECIES

AND OMENS OF THE

GREAT

WAR



BY

**RALPH
SHIRLEY**

Editor of

THE OCCULT REVIEW

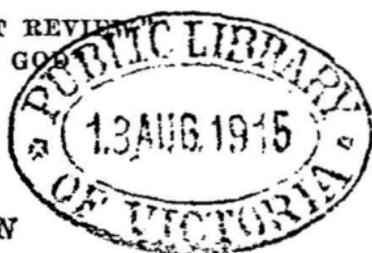
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OF
THE GREAT WAR**

BY RALPH SHIRLEY

EDITOR OF "THE OCCULT REVIEW"
AUTHOR OF "THE NEW GODS"



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INTRODUCTION

TIME and Space, however actual they may appear to us in the affairs of daily life, are, from the metaphysical point of view, merely modes and conditions under which our intelligence functions. They are part and parcel of our limitations as finite beings ; but in attempting to postulate the existence of the Infinite we must assume a state where neither Time nor Space has place or meaning. In such a condition we cannot admit the reality of past, present, and future, but only the truth of one all-embracing eternal NOW. So also of Space. Infinity involves the negation of distance, a truth which we endeavour to express in saying that God is everywhere. Mr. H. G. Wells, in his brilliant romance "The Time Machine," has endeavoured, by postulating the impossible and working out the theory of a machine travelling through time, as the railway train or motor-car passes through space, to convey some idea of the illusory nature of this conception, and the idea that Time looked at from a certain standpoint is in the nature of a cinematographic film, the scenes of which we witness in succession, the whole of the film being in reality present simultaneously throughout the spectacular performance. Time in reality is nothing

more than a sequence in events. Nor can we gauge it otherwise than by the intervals between successive experiences. The duration of time is regulated entirely by the nature of our own consciousness. Man with his present sense of sight can only appreciate seven vibrations in a second, and with his present sense of hearing can only appreciate sixteen vibrations in the same period. There are insects who vibrate their wings several thousand times in a second, and we have reason to believe that they are cognizant of each vibration. Thus the measure of time is entirely dependant on the unit of perception of its percipient, and an insect may experience as many sensations and events in the life of a day as a man can do in the Psalmist's "three-score years and ten." In other words the insect's life may be as long to it, though in reality only lasting one of our days, as is that of the human being who has fulfilled the allotted span of seventy years. It is this fact which explains how it is that people have frequently dreamt the experiences of weeks, and even of years, in a few minutes by the clock. The consciousness of the transcendental self has for its perceptions a different and far more rapid rate of vibration than the normal man of waking life, and under certain dream conditions akin to trance, we have reason to believe that this rate of vibration can be almost indefinitely accelerated.*

These reflections serve to show the illusory character

* See "Science and the Infinite." By Sidney T. Klein. London: W. Rider & Son Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.

of Time as judged by the standard of human measurement. We are, however, all of us, subject to the limitations of our own consciousness, and while, by giving these reflections due weight, we are able to apprehend the fact that we are the slaves of senses which are constantly deceiving us, we still find it difficult, if not impossible, to admit that the future is present with us, in a latent form, even when we least suspect it. Some such admission as this must, however, it seems, be made, if we are to accept the possibility of premonitions of a distant future, when there is no perceptible basis by means of which our intellects can gauge the events of the coming time.

The remarkable nature of some of the predictions which have long been current with regard to the present war, seems to demand from the present writer thus much defence for their publication. Some of them no doubt, such as the very remarkable one quoted from Heine, presuppose merely extraordinary intuition and foresight. But others, in their detail and exactitude, obviously demand some far different justification. Failing this, we are left face to face with the necessity of a blank denial of their reality, or an assertion of their invariably bogus character. In view of the large number of such predictions in the present instance, and the striking way in which they agree with each other on certain specific points, and their accuracy in others, in the minutest detail, we are faced with a situation which renders it impossible to put forward the usual sceptic's contention of

mere coincidence. For this reason it is all the more necessary that the predictions in themselves should be scrutinized with a critical eye, and not necessarily accepted at their face value. There are cases in which they have probably been touched up with an artist's pen to enhance their dramatic effect, and there may be others in which more careful investigation would reveal the fact that the prediction purporting to be of ancient date was in reality a contemporaneous composition. As regards one of these in particular, the prophecy, that is, of the Curé d'Ars, my own suspicions were aroused, but subsequent investigation fully bore out its unquestionably genuine character. Indeed, the passage referred to in the text gives another curious prediction with regard to the Curé d'Ars himself which has also been singularly fulfilled. Speaking on the subject of the war he added the significant words: "On voudra me canoniser, mais on n'en aura pas le temps." Now it is a remarkable fact that the preliminaries to the canonisation of Father Vianney were initiated only last July, and on the outbreak of the war had to be abruptly abandoned, it being found impossible to complete them under the circumstances.

Of another which I have cited in the text, purporting to date back to the commencement of the seventeenth century, identifying the Kaiser with Antichrist, in view of its extraordinary character my readers will doubtless ask for some fuller substantiation. Some remarkable evidence in this connexion is to hand

since the first edition of this book of prophecies appeared, and I have thought better to incorporate it in the main text. Although the original Latin version has not yet come to light, the importance of the testimony in favour of the genuineness of the document is undoubted.

Some of the predictions recorded have been current for so long, that while their date may be somewhat uncertain they are unquestionably not in the nature of forgeries of the present day. A perusal of this curious collection will show that some of these, while strikingly exact in certain matters, fail curiously at other points, and the seer seems throughout seldom to be at the same level of prophetic insight. Brother John, for instance, in his prediction of the coming of Antichrist, fails evidently to realize the existence of a republican government in the France of to-day, a fact which, so far as it goes, may be considered an argument for the bona fides of the document.

Since the appearance of the first edition of this book some five weeks ago, the war with Turkey predicted in several of these prophecies has broken out. In this connexion a correspondent (Mrs. Jessie R. Powell) writes to me that when she and her husband were at Constantinople some years ago they went to visit the mosque of St. Sofia and there heard the following story. When the Turks burst in to seize the church at the time of the Turkish conquest the priests, who were saying Mass, were all murdered. According to a prediction long current,

when a Constantine and Sofia reign in Greece, St. Sofia will once more become a Christian church, but before this can take place, the spirits of the murdered priests must enter by a hidden door and must finish the Mass they were saying when the Turks entered. Mrs. Powell states that this prediction is absolutely believed and adds: "Another strange thing is that over the former place of the high altar there is a fresco picture of Christ. The Turks tried to get rid of the fresco in every possible way, but it cannot be done, and whatever means they take, it comes through in a few days, and the face of Our Lord still looks down on the congregation."

Perhaps some apology is due to the reader for devoting the last section of the pamphlet to astrological prediction. Astrology, at the present time, cannot show the highest credentials, and it has frequently suffered from the over-zealous championship of its professors. But a study of the essential genuineness of which Kepler expressed himself convinced, and which formed a life-long study of Napier of Murchiston, the inventor of logarithms, cannot lightly be cast aside. It must, in this connexion, be borne in mind that the scientific tendency to admit the presence of a law of nature governing and regulating all mundane phenomena points inevitably to the fact that the destiny of mankind, and of individuals, must in one way or other respond to some such all-pervading, all-embracing natural law. The idea that this grand conception of science can find an exception in the

history of the human race cannot long be tolerated by a scientific age. The actual evidence for planetary influence in this direction cannot obviously be brought forward in a brief introduction to a pamphlet, but the horoscope of the man who was addressed, many years ago, by a writer in "Punch," as "Mars-Neptune," and who has a conjunction of Mars and Neptune as the dominant position in his natal figure—this, and some other astrological curiosities and observations in relation to the present war, may perhaps be considered admissible even by those who are not unnaturally sceptical as to the validity of the astrological hypothesis. The present writer lays claim to little more than the collecting and editing of the contents of this modest booklet. Even from the point of view of history, the putting on record of so strange a collection of current tradition is not without its useful side.

RALPH SHIRLEY.

8 Paternoster Row, London,

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CHAPTER I

PROPHECIES

A GREAT philosopher * observed that the present is in labour of the future, and one of our own poets † in a couplet, the second line of which is familiar to every schoolboy, tells us :

'Tis the sunset of life gives me mystical lore,
And coming events cast their shadows before.

