

An Alumnus Tells Why We Support England—

A Clemson Professor this week received a letter from an old Clemson man. The letter was written as a personal, friendly letter. But there was one passage that seemed to express the feelings of the average Southerner so well that we reprint it below:

"Realizing that promises of good intentions during times of strife are not always fulfilled, I favor insuring an English victory regardless of the cost or consequences. It is a time for bold and drastic decisions on the problems of today; the problems of tomorrow will have to be solved, as they are always are, when and if they arrive.

"It is my belief that if the United States is to be a democratic world power, which it definitely is, it has a moral obligation to assume responsibility as such a power. Democracy is a dynamic system of a society which is only the reward of those brave enough to defend it, who are tolerant enough to live by it, who are vigorous enough to keep it up to date, and who are willing to work hard enough to maintain their individual independence.

"The democratic responsibility today is the strengthening of the moral fiber of the world that free men may prevail. If the assumption of this responsibility means the spending of money, we must be willing to spend it freely and if in the end it means war we must pursue it to victory, while realizing that a humble peace must follow.

"When it comes to the treatment of Japan I favor a line from David Harum which goes something like this: 'Do unto others as they would unto you but do it first.'

"That is my conclusion after exploring these 'ifs'. If I thought a negotiated peace would be a just peace and give the world security and not an armistice I would favor that before all else. If I thought that a German victory would bring a "new order" with any justice I would be willing to see England sue for peace. That either of these things could not come to pass is apparent from the German attitude in the countries that it has conquered or seduced.

"If I thought that England was not fighting a just cause—even survival today is a just cause—and that the rulers of Germany were honorable I would prefer to see peace negotiated. If I thought that a German victory would give security to us as a nation neglecting the rest of the world, an extraordinarily selfish view, I would favor that victory only if we were a nation of Winston Churchills. If I thought that England was not fighting our fight the outcome of the war would not touch me so deeply.

"In consequence for my strong feeling for an English victory it seems absurd to me for us to go into a great arms producing program the results of which are going to aid Britain, which in turn is definitely aiding us, and not to insure the safe delivery of the arms and material.

"Since wars have been with us so long it may be wishful thinking to presume that this war will be the last, but I believe that the day will come when the dream that Tennyson expressed in Locksley Hall will come true:

'Till the war drum throbbed no longer,
and the battle flags were furled

In the parliament of man, the federation
of the world.'