

Butler's Journal.

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The Outcome.

It is idle to speculate on the changes of government or the re-arranging of the map of Europe that will re-sult from the present frightful war now in progress, or even to guess how soon it will end.

With the present and prospective forces against Germany there does not seem the slightest doubt that she will eventually be crushed by over-whelming numbers, but in any event it will be a hard won victory, for the Allies and reduce them and the colonies to practical poverty, and it will take them 50 years to recover their present prosperity. The commerce of Britain will be greatly lessened and the great carrying trade she has enjoyed for over half a century will be in the hands of the United States. Canada will suffer, but not so much as she has not so much to lose but the price of commodities and taxes will be high for many years to come.

In regard to the reconstruction of Europe after the war, we can only give a guess. Germany will be completely crushed and will pay dearly for her ambition to be the ruling power. There is no doubt that what is left of Germany will revolt against the Kaisers rule, and if he is living, and not kept as a prisoner by the Allies, he will be turned out bag and baggage by the German people, who before that time will have realized the deception he has practiced upon them, and establish a republic. Austria and Hungary—that is what ever remains of them after Serbia and Russia have taken their share, will no doubt reorganize as separate nations, perhaps Republics.

France will have regained all disputed territory and recover the quickest from her great losses while Belgium will regain all she has lost and more. The ever doubtful problem is what use Russia will make of her victory. As France and Britain will both have gained by accession of German and Turkish territory. Russia will not be satisfied with anything less than a large acquisition, and the securing of permanent ports. That she should secure these would be no menace to the Western nations if she did not make them a stepping stone to future conquests, as she has not yet arrived at the point at which she can respect the rights of even an ally if it interferes with her plans, and she is sufficiently strong to combat her. Her recuperative power is much superior to that of Britain and France, and she will not suffer as great a strain from the war, being a comparatively undeveloped territory. Her promises of autonomy to Poland and Lithuania may be taken with a grain of allowance when she is again at liberty to back them, as also the promise of relief to the Jews from the oppression from which they have so long suffered. It is greatly feared that Great Britain will be a party with Russia in the partition of Persia and the extinguishing of that country's independence, as notwithstanding her contention for the rights of Belgium. She has not yet got to the point at which she holds the independence of every country sacred. But in this case the past is not to be considered. Britain though far from being perfect has within the past few years greatly redeemed her character and under a Liberal and democratic rule has instituted needed reforms and abolished repressive laws, and the tendency is to inaugurate still greater reforms which will place her in the front rank of free nations. But it will not be all plain sailing. The old reactionary spirit is strong and the monarchy nobility and Church, will insist as usual in riding on the necks of the people. It will depend largely whether democratic or Tory principles prevail in the governments of the country, but there is good reason to believe that one result of the war will be to cement the brotherhood of the British people, and crush to a great extent the pride and pomposity of the classes, and strip them of their exceptional privileges. As to Ireland, she will have no enemies but those of her own household, and the disparity of their numbers compared to that of those who love their country, unsupported by Eng-

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