The idea of both writers is the same, that in a certain sense the future is implicit in the present and the past ; in other words that the train of events which has already taken place is leading inevitably to certain results unforeseen, perhaps, by us, but none the less not unforeseeable. If the prophet lives to see his prediction fulfilled he is in the position of the man in the proverb who laughs last and laughs best. But at the time he is apt to be derided, and in any case predicting is a dangerous game. George Eliot gave a counsel of prudence to a more sceptical age than this, in advising people not to prophesy unless

* Leibtz.

† Campbell.

they knew. But, in spite of her, the prophets have multiplied, and whenever a great event occurs, it is curious how predictions are cited and eagerly read, in which it is stated to have been foretold. The present war is no exception to this rule. Indeed, it is perhaps the most remarkable instance of any that could be adduced. I am not here merely alluding to the warnings of well-known men like Lord Roberts and others who, speaking with knowledge of their subject, impressed upon an unheeding Government the necessity of preparing for the inevitable. Predictions of this kind are cited in sufficient number in Robert Blatchford's pamphlet entitled "The War that was Foretold," reprinted from the *Daily Mail*. I am alluding rather to prophecies making specific statements both as to when the war would occur, what would be its results, and even, in certain cases, where the battles would be fought.

That such predictions have obtained credence in the highest circles is instanced by the case of the prophecy of the gipsy woman to the late Emperor William I in 1849, before he was even Crown Prince of Prussia. We have the statement of the present German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Herr von Jagow, in evidence of the fact that this gipsy prophecy actually had a marked effect

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on the politics of Europe. A correspondent of the *Times* gives the story as follows :

To the Editor of the TIMES

SIR,—In the summer of 1899 I chanced to be sitting with the present German Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Herr von Jagow (then a secretary of the German Embassy in Rome), on the balcony of the Embassy, the Palazzo Caffarelli, on the Capitol. In the course of conversation Herr von Jagow expressed the belief that no general European war was likely to occur before the end of 1913. He gave as his reason the influence of a prophecy made to the Kaiser's grandfather, Prince William of Prussia, at Mayence in 1849. Prince William of Prussia, who was proclaimed German Emperor at Versailles on January 18, 1871, was in 1849 wandering *incognito* in the Rhine Provinces, attended only by an aide-de-camp. He had incurred great unpopularity by his attitude during the Berlin revolution of March 1848, and had been obliged to spend some time in England, whence he returned, still a semi-fugitive, to the Rhineland. At Mayence a gipsy woman offered to tell him his fortune, and addressed him as "Imperial Majesty." Not a little amused—for at that moment his chance of succeeding even to the throne of Prussia seemed slight—the Prince asked, "'Imperial Majesty,' and of what empire, pray?" "Of the new German Empire," was the reply.

"And when is this empire to be formed?" he inquired. The woman took a scrap of paper and

wrote on it the year 1849. Then she placed the same figures in column beneath :

$$\begin{array}{r} 1849 \\ 1 \\ 8 \\ 4 \\ 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

and adding them together
obtained the total : 1871

“ And how long am I to rule over this empire ? ”
asked Prince William again. The woman repeated
the arithmetical operation, taking the number
1871 and adding the same figures in column :

$$\begin{array}{r} 1871 \\ 1 \\ 8 \\ 7 \\ 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

which gave the result : 1888

Astonished by her confidence, the Prince then
asked, “ And how long is this fine empire to last ?
Then the woman, taking the figures 1888 and
repeating the same operation :

$$\begin{array}{r} 1888 \\ 1 \\ 8 \\ 8 \\ 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

obtained the result : 1913

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The story soon spread in Prussian Court circles. Prince William became German Emperor in 1871 and died in 1888. The effect of the double fulfilment of the prophecy upon the present German Emperor's mind was great and, as my experience shows, it entered into the calculation of Prussian diplomatists as long ago as 1899.

The *Times* correspondent, it will be seen, suggests that in the effect of this prophecy on the Kaiser's mind we have the clue to the failure of the peace negotiations preceding the present war, as well as to the fact that the very grave crisis of the preceding year was successfully tided over.

Old prophecies, the source of which it is frequently now impossible to trace, have in fact been current for very many years, all of which pointed to a great European war when the present Emperor was on the throne, which would involve the downfall of the German Empire. One of these foretold that Germany would meet with disaster when she was ruled by an Emperor who mounted his horse on the wrong side. This curious prediction was said further to declare that the heir of the Emperor in question would perish on the scaffold. It is well known that the present Kaiser, owing to his lame arm, has to mount his horse on the off side. The most celebrated, however, of all the predictions

which relate, or are said to relate, to the present Emperor is that variously called the Prophecy of Mayence, or of Strassburg, which has been frequently cited. The date of this prediction is stated to have been the year 1854, and it comprises eighteen verses, the first half of which may already be said to have been subsequently verified by the course of events.

It runs as follows :

THE PROPHECY OF MAYENCE

1. When the little people of the Oder shall feel themselves strong enough to shake off the yoke of their protector, and when the barley is sprouting from the ears, their King William shall march against Austria.

2. They will have victory upon victory up to the gates of Vienna, but a word from the great Emperor of the West shall make the heroes tremble on the field of victory, and the barley shall not be gathered in until he has signed the peace, shaken off the yoke, and returned triumphantly to his country.

3. But at the gathering in of the fourth barley and that of the oats, a dreadful sound of war shall call the harvesters to arms. A formidable army, followed by an extraordinary number of engines of war that hell alone could have invented, shall start towards the West.

4. Woe to thee, great nation, woe to you who have abandoned the rights divine and human !

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The God of Battles has forsaken you ; who will succour you ?

5. Napoleon III, mocking his adversary at first, shall soon turn back towards the "Chêne-Populeux" where he shall disappear, never to reappear.

6. In spite of the heroic resistance of France, a multitude of soldiers, blue, yellow, and black, shall scatter themselves over a great part of France.

7. Alsace and Lorraine shall be carried away from France for a period and half a period.

8. The French shall only take courage again as against each other.

9. Woe to thee, great city, woe to thee, city of vice ! Fire and sword shall succeed fire and famine.

10. Courage, faithful souls ! The reign of the dark shadow shall not have time to execute all its schemes.

11. But the time of mercy approaches. A prince of the nation is in your midst.

12. It is the man of salvation, the wise, the invincible, he shall count his enterprises by his victories.

13. He shall drive out the enemy of France, he shall march from victory to victory, until the day of divine justice.

14. That day he shall command seven kinds of soldiers against three to the quarter of Bouleaux between Ham, Woerl, and Paderborn.

15. Woe to thee, people of the North, thy seventh generation shall answer for all thy crimes. Woe to thee, people of the East, thou shalt spread afar the cries of affliction and innocent blood. Never shall such an army be seen.

16. Three days the Sun shall rise upwards on

the heads of the combatants without being seen through the clouds of smoke.

17. Then the commander shall get the victory; two of his enemies shall be annihilated; the remainder of the three shall fly towards the extreme East.

18. William, the second of the name, shall be the last King of Prussia. He shall have no other successors save a King of Poland, a King of Hanover, and a King of Saxony.

A paraphrase of the last nine verses has been given thus :

10. Courage, French patriots, Germany cannot carry out its schemes of supremacy.

11. The time of retaliation approaches. The Tsar shall come in the midst of you to seal the alliance.

12. This is the man of salvation.

13. He shall chase the enemy of France, he shall conquer Germany until it is completely destroyed.

14. The last battle on the field of Bouleaux, near to Paderborn, in Westphalia, shall reunite seven allied peoples against three.

15. Woe to thee, Prussia, thy seventh generation shall answer for the wars thou hast made upon all the people. [Seven generations make 30 years \times 7 = 210 years. The realm of Prussia dates from 1713. The seventh generation is, then, living between 1893 and 1923.] Woe to thee, Austria! Never such a battle shall have taken place.

16. It shall last three days in the smoke of the conflagration.

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17. Finally Prussia and Austria shall be annihilated. Hungary shall fly towards the extreme East.

18. William II shall be the last King of Prussia. Germany and Austria shall form three realms: Poland, Hanover, and Saxony.

It will be noted that the eighteenth verse in the paraphrase gives Germany and Austria as forming three realms, Poland, Hanover, and Saxony; but the original makes these three kingdoms successors to the King of Prussia. Presumably the Kingdom of Poland would cover portions of both Prussia and Austria, but it is clear that Hanover would be purely German and not improbably Saxony also. We might anticipate that the Kingdom of Hungary would perhaps remain, whatever happened to Austria as a whole. The interpretation of the three allied peoples as Germany, Austria, and Hungary seems open to some doubt. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey has been suggested. This would explain the third flying to the extreme East. The striking part of this prophecy is its detail, the locality even of the last battle being specifically given. It is comforting to reflect, after earlier experiences, that this is predicted to last for only three days.

