

far we were from success lies in minds of scores of thousands of our fellow-citizens, who alone can tell us how near they were to saying to their rulers: "Stop!" Remember that most of these people would now say "Quite right to go on. We always knew we should win." That, however, wasn't at all their humour many times during the war. All I can say to Prince Max is that he was trying to do the one thing which in England could have created a new atmosphere. If a German Government, when it offered to try and negotiate a peace, had equally definitely guaranteed Belgian independence and sovereignty, it would have changed the whole issue here. It would have created a powerful peace party, backed by many of the opportunists. It must be said, however, that as the war went on it would have been harder, not easier, to get peace even by the clear surrender of Belgium. Reasonable public opinion grew less powerful in Britain, the custom of the war grew upon people, they set their teeth and thought less. But even after America came in, the tide might have been turned to peace by so startling a falsification of what was represented by our war-mongers as being the attitude of the German governing powers. If the offer had been made dramatically enough by Prince Max as Chancellor, it would have been increasingly difficult to maintain the position that victory was essential to a reasonable peace. To my mind the only proof that there was a volume of moderate opinion capable of action under more favourable conditions is the Lansdowne Letter and movement. I even think that it might have gone much further than it did, if Lansdowne had been a more vigorous and popular personality, less conservative and cautious in his methods. His position made it impossible for him to be silenced or misrepresented. And, if his proposition, that a reasonable peace was actually attainable, had been proved by the open abandonment by the German Government of the one thing which the British rulers had persistently taught the British public was the main reason of the war on the part of Germany, he would have been the leader of a powerful party.

In history the importance of the part played by Prince Max and his associates in Germany and by ourselves in Great Britain does not lie in how near we came to success under the conditions in which we strove for a policy of reconciliation. It lies in the existence in both countries of bodies of men, pursuing under such