

give laws to the Germans, end the chaos in Gaul, and finally be made King. Thereupon he will assume the title of Emperor, with the enthusiastic approval of the nation. He will fight in all parts of his Empire, and for two lustrums and more defeat princes and kings.

He will do great things for his realm, construct magnificent buildings, ports, canals, and waterworks. He alone will accomplish as much as all the Romans. He will have two wives and one son. In his wars, his campaigns will lead him where the fifty-fifth parallel of latitude intersects the fifty-fifth meridian. There his enemies will set fire to a great city. He will enter it with his soldiers, and again leave the ruins. His men will have neither bread nor water. They will perish in the bitter cold. Finally this great man, deserted and betrayed by his friends, will be driven into his own capital by a great European army. Banished to an island not far from his native land, he will remain there with his followers for eleven months, after which he will again disembark on Gaulo-Celtic soil. Driven out by a European Triple Alliance in three and one half months, he will be compelled to surrender his throne to the former king.

Josephine, astonished at what she had just read, closed the volume and asked Napoleon more about this strange book. He tried to convey the impression that he attached no importance to the prophecy of Noël Olivarius, saying: 'Prophecies always say just what you want them to. I will confess, though, that this one has impressed me deeply.'

The first time Napoleon read this prophecy, the origin of which it is not necessary to go into at this place, he laughed at it. However, in 1806, when he read it the second time, he turned pale. He asked a theologian to come to him, and inquired whether his religion obligated him to believe in prophecies. He received the answer: 'The spirit of God has spoken through the prophets.'

We see that Napoleon was an opportunist in his belief in supernatural things, just as he was in politics. If he now and then was inclined to attribute a mysterious meaning to certain events, as every man is prone to do, he did not permit superstition, in the ordinary sense, to control his actions.

## EPITAPH ON A VAGABOND

BY ALEXANDER GRAY

[*London Mercury*]

CARELESS I lived, accepting day by day  
The lavish benison of sun and rain,  
Watching the changing seasons pass away  
And come again.

Now the great Harvester has stilled my breath;  
In this cold house I neither hear nor see.  
Though in my life I never thought of Death,  
Death thought of me.

# GERMANY AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

BY BERNHARD DERNBURG

*[Dr. Dernburg, at one time Colonial Minister of Germany, and early in the war an official defender of her interests in the United States, is well known to many Americans. He has been prominent in German Liberal circles since the Revolution.]*

From the *Berliner Tageblatt*, July 20

(LIBERAL DAILY)

WHEN the German Peace Delegation at Versailles urged that their country be admitted immediately to the League of Nations, they were informed by the Allies, in a tone of stern rebuke, that a period of probation would be necessary, during which Germany must give evidence of a right attitude toward the victorious Powers. This injunction has been repeated countless times since, although Germany has never repeated her request. Now the League of Nations people seem to think that the period of probation has lasted quite long enough, and that Germany's absence is weakening the League. That is quite comprehensible. In fact, Germany's absence may do more to make the League of Nations a mere torso than even the absence of the United States.

Some of the Allies, especially France, still protest violently against this suggestion. Nevertheless Germany is needed in the League, because without us its whole structure is unbalanced and threatens to collapse. But, while it is intimated that our presence there would be welcome, the Allies are loath to give up their rôle of victors, and they regard any concession to the vanquished with an air of patronizing condescension. They discuss the subject as if Germany were appealing for admission, and they had to ponder carefully under what conditions this grace

should be granted. They overlook entirely the fact that neither the German Government nor the German public is interested in joining the League.

However, all this is immaterial, so far as the main question is concerned. The League of Nations problem ought to be altogether too important and too serious for Germany, to be debated in an atmosphere of irritation and resentment. We must consider the subject objectively and practically, and decide with clear and unprejudiced minds what our attitude toward the League shall be.

One thing, I assume, may be taken for granted. The endorsement of the League of Nations idea that the German Government gave at Versailles must and will be confirmed. The German Government will always champion the idea of law and justice which underlies the theory of a League of Nations, and will make that idea the corner stone of its international policies. Our Government will not let its attitude be affected by the argument that this may be interpreted merely as an opportunist concession to our temporary weakness. For the idea of a permanent agency to maintain peace between nations, having once been embodied in an actual organization, is bound to live; and the vitality and sincerity of every true democracy will be measured by the energy with which