Another prediction has been supplied

recently to the Paris *Figaro*. Though practically unknown, if it can be accepted as *bond fide*, it is the most remarkable of all. It tells how in the twentieth century after the incarnation of Christ, the forces of Antichrist will work through a Lutheran monarch who will claim to be inspired by God, but whose actions will be demoniacal in arrogance and cruelty. After filling the world with his spies, he will bring about a war which will aim at overthrowing the Christian civilization of nearly two thousand years; its essentially anti-Christian character will be shown by the fact that women and children, priests, old men, and all helpless or defenceless persons will be the chosen victims. This brutality will awaken the world to the necessity for determined resistance, and many nations will need to combine and put forth their greatest strength, before they can hope to overthrow the forces of evil. Allied with the anti-Christian king will be another monarch who, however, will die of shock on being anathematized by "Pope Benedict." Both monarchs will be represented by the sign of the eagle, as also one of their adversaries. The human race will never have been menaced with a more gigantic peril than in this stupendous struggle, and the prayers and spiritual resistance of

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the allied nations will be needed, as well as their utmost military activity.

We are indebted to the researches of the erudite French writer, M. Péladan, or rather to his father, M. Adrien Péladan, for the unearthing of this startling prophecy. It appears that M. Péladan senior, towards the end of his life, abandoned the legitimist propaganda with which he had been for long identified, and devoted himself to the study of prophecies, visions, and the various forms of trance and religious ecstasy. In pursuit of this aim he published three volumes under the title, "Derniers Mots des Prophéties," and for six years edited a review entitled "Les Annales du Surnaturel." In this connexion, he collected everything that had relation to this fascinating side of occultism and, among other evidence of his research, his son discovered at his death the translation from the Latin of the text in question. The father of M. Péladan, it appears, received the paper from a Canon of Saint-Michel de Frigolet, near Tarascon, who, on his part, had been given it by a certain Abbé Donat, a learned priest who died at Beaucaire at an advanced age. The author of this curious Latin prediction, a translation of which I here subjoin, is believed to have lived about the year 1600, and

was a monk known to his contemporaries as Brother John (Frater Johannes). The prophecy is the last of a series of predictions dating from about the time of Louis XIV and ending with the present war. In Monsieur Péladan's Manuscript I understand they cover about a dozen pages of foolscap. The verses pertinent to the present war are as follows :

THE ANTICHRIST

The real Antichrist will be one of the monarchs of his time, a son of Luther. He will invoke God and give himself out as his Messenger (or apostle).

This prince of lies will swear by the Bible. He will represent himself as the arm of the Most High, sent to chastise corrupt peoples.

He will only have one arm, but his innumerable armies, who will take for their device the words "God with us," will resemble the infernal legions.

For a long time he will act by craft and strategy. His spies will overrun the earth and he will be master of the secrets of the mighty.

He will have learned men in his pay who will maintain, and undertake to prove, his celestial mission.

A war will furnish him with the opportunity of throwing off the mask. It will not be in the first instance a war which he will wage against a French monarch. But it will be one of such a nature that after two weeks all will realize its universal character.

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Not only all Christian and all Mussulman, but even other more distant peoples will be involved. Armies will be enrolled from the four quarters of the globe.

For, by the third week, the angels will have opened the minds of men, who will perceive that the man is Antichrist, and that they will all become his slaves if they do not overthrow this conqueror.

Antichrist will be recognized by various tokens : in especial he will massacre the priests, the monks, the women, the children, and the aged. He will show no mercy, but will pass torch in hand, like the barbarians, but invoking Christ !

His words of imposture will resemble those of Christians, but his actions will be those of Nero and of the Roman persecutors. He will have an eagle in his arms, and there will be an eagle also in the arms of his confederate, another bad monarch.

But the latter will be a Christian, and will die from the malediction of Pope Benedict, who will be elected at the commencement of the reign of Antichrist.

No longer will priests and monks be seen confessing and absolving the combatants, because in the first place the priests and monks will be fighting with the other citizens, and further, because Pope Benedict having cursed Antichrist, will proclaim that those who fight against him will be in a state of Grace, and, should they die, will go straight to heaven like the martyrs.

The Bull which will proclaim these things will make a great stir. It will revive the courage of the foes of Antichrist and cause the death of the monarch who is his ally.

In order to conquer Antichrist it will be necessary to kill more men than Rome has ever contained. It will need the energies of all the kingdoms, because the cock, the leopard, and the white eagle will not be able to make an end of the black eagle without the aid of the prayers and vows of all the human race.

Never will humanity have been faced with such a peril, because the triumph of Antichrist would be that of the demon, who will have taken possession of his personality.

For it has been said that, twenty centuries after the Incarnation of the Word, the Beast will be incarnate in his turn, and will menace the earth with as many evils as the Divine Incarnation has brought it graces.

Towards the year 2000 Antichrist will be made manifest. His army will surpass in number anything that can be imagined. There will be Christians among his cohorts, and there will be Mohammedan and heathen soldiers among the defenders of the Lamb.

For the first time the Lamb will be all red. There will not be in the whole Christian world a single spot which is not red ; and red also will be heaven, and earth, and water, and even the air ; for blood will flow in the domain of the four elements at once.

The black eagle will hurl itself upon the cock, which will lose many feathers, but will strike heroically with his spur. It would soon be exhausted but for the aid of the leopard and its claws.

The black eagle, who will come from the land of Luther, will make a surprise attack on the cock from

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another side, and will invade the land of the cock up to one-half.

The white eagle, who will come from the North, will fall upon the black and the other eagle, and completely invade the land of Antichrist.

The black eagle will find itself forced to let go the cock in order to fight the white eagle, whereupon the cock will have to pursue the black eagle into the land of Antichrist to aid the white eagle.

The battles fought up to that time will be as nothing compared with those which will take place in the Lutheran country; for the seven angels will simultaneously pour out the fire of their censers upon the impious land. In other words, the Lamb ordains the extermination of the race of Antichrist.

When the Beast finds himself lost, he will become furious. It will be necessary that for some months the beak of the eagle, the claws of the leopard, and the spur of the cock shall bury themselves in the flesh of the Beast.

Men will be able to cross the rivers over the bodies of the dead, which in places will change the courses of the streams. Only the bodies of the most noble, the highest captains, and the princes will be buried; for to the carnage of the battle-fields will be added the destruction of myriads who will die from hunger and pestilence.

Antichrist will sue for peace many times, but the seven angels who march before the three animals, defenders of the Lamb, will have proclaimed that victory will not be given except on condition that Antichrist shall be crushed like straw upon the threshing-floor.

Executors of the justice of the Lamb, the three animals will not be permitted to cease fighting so long as Antichrist has soldiers.

That which makes the decree of the Lamb so implacable, is that Antichrist has dared to claim to be a Christian and to act in the name of Christ, and if he did not perish, the fruit of the Redemption would be lost, and the gates of Hell would prevail against the Saviour.

It will be made manifest that the combat which will be fought out in that part of the country in which Antichrist forges his arms, is no human conflict. The three animals, defenders of the Lamb, will exterminate the last army of Antichrist. But it will be necessary to make of the field of battle a funeral pyre as great as the greatest of cities, for the corpses will have altered the features of the land by forming ranges of little hills.

Antichrist will lose his crown and die in solitude and madness. His empire will be divided into twenty-two States, but none will have any longer either fortification or army, or ships of war.

The white eagle, by order of Michael, will drive the Crescent out of Europe, where there will no longer be any but Christians. He will instal himself at Constantinople.

Then will commence an era of peace and prosperity for the universe, and there will be no more any war. Each nation will be governed according to its own heart and live in accordance with justice.

There will be no longer Lutherans or Schismatics. The Lamb will reign and the happiness of humanity will begin.

Happy will be those who, escaping the perils of this marvellous time, will be able to taste of its

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fruit. This will be the reign of the Spirit and the sanctification of humanity, which could not come to pass until after the defeat of Antichrist.

