

## "AN ORGY OF CANT."

BY THE EDITOR.

AMONG the British critics of the government of Great Britain there is one who has shown himself universally ingenious as a poet as well as enthusiastic on various occult subjects. People interested in occultism may remember the first volume of his *Equinox*, a stately volume with artistic illustrations acquainting the reader with a charming ritual and containing many mysterious articles. We refer to Aleister Crowley who has made himself *persona non grata* to the English government and may be compared with his well-known countryman, Bernard Shaw. Both are poets, both are masters of sarcastic wit, both are Irish patriots and both possess the manliness to speak out boldly and point out the inconsistencies in English politics of to-day.

Early last year Mr. Crowley gave expression to his view of the war in a short circular entitled "The Orgy of Cant" which he sent out pretty widely in letter form among his friends. It was reprinted in *The Continental Times*, an American paper published in Europe.

The English claim, as a matter of course, that God and right are on their side. The huge Teuton armies are crushed by the small forces of Englishmen. Mr. Crowley says:

"We are in for one of our periodical orgies of Cant. Right (and God, of course, thank God!) struggles gallantly in its tiny way against Armed Might, Tyranny, Barbarism; the Allies pit their puny force against the hordes of Huns. Parsons preach on David and Goliath, publicists invoke Jack the Giant-Killer. The odds are always ten to one. Fortunately, one Englishman is a match for 18½ Germans, as statistics prove.

"Englishmen, even educated Englishmen, even traveled Englishmen, manage to hypnotize themselves into believing this.

"My own view is simpler. We have waited for a long while