It will be obvious to readers of this prophecy that the cock * symbolizes France, the leopard England, the white eagle Russia, the black eagle Germany, and the "other eagle" Austria. It is noteworthy that the place of the last battle is designated here as "that part of the country in which Antichrist forges his arms." Now Essen and the German metal-works are in Westphalia, and it is this same locality which is designated as the scene of the final combat in the prophecy of Mayence, in the words: "That day he shall command seven kinds of soldiers against three to the quarter of Bouleaux between Ham, Woerl, and Paderborn," these places being situated in Westphalia. The two prophecies differ in their predictions in regard to the breaking up of the German Empire; but it may be remarked that the twenty-two States into which the empire of Antichrist is to be divided coincide with the number of States of the German Confederation. This prophecy is specific as to the end which awaits Antichrist. He is to die in solitude and madness. I think in this Brother John's

* Latin Gallia, Gaul (France). Cock, Latin Gallus.

prophecy is unique, though perhaps hardly improbable. The reference to Pope Benedict is not a little remarkable. The commencement of the reign of Antichrist in this connexion refers obviously to the outbreak of the war, and not to the actual reign of the monarch. We shall watch with interest to see if the new Pope issues a Bull of excommunication.

In the above striking prediction the Emperor William is represented in the guise of that mysterious scriptural figure—Antichrist. In view of his barbarous methods of warfare and the wholesale destruction of sacred buildings by the German troops, this expression seems not entirely without justification.

As a very appropriate commentary on this prediction, I subjoin a quotation from the Kaiser's latest outburst, as reported by *La Liberté*, quoting in turn a Polish journal. In this paper it is stated that he addressed the following proclamation to his Eastern Army :

Remember who you are. The Holy Spirit has descended on me, because I am the Emperor of the Germans. I am the instrument of the Most High. I am His sword, His representative. Woe and death to those who resist my will! Woe and death to those who do not believe in my mission! Woe and death to cowards! Let all enemies of

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the Germans perish! God demands their destruction, God who through me commands you to fulfil His will.

The amazing accuracy in many points of the foregoing prophecy will inevitably arouse a certain amount of scepticism. The story obviously rests on the statement of Monsieur Péladan, who asserts that he found the translation of the text at the death of his father, Monsieur Adrien Péladan, among a number of other records of a similar nature. A careful reading of the prediction will show that, had it been actually written by Monsieur Adrien Péladan, its extraordinary character would hardly be diminished. In evidence of this I need cite only one case in point at the moment, which will doubtless strike other readers, the fact, namely, that the Austrian Emperor is stated to receive the maledictions of Pope Benedict. To assume that Monsieur Péladan (fils) evolved the whole prediction from a fertile imagination is to attribute to him as little scruple in journalism as the Germans appear to be showing in warfare. Yet not less than this is the charge which has been advanced against Monsieur Péladan in more quarters than one. As a matter of fact, however, evidence has accumulated since its first publication in the *Figaro*, to show that

this prophecy dates back at least a generation or so before the present war, and this obviously precludes the possibility of Monsieur Péladan being its author. A statement over the signature of Mrs. J. W. Taylor of West Retford, dealing with this matter, appeared quite recently in the columns of *Light*. She wrote :

I distinctly remember my grandmother reading portions of the Prophecy of Brother Johannes to me about thirty-eight years ago. I recall her explanation that the Leopard represented England. My uncle tells me that he remembers reading the prophecy during his mother's lifetime, so the translation must certainly have been in print over thirty-two years, as it is that length of time since my grandmother's transition.

More important than this is the remarkable narrative of Mme. Faust, a Belgian lady from Liège, whose husband was editor of a newspaper in that town. This lady about the year 1890 attended an evening social entertainment at Liège, where a mixed programme included songs, humorous sketches, and recitations, at the Phare on the Place Verte at that town. Among those who entertained the audience were three or four artistes from *Le Chat Noir* in Paris, and, more important than this, Monsieur Péladan (senior) was also present, and as an item

of the programme contributed a recitation of the now celebrated prophecy. Mme. Faust, who was then a bride, has a very distinct recollection of the whole evening's performance, and of the way in which her Catholic friends looked at the Protestants who were present, and smiled when he came to the phrase which described Antichrist as a "fils de Luther" (son of Luther), and alluded to Germany as the "pays de Luther" (country of Luther). This recitation was applauded, in spite of the subject, which obviously bored a large number of the company, but Mme. Faust and her husband were both greatly impressed. Certain sentences were specially impressed on Mme. Faust's mind, owing to their strangeness. Among these was the description of the animals who allegorically represent the Great Powers, and also the statement that more men would fall in battle than Rome had ever contained. The paper as read was entitled at the time "A prophecy of the Twentieth Century." No explanation of its origin was given by Monsieur Péladan on this occasion. He had then apparently just recently found it among his father's papers. I have already alluded to the fact that Monsieur Faust was the editor of a Liège newspaper. There is reason to believe

that all back files of this paper have been preserved, and, if they have not been destroyed by the Germans, they will doubtless be forthcoming at the expiration of the war. In one of these, it is thought that an account of the entertainment figures, among other items of news.

In addition to this M. Van Leries, a Belgian judge, states that he has had in his possession a copy of what he believes to be the identical prophecy for a very considerable number of years. The volume in question is not at the moment accessible, owing to the war, but Monsieur Van Leries has undertaken to verify his statement at the earliest possible moment. It is clear, therefore, that the charges which have been levelled against Monsieur Péladan in certain papers as a common charlatan and literary forger, absolutely break down.

Perhaps I should add a statement of Monsieur Péladan that he has "suppressed that which concerned the great monarch, scion of the lily, who in the text wins the victory." He states that he has done this so as to rouse no party feelings in France at such a moment, even though the point is of a fanciful character. I assume from this statement that in the prediction in question the victory is attributed to a king

of the Bourbon line, which would naturally be the point of view of anyone writing at the end of the sixteenth century, long before Republican ideas had penetrated the minds of Frenchmen. I confess that for myself the settlement following the war as described by Brother John appears hardly credible.

With regard to the intervention of Turkey in the war, and the Russian occupation of Constantinople here alluded to, this is not the only prediction bearing on this particular point. There is another one, also of an early date, quoted in the *Petit Messager du Cœur de Marie* of April 1912 emanating from a Jesuit of the name of Bobola, who was murdered by the Cossacks in 1657. This man was a Pole, and his interest in the matter naturally concerned his native land. He is stated to have foretold that Poland would disappear as a kingdom, which it did in 1772, and that it would be restored at the same time that the Turk was driven out of Europe. A further story is told of this Jesuit, whose ghost is said to have appeared in the year 1819, to a Polish Dominican Father of the name of Korzenieski and showed him a scene in which Russians, French, and English were fighting together against Germans, Austrians, and Turks. He

is alleged to have declared: "When you see this happen Poland will be on the eve of regeneration."

With regard to the occupation of Constantinople by Russia, the objections to this as a permanent arrangement from the point of view of two of the Allies will be obvious enough. An ancient prophecy, which I have cited elsewhere, and which apparently dates back to the period of the Byzantine Empire, foretells that when a Constantine, King of Greece, shall marry a Sophia, their son will reign in Constantinople. The present King of Greece bears, of course, the name of Constantine, and he married Sophia, the sister of the German Emperor. There is a further reference to Constantinople in an old prediction, which says that at the end of a great war the Kings of Europe will meet together "in the captured city of Constantinople" to arrange terms of peace. I should be glad if any reader can give me further information with regard to this prophecy, the source of which I am quite unable to trace, and which I merely cite from memory.

Another curious forecast that bears on the anti-Christian characteristics of the present war is that of Heine. In this case it is an anticipation formed through an intimate knowledge of the people of whom he wrote,

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by one who was, like Tennyson, both poet and seer at the same time.

Christianity—and this is its highest merit—has in some degree softened, but it could not destroy, that brutal German joy of battle. When once the taming talisman, the Cross, breaks in two, the savagery of the old fighters, the senseless Berserker fury of which the northern poets sing and say so much, will gush up anew. That talisman is decayed, and the day will come when it will piteously collapse. Then the old stone gods will rise from the silent ruins, and rub the dust of a thousand years from their eyes. Thor, with his giant's hammer, will at last spring up, and shatter to bits the Gothic cathedrals.

It will be seen that Heine fully realized that German Christianity is but skin deep, but as long as it obtained credence among the rank and file of the nation it acted as an effective check and, as Heine himself says, "a taming talisman" to hold back the natural savagery of a still only half-cultivated race. The inroads of philosophers such as Nietzsche and the destructively critical writings of German professors generally, have served to break down this restraining influence, whilst substituting nothing positive in its place, as a guide to conduct and as a warning to the evil-doer. What Heine foresaw has become actual fact—"Thor,

with his giant's hammer," has at last sprung up and shattered to bits the Gothic cathedrals.

This prediction, as a marvellously prescient anticipation of the future, may be put side by side with Tennyson's verse on the

Nations' airy navies grappling in the central
blue

and can also be paralleled by another illuminating forecast of the occupation of Egypt by England made by Kinglake in his *Eothen*. It should be borne in mind that at the time this book was written and for many years afterwards the French, and not the English, were the dominant power in the land of the Pharaohs. Kinglake is writing of the fascination and mystery of the Sphinx and exclaims in this prophetic passage :

Laugh and mock if ye will at the worship of stone idols ; but mark ye this, ye breakers of images, that in one regard, the stone idol bears awful semblance of Deity—unchangefulness in the midst of change—the same seeming will and intent for ever and ever inexorable ! Upon ancient dynasties of Ethiopian and Egyptian kings, upon Greek and Roman, upon Arab and Ottoman conquerors, upon Napoleon dreaming of an Eastern empire, upon battle and pestilence, upon the ceaseless misery of the Egyptian race, upon keen-eyed travellers—Herodotus yesterday and Warburton to-day—

upon all and more, this unworldly Sphinx has watched and watched like a Providence, with the same earnest eyes, and the same sad, tranquil mien. And we, we shall die, and Islam will wither away; and the Englishman, straining far over to hold his loved India, will plant a firm foot on the banks of the Nile and sit in the seat of the Faithful, and still that sleepless rock will be watching and watching the works of the new busy race, with those same sad, earnest eyes, and the same tranquil mien everlasting. You dare not mock at the Sphinx.

Such predictions are not the result of inspiration, but of insight and intuition. Such insight gives us predictions remarkable indeed in their power to gauge the probabilities of the coming time, but naturally in these we look for no such detail or specific statement of definite time and place as are to be found in prophecies such, for example, as that of Mayence. They belong admittedly to another category—that, to name another instance, of Chesterfield's forecast of the French Revolution, but in their own way they are no less remarkable than the other class. They do not excite the same surprise, or the same incredulity, for the reason that the method by which they are arrived at is not beyond the grasp of human reason. There is something illegitimate from the point of view of modern

science in being able to give chapter and verse for an event which is not destined to take place for several hundred years.

The standard instance of the possession of this curious power is the celebrated Brahan Seer, whose prophecies gave the most trivial details of occurrences which did not occur till centuries later, but the fulfilment of which provides the most astounding authentication of this most peculiar gift. Some of the predictions of the current war, it must be admitted, run the Brahan Seer rather close, though, whether their fulfilment will be proved as completely, time only can show. Here is one which is attributed to a Portuguese priest, by the name of Dom Bosco, who died some ten years ago. The quotation is given as from the well-known French paper, *Le Matin* (June 1901). It runs as follows :

In 1913 or 1914 a great European war will break out. Germany will be completely torn to pieces, but not before the Germans have penetrated into the heart of France, whence they will be forced back to the further banks of the Rhine. An arrogant man will see his family tree cut in splinters and trampled upon by all the world. Great battles will take place on August 15 and September 15.* At that time the Pope will die, and live

* These exact dates seem to have little meaning. The latter might be taken to correspond with the consummation of the Battle of the Marne.

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again. Belgium will undergo fearful sufferings, but will rise again and become stronger than ever. Poland will get back her rights.

Another prophecy in relation to the present war is credited to the Curé d'Ars, Father Vianney. Father Vianney, who died in 1859, was a person of some note in his day. He was remarkable as an inspirational preacher, and his "Life" has been published in England by R. and T. Washbourne Ltd.* Father Vianney is stated to have foretold the first Franco-Prussian war, and prophesied that a second war would follow after a certain lapse of time. In regard to this latter war he observed :

"The enemy will not go immediately. They will again return and destroy as they come. Effective resistance will not be made. They will be allowed to advance, and after that their supplies will be cut off and they will suffer great loss. They will retreat towards their own country. They will be followed, and few will reach their goal. Then all that they have taken away will be restored and much more in addition.

This prediction appears in a curious collection of prophecies entitled "Voix Prophétiques, ou Signes, Apparitions et Prédications Modernes, Paris, 1872, Victor

* Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

Palme, éditeur, Rue de Grenelle, St. Germain."*

No clairvoyante at the present time is more celebrated in France than Mme. de Thèbes, who annually publishes an almanac under

* In connexion with this prediction I should perhaps state that I expressed some scepticism as to its *bonâ fides* owing to the fact that I possess a copy of the book in which it was said to appear and in the pages given there was no such record. I find now that I am in error in this matter. The edition I hold is the fourth, and the record in question I now find duly appears in the fifth edition. Curiously enough, my edition bore the same date (1872) as that from which the prediction was cited. The book appeared in two volumes and the chapter referred to is in Volume II. Having now compared both editions, I find that in the fifth edition the second volume was increased by no fewer than 180 pages, and the chapter on the predictions of the Curé d'Ars was one of these additions. For the benefit of my readers I give the important passage in the original French :

Dans une communication du commencement du mois de mars 1871, le Frère ajouta les faits suivants que lui avait encore dit le saint Curé, et c'est ce qui, avec les particularités de l'alinéa précédent, reste à se réaliser de sa prophétie, évidemment contre toute prévision humaine :

"Les ennemis ne s'en iront tout a fait ; ils reviendront encore et ils détruiront tout sur leur passage ; on ne leur résistera pas, mais on les laissera s'avancer, et après cela on leur coupera les vivres et on leur fera éprouver de grandes pertes ; ils se retireront vers leur pays, on les accompagnera, et il n'y en aura guère qui rentreront ; alors on leur reprendra tout ce qu'ils auront enlevé, et même beaucoup plus."—"Voix Prophétiques" 5th ed., vol. ii. pp. 182-3.

Some further information with regard to this particular prediction appears in the introduction. I should add that I have been unable to trace the date of the battle of the Marne alleged to have been given by the curé.

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her own name. The predictions in the issues for 1912 and 1913 were not a little remarkable. In the former year she wrote :

Germany menaces Europe in general and France in particular. When the war breaks out, hers will be the responsibility, but after the war there will be no longer either Hohenzollern or Prussian hegemony. This is all Berlin will gain by her violence and the brutality of her political methods. I have said, and I repeat, that the days of the Emperor are numbered, and that after him all will be changed in Germany. I say the years of his reign, I do not say the years of his life.

In her 1913 issue she not obscurely hints at the disappearance from the field of action of the Austrian heir apparent, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. "Austria," she says, "with the year 1913, enters a new era. Her people will be deceived by their new masters. Conditions will greatly favour the breaking up of the different States of the monarchy. The hour of open hostility between Slavs and Germans is near. He who expects to reign will not come to the throne, and a young man who is not expected to reign will reign. Belgium dragged into the vortex and even possibly bringing about the war, has lasted longer than she will last in the future. Born of a Congress, she will see other Congresses modify her present status. Brussels

and some of the principal Belgian towns will have much to suffer, especially Brussels, which is menaced by fire. A royal mourning is imminent, a double mourning. There will be a lawsuit of which the whole world will talk. . . . A great silence in Russia, then a thunder-clap, and after that new conditions, great undertakings, in short, the awakening. . . . Poland! Poland! You were right not to despair; it is on you that the future smiles. Beautiful but bloody deeds will be accomplished at Warsaw before long.*

“England will have seen without weakness the hour of naval struggle drawing near, and if this hour must strike, as it is written in the book of destiny, it will strike and find her ready to meet it.”

It is noteworthy that these latter predictions were written in 1912 for the Almanac of 1913, and in fact, like the gipsy, whose kabalistic prediction I have already quoted, the Parisian seeress seems to have anticipated that the struggle would begin a year before it actually took place.

A correspondent, who has contributed several articles to the *Occult Review*, has sent me the subjoined record of his experience with a gipsy on the Continent. When I

* It should be noted that at the commencement of the war the advance of the German armies to Warsaw appeared most improbable.

interviewed him on the subject he laid stress on the deep impression which the gipsy's words had made on him.

Last May, whilst staying a few days in Brussels, I was accosted in the street by a gipsy musician, belonging to a band, playing at some restaurant in the neighbourhood. "You are English," he said in broken French. I replied in the affirmative, and, thinking he was about to beg, I passed on. "Sir," he called out, following me, "sir, may I speak to you?" I turned round and gave him one of the strange Belgian nickel coins which have a little square hole in the centre. "Thank you, but I was looking out for an Englishman, as I have something very important to say." Knowing the ways of these itinerant Orientals, I told him I had no time to listen to his tales. "But" (he exclaimed) "I am able to say something which you will be greatly surprised to hear, and which nobody knows."

Seeing that I should have great difficulty in escaping his importunity, I decided to do what I considered the best under the circumstances and listened to him. His French was so poor that I could hardly make any sense of what he said, so I asked him whether he could speak any other language. "Hungarian and some German," he replied. I tried him in German, with which I am acquainted, and soon found that he certainly knew more of that language than French.

"I am going," he said most solemnly, "to give you a warning. Before this year comes to an end, your nation will be at war, and it will be the greatest war the world has ever seen!" I could not help smiling as I personally felt entirely

sceptical on the matter. "Do not laugh!" he continued. "What I tell you is the truth! I have been able to foretell many things and all have come to pass. There will be a war where brother will fight brother, cousins cousins, friends friends!" I imagined he had heard something of the state of Ireland, but surely even if it should come to a fight there, I knew it would not be a great war, as he said this would be.

Now a very strange thing happened. Although a sceptic, as already stated, I felt suddenly that the man was telling the truth. It seemed to me that he was exercising a certain occult power over me. He appeared to compel me against my will not only to listen to him but to believe him. So intense became my interest that I gave him a silver piece and asked him to tell me more.

"The war will be a world's war," he said; "it will be waged on every continent of our earth; there will be terrible loss of life, fearful destruction, and some of the greatest works of art and antiquity will disappear."

I asked him if he knew who would be in this war of which he spoke.

"Almost every nation will be involved." These were his last words. He thanked me and left me standing, deeply thinking. He had actually overpowered me. He was a man not more than forty years of age and dark, with large black eyes. For a moment I thought he had hypnotized me, as it is so contrary to my nature to listen to a stranger or give any credence to any such prediction. I decided to have a further talk with him, but he had turned into a side street, and I never saw him again.

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The matter entirely dropped out of my memory till the memorable events of the last days of July when it recurred to my mind most forcibly.

I may remark here that on the day I met the gipsy I came across, at the Hotel Cecil in Brussels, an English friend who is now at the front, and told him about the adventure I had had that morning. As soon as I am able to get in touch with him I will obtain his confirmation of the fact.

The following remarkable prophecy was made by a dying relative to Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B. The story was related by him to a representative of *Light*. It runs as follows :

An uncle of mine (he said), a retired colonel, lived in Paris and passed away in the year 1881. He was very much attached to France and brooded a great deal over the sundering from his adopted country of her two provinces. The night before he died he began to talk, as though in his sleep, being perfectly oblivious to everything that was going on around him. While in this state he said : "I see in less than fifty years' time a terrible revolution in Germany—a revolution compared to which that of 1789 in France, and also the Commune, were as nothing. I see an emperor, whose face I know not, dethroned and driven into shameful exile and his family scattered over the earth as refugees." He finished by saying : "I see a great rising and a victory for the German *people*, now mere slaves and helots."

Among the most noteworthy prophecies of the present war is one that has attracted attention owing to the celebrity of the name of its author, Count Leo Tolstoi. The prediction occurred at an interview which the Countess Nastasia Tolstoi had with her great uncle. It appears that, while dictating the contents of the message he had to convey, Count Tolstoi was in a state of semi-consciousness or trance, but the main outline of the vision had, it is stated, haunted him for no less than two years. In this vision the Count declared that he saw the huge silhouette of a nude woman, whose name was Commercialism. Nations rushed madly after her, but destruction and agony followed in her wake. Her look of greed was poison to the peoples who fell victims to her charms. She had three gigantic arms, each bearing a torch of universal corruption. The first of these torches was War, which the beautiful courtesan carried from city to city and country to country. The second bore the flame of Bigotry and Hypocrisy. The third was that of the Law, "the foundation of all unauthenticated traditions." This temptress of the nations was destined to bring about a great conflagration.

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“It will start,” said Tolstoi, “about 1912, set by the torch of the first arm, in the countries of South-Eastern Europe. It will develop into a destructive calamity in 1913. In that year I see all Europe in flames and bleeding. I hear the lamentations of huge battlefields. But about the year 1915 a strange figure from the North—a new Napoleon—enters the stage of the bloody drama. He is a man of little military training, a writer or a journalist, but in his grip most of Europe will remain till 1925. But then a great reformer arises. He will clear the world of the relics of monotheism and lay the cornerstone of the temple of pantheism. God, soul, spirit, and immortality will be molten in a new furnace, and I see the peaceful beginning of an ethical era. The man determined to this mission is a Mongolian-Slav. He is already walking the earth—a man of active affairs. He himself does not realize the mission assigned to him by a superior power.”

Count Tolstoi's prediction carries us further into the future than the others. One is left in considerable doubt as to what position the two strange figures described by him are destined to occupy on the European stage. The suggestion seems to be that they are both of them Russians or at any rate Slavs. Is their appearance, one wonders, consistent with the retention of his throne by the present Tsar? Is the new Napoleon a chancellor or premier of the Tsar, or is he a usurper of the throne? We are left to

draw our own conclusions. Some of us would not be surprised if a troublous time and many great changes were in store for Russia after her triumphs in the present war.

Among other shorter prophecies which have been cited in reference to the war are the following: Mme. Sybilla is a Parisian prophetess. In an interview which appeared in the *Stampa*, of Turin, in January of this year, she said: "On every side the outlook is of blood and war. The hands of the Slavs are heavy with Fate. An imperial drama is imminent. The German outlook points to profound convulsions. The person of the Kaiser is the aim of destiny. I cannot see the rehabilitation of European equilibrium until Prussia has re-entered into the limits of a small State. Belgium has trying days before her." Mme. Sybilla also asserted that Italy would favour France in spite of treaty obligations.

A Japanese prediction, dating back to 1793, runs: "When men fly like birds, ten great kings will go to war against each other, and the universe will be under arms."

The prophecy of a monk of Mediæval Saxony is stated to have been made in the following words:

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There will be a king in Germany under whom the nation will be greater and more powerful than ever before. He will be followed by an uncrowned king who will pass as a shadow across the throne. A one-armed king will succeed him and in the end of this reign, or early in the next, the German armies will go forth to conquer the world, but those who return will shelter under the pear-trees of the nation.

There is a general agreement among these prophecies, both as to the universality of the war and as to the ultimate defeat of Germany and Austria. The question of the resulting resettlement of Europe, where it is in any way treated of, provides room for greater diversity. The era of peace that is to follow according to the prediction of Brother John in the prophecy of Antichrist, seems hardly borne out by Tolstoi's more ominous vision, though this is too vague a prediction for us to base any very definite conclusions upon it. The length of the war is generally not specified, except in one very apochryphal prophecy. I am alluding elsewhere to the bearing of astrological prediction on this important point. Several of the predictions clearly imply the intervention of Turkey. One, the prediction made to Sir Alfred Turner, definitely foretells a German revolution, compared to which

that of 1789 in France would be as nothing. This upshot of the war is not specifically stated elsewhere, though it is indicated in a more general form in the predictions of Mme. de Thèbes.* The rehabilitation of Poland is emphasized with curious frequency, and it will be noted with interest that in two prophecies, viz., that of Antichrist and the Japanese one, references are made to aviation.

* Readers are referred to the original almanacs.

CHAPTER II

OMENS OF THE WAR

Not only have numerous prophecies dealing with the present war been unearthed by the curious in such matters, but those who set store by omens and presages have come forward to quote various strange happenings which, in the light of subsequent events, have been interpreted as foreshadowings of the coming struggle. Thus, at the celebration of Sedan Day (September 1) the French anniversary of disaster, at the Saxon town of Artern, in 1911, hundreds of the inhabitants had gathered in the large square which has Bismarck's statue in the centre, when suddenly the sword which the figure of the maker of modern Germany holds extended at length dropped from the statue's hand and fell noisily to the ground. The fall of the sword was immediately followed by that of the sword arm of the Imperial Chancellor. In the next year, 1912, the Balkan War broke out, which was the precursor of the present crisis. About the same time, or shortly

after, as one of the results of an earthquake which, it may be remembered, took place that autumn on the Continent of Europe, a colossal statue of Germania was overthrown at Constance. Another even more significant result of this earthquake, in the eyes of the superstitious, was the rending of the solid masonry of the towers of the Burg Hohenzollern, the ancestral castle of the reigning house.

A further omen of disaster, to Belgium, was the cracking of the famous Rouland bell in the belfry of Ghent, which has been held to symbolize for many centuries past the spirit of Flemish liberty. On July 22 of the present year it cracked and broke when ringing. This incident was regarded at the time as a dire omen of evil.

There is a certain small lake near Lucerne called the Lake of Blood. Among Swiss superstitions is one which maintains that when a great war is approaching, the waters of the lake turn blood red; hence the name of the lake. The waters of this lake turned red a short time before the Franco-German War in 1870, and again, after an interval of forty-two years, before the recent war in the Balkans.

Portents in the clouds have been held in all ages to precede wars and battles, and

sometimes, as in the case of the battle of Edge Hill, the battle fought on earth is afterwards reduplicated in the sky. Of this battle, fought on October 22, 1642, the first apparition was seen on the Christmas evening following, and, of all occult happenings in history, none is better authenticated. It was repeated again and again, and the reports of the amazing occurrence reaching the King's ears, he sent commissioners to the spot in the shape of three officers, men of honour and discretion, and three other gentlemen of credit, to report upon the prodigy. The investigation of the commissioners fully confirmed the rumours which had reached the court. A scarce and curious tract of contemporary date gives a narration of the phenomena witnessed and heard. It is entitled "A Great Wonder in Heaven, Showing the late Apparitions and Prodigies, Noyses of War and Battels, seen on Edge Hill, neere Keinton, in Northamptonshire, certified under the hands of William Wood, Esquire, and Justice for the Peace in the said countie, Samuel Marshall, Preacher of God's Word in Keinton, and other persons of qualitie."

A similar phenomenon, in which the sight and hearing of those present were also affected, is recorded in connexion with the

battle of Mook Heath (April 14, 1574) in the war of Dutch Independence against Philip of Spain. In this case the phenomenon preceded the battle, taking place early in the previous February, but the battle, when it occurred, exactly followed on the lines of its predecessor in the clouds. On both of these occasions it is stated that the individual combatants were identified, and the roar of the cannon, the shouting of the soldiers, the groans of the dying, and the neighing of the horses were clearly heard.

Stories were long told how, at the commencement of the reign of King George III, battl. scenes were witnessed in the sky and how the country sages used to shake their heads and declare that this was a presage that the new reign would witness many bloody battles and much warfare. In view of these strange records, it is not perhaps surprising to learn in connexion with the present war that the vision of a celestial battle has been witnessed. A story of a mirage of a naval engagement is stated to have been seen by the Very Rev. Alexius Calderbank, Rector of the Franciscan College at Cowley, Oxford, and two Dutch students at the same place. The mirage took place about ten days before the sea fight close to the island of Heligoland, which occurred on

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August 27. The description of the battle given in the papers appeared to tally closely with that seen in the mirage. Mr. Calderbank's record stated that the vision lasted about twenty minutes. "Beyond the phantom shore, at an apparent distance of many miles, was a ship enveloped in smoke. Around this ship smaller boats were circling, some with two funnels, others with three funnels. Viewed through binoculars the masts could be seen quite clearly. Later on, other ships appeared like specks upon the horizon. Finally, just before the mirage disappeared two boats left the principal ship, which had broken into flames."

A curious story which, however, has many parallels, may perhaps be allowed to fall under the heading of omens of the war. The experience narrated is stated to have taken place early in October, immediately before the battle of Augustovo, in which, it will be remembered, the German Army met with a disastrous defeat at the hands of the Russians. The story is communicated by a Russian General who is with the army operating in East Prussia. He writes:

While our troops were in the region of Suwalki, the captain of one of my regiments witnessed a marvellous revelation.

It was eleven o'clock at night, and the troops

were in bivouac. Suddenly a soldier from one of our outposts, wearing a startled look, rushed in and called the captain. The latter went with the soldier to the outskirts of the camp and witnessed an amazing apparition in the sky. It was that of the Virgin Mary, with the Infant Christ on one hand, the other hand pointing to the west.

Our soldiers knelt on the ground and gazed fervently at the vision. After a time the apparition faded, and in its place came a great image of the Cross, shining against the dark night sky.

Slowly it faded away.

On the following day our army advanced westward to the victorious battle of Augustovo.

A further omen has reference to the emancipation of Poland. When the Prussians took possession of Cracow in 1794 the Polish Kingdom ceased to exist. The King of Prussia desired to have the insignia of its sovereignty, the traditional diadem of its kings, to adorn his own brow. It had, however, mysteriously disappeared. A thunderstorm broke over Cracow in January last and a stately elm standing in a field close to the city was shattered to pieces. In its fall was brought to light a secret treasure, which had been buried at its roots, the long-lost crown of Poland. Some of the jewels were loosened and fell to the ground as it was picked up, but none were missing. It had remained in its hiding-place for 120 years.

CHAPTER III

ASTROLOGY AND THE WAR

No account of prophecies and predictions in connexion with the present war would be complete without some survey of the field covered by astrological research and some notice of the very remarkable and indeed ominous horoscope of Kaiser Wilhelm II himself. Writing of this horoscope at the commencement of his reign, the Editor of Zadkiel's Almanac observed: "The meridional position of Mars is of serious import to Germany and presignifies a great struggle in warfare ere many years' be passed." In the issue of the *Throne* for January 3, 1912, I wrote myself on the same subject: "The horoscope is one that portends eventual overthrow and disaster from which there will be no recovery."

A fatality is invariably indicated in a horoscope where the Sun and Moon are both afflicted by oppositions from the malefics, and where malefics occupy the mid-heaven. In the Kaiser's horoscope the Sun has the opposition of Saturn and the

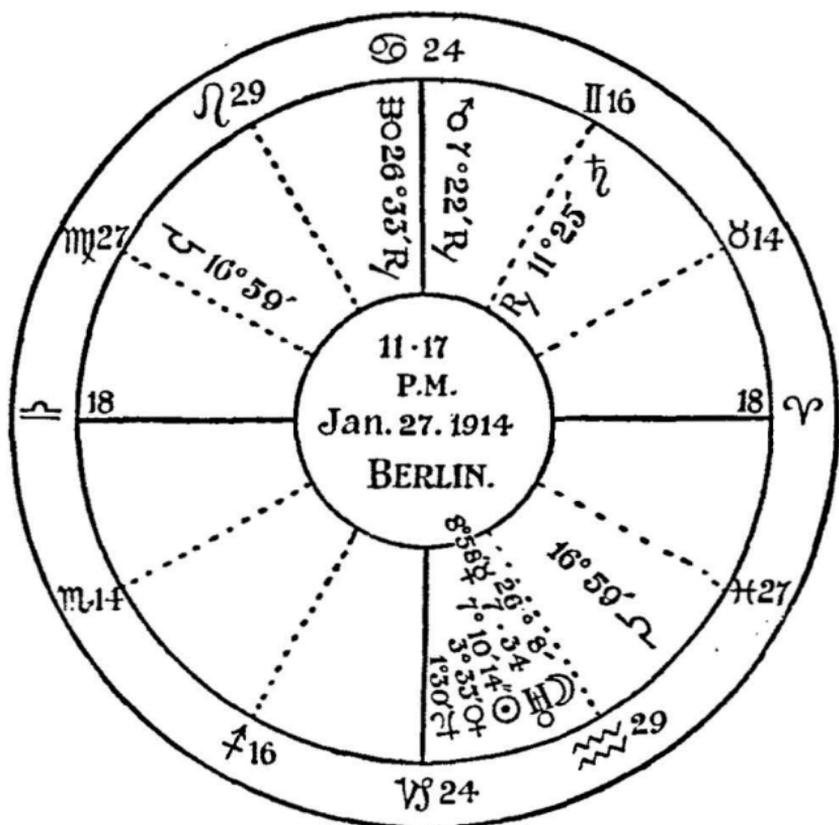
should have retained his throne so long. Mars, however, has an exact trine with the Moon, and there is some mitigation of the affliction of the Sun by a trine of Jupiter.

It is not a little strange that the Kaiser should have chosen such an evil aspect as the opposition of Uranus to the Sun exactly across the place of the opposition of the Sun and Saturn in his own horoscope, to launch his ultimatum to Russia. The position of the planet Uranus transiting the place of his Sun at birth has been causing him trouble for some three years past and at the moment of writing it is returning for the last time to the position of his Sun in the natal figure, where it is about to exercise its maximum of power before it becomes direct once more.

A far less remarkable, but still very noteworthy horoscope, is that of the Austrian Emperor, Franz Josef. In spite of the black indications in this horoscope where it will be noted the Sun and Moon are both afflicted by a conjunction of Saturn, and where Mars is in close opposition to the ascendant, the planet Venus, lady of the ascending sign, dominates the horoscope from the mid-heaven, and has enabled this monarch to weather many a storm and survive many a tragedy. Venus is the

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I am giving in illustration of these remarks the natal figures of both the German Kaiser and the Austrian Emperor, and, in addition to this, I am offering for the consideration of the reader the "revolu-



tionary figure" for the Kaiser's birthday (Jan. 27, 1914), ruling the year in which war was declared. These birthday figures are in the nature of horoscopes for the succeeding year of life, and are drawn for the exact moment when the Sun returns to its original place at birth. The planetary

positions are most significant. Three malefic planets, Neptune, Mars, and Saturn, are elevated above all the others, Neptune being within three degrees of the mid-heaven. All three planets are retrograde, and Mars is in its "detriment" or "fall." The two dominant planets, Mars and Neptune, are the same that held rule at birth.

The evil indications are accentuated by a close conjunction of the Sun, Mercury, and Uranus, a position signifying dramatic and sensational disaster. The eventful nature of the year is shown by the fact that no less than six planets are in a single sign—Aquarius—and in a single house—the Fourth.

Zadkiel's Almanac for June, 1914, gives some noteworthy observations of the Editor on the quarterly figure for the entry of the Sun into Cancer (June to September) (covering the period of the outbreak of war):

VOICE OF THE STARS—June, 1914. Jupiter stationary in Aquarius $22^{\circ} 18'$ on the eleventh day and in opposition with Mars in Leo $22^{\circ} 17'$ on the twelfth, are the chief phenomena occurring in June this year, and as those Zodiacal signs are "fixed" and rule Prussia, France, and Italy respectively, there is a risk of a serious crisis near at hand in those countries which, if not skilfully and patiently handled by the respective Governments, might develop alarmingly. At the summer

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solstice Mars is in the ascendant at Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and Cairo, and has only just risen at St. Petersburg! The Eastern question is only too likely to destroy the harmony of the "Concert of Europe" and may incarnadine the Middle East. The twelfth and twenty-eighth days will be very critical for Europe and Asia. Increase of armaments and a busy time for armourers and ironworkers will be experienced in England.

It will be remembered that June 28 was the date of the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, which was the immediate cause of the war between Austria and Servia.

As a matter of fact, it was not merely Mars that was ascending at the summer solstice, but Mars in conjunction with a martial star of the first magnitude, Regulus (or α Leonis), and this no doubt greatly emphasized the martial influence. It is an astrological theory, to which perhaps some credence should be given, that fixed star effects are of a sudden and dramatic character. It is curious that the eclipse of the Sun on August 21 of this year fell on the identical place occupied by Mars and Regulus at the summer solstice. According to the celebrated astrologer, Junctinus, a great eclipse of the Sun in Leo "presignifies the motion of armies, death of a king,

danger of war, and scarcity of rain." It is noteworthy that the eclipse in question afflicted the horoscopes of the German and Austrian Emperors as well as those of the Tsar of Russia and the King of Italy, and also fell exactly on the place of the Sun, and close to that of Saturn, at the birth of the President of the French Republic.* Mars occupied the mid-heaven at this eclipse in Central Europe.

It is generally held by astrologers that great wars are heralded by eclipses. The central eclipse of the Sun on April 17, 1912, which occurred in twenty-seven degrees of Aries, was thus alluded to by the Editor of Zadkiel's Almanac :

As the central line of the solar eclipse of this year passes across Europe and is more or less visible as a partial one over the whole of Europe and the greater part of Northern Africa, and as Mars is in extreme north declination and in the oriental quarter of the heavens over Europe at the time of the eclipse, the danger of war in Europe is imminent. At St. Petersburg and Constantinople Saturn at the time of the eclipse will be very close to the upper meridian at the conjunction of the Sun and Moon.

* The eclipse alluded to falls in square with the German Emperor's Moon and Uranus, in opposition to the King of Italy's Moon and in trine aspect to the Tsar of Russia's Mars and in square with his Sun.

This eclipse was followed in the middle of October by the outbreak of the Balkan War, exactly at the time when Mars transited the opposition of the place of the eclipse. At the autumn equinox of that year Mars was culminating at Vienna and in the Balkans. An eclipse is traditionally held to rule as many years as it lasts hours; the duration of the rule of this eclipse would thus be fully three years. It must not then be assumed that its effect was exhausted by the Balkan War, which as a matter of fact was in its nature merely the forerunner of the present conflagration, the cause of the conflict between Austria and Servia, from which it resulted, being due to the aggrandisement of Servia as the result of her success and the determined opposition which Austria offered to her access to the sea.

After quoting Zadkiel's Almanac it is only fair to cite at the same time the following paragraph which appeared in another astrological Calendar, "Antares Almanac" for 1913.

"When will Germany strike?" This is the question constantly put to us by many of our readers. We fear that Germany will strike in 1913 or 1914, either England or one of her smaller neighbours, and as the German Emperor is under

such adverse star courses the result for him will be disastrous. The stars are a menace to his health and fortunes in 1914.

I have in my possession a pamphlet giving a horoscope of the great Napoleon drawn when he was at the height of his power. In this horoscope the primary direction of the Moon to the opposition of Mars measures to the period of his Russian campaign. It is not a little remarkable that, in the German Emperor's horoscope, Mars by primary direction reaches the exact opposition of the Moon during the present year. The tendency of this position to excite rash and reckless action on the part of those whose horoscope it afflicts is familiar ground to every astrologer. A parallel and contrast has been drawn by the Editor of *Modern Astrology* between the horoscope of the Austrian Emperor and that of King George. It is a curious fact that the point which ascends in the one horoscope is exactly on the descendant of the other, and accordingly the planet Mars which is just setting in the horoscope of Kaiser Franz Josef is on the ascendant of King George's nativity. Alluding to this fact in *Modern Astrology* for July 1910, the editor observes that "it is no idle prophecy to say that if a European war broke out during the lifetime of these two

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monarchs, the Emperor of Austria would be the direct cause of drawing England into the struggle."

In the month of December the Sun is conjoined with the planet Mars and the two meet with the opposition of Saturn just before Christmas. This month, therefore, is likely to be signalized by specially severe fighting and by disasters both by land and sea. Christmastide may well be a period of grave calamity, both physical and political, and widespread tragedies, not all of which will be due to the continuance of the war, though a crisis is likely to arrive in this month which will have a signal effect on the ultimate result. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Portugal seems likely to gain in some way through the present war, as Jupiter enters her ruling sign at the beginning of next February.

To prognosticate when the war will end is no easy matter. The end may not come in all quarters at the same moment, and there may be an aftermath of war which would render difficult the fixing of a specific date. What appears probable astrologically is that the War will in no case last more than ten months approximately from its commencement, that it may end in the Spring, and that the month of July 1915,

will bring with it some European settlement fraught with the promise of a lasting peace. But in such a settlement the Kaiser will have no voice. A favourable aspect of the Moon and Jupiter occurs in King George's horoscope about this period, and at the same time the major benefic itself becomes stationary within two degrees of his ascendant, at the entry of Aries, England's ruling sign. These indications are strongly in favour of an advantageous peace and favourable treaties. At this time also the culmination of Saturn at the Summer Solstice is a warning of trouble to the British Government which will be involved in a very grave crisis during the summer quarter.

In the above remarks I have alluded to astrology of the legitimate kind, if I may so call it; *i.e.* the study based on the apparent positions of the Sun, Moon, and planets, as seen from the earth's surface. The data for the calculations necessary are obtainable from the Nautical Almanac, published annually by the Government, or the similar publication brought out at Washington, or alternatively the excellent work which the French Government issue under the title of *La Connaissance des Temps*. This information in a greatly abridged form is obtainable in the shape of *Zadkiel's* and

Raphael's Ephemerises, which serve all necessary purposes for the rough casting of horoscopes. There is, however, another form of astrology so called, which has no such scientific basis. It is, in fact, kabalism pure and simple, a form of juggling with names and numbers which, however, at times produces very curious results. The method adopted is fully described in a book entitled *Your fortune in your Name, or Kabalistic Astrology, being the Hebrew Method of Divination by the Power of Sound, Number, and Planetary Influence*. The Author is Sepharial. A horoscope of this kind was cast for the Kaiser and published in *L'Echo du Merveilleux* upwards of three years ago. The prediction based on it ran as follows:—
“William II, born at Berlin, Thursday, January 27, 1859. The conjunction of Saturn, Mars, and Taurus predict the fall of the house of Hohenzollern, and of the German Empire, in 1913 or 1914. Jupiter predicts William II to be the last German Emperor of the house of Hohenzollern. If there is war in 1914 between France and Germany France will be victorious.”

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