

## 150 USAGES OF WAR IN NEUTRAL STATES

These are the most important duties of neutral States so far as land warfare is concerned. If they are disregarded by the neutral State itself, then it has to give satisfaction or compensation to the belligerent who is prejudiced thereby. This case may also occur if the Government of the neutral State, with the best intentions to abstain from proceedings which violate neutrality, has, through domestic or foreign reasons, not the power to make its intentions good. If, for example, one of the two belligerents by main force marches through the territory of a neutral State and this State is not in a position to put an end to this violation of its neutrality, then the other belligerent has the right to engage the enemy on the hitherto neutral territory.

Rights of the neutral.

The duties of neutral States involve corresponding rights, such as :

The neutral has the right to be left alone.

Neutral territory is sacred.

1. The neutral State has the right to be regarded as still at peace with the belligerents as with others.
2. The belligerent States have to respect the inviolability of the neutral and the undisturbed exercise of its sovereignty in its home affairs, to abstain from any attack upon the same, even if the necessity of war should make such an attack desirable. Neutral States, therefore, possess also the right of asylum for single members or adherents of the belligerent Powers, so far as no favour to one or other of them is thereby implied. Even the reception of a smaller or larger detachment of troops which is fleeing from pursuit does not give the pursuer the right to continue his pursuit across the

after the Battle of Sedan, through Belgian territory, and out of excessive caution interpreted its decree of August 27th as amounting to a prohibition of the transport even of individual wounded. The French protest was based on the contention that by the transport of wounded through Belgium, the military communication of the enemy with Germany was relieved from a serious hindrance. "On such a ground"—thinks Bluntschli (p. 434)—"one might set one's face against the transport of large numbers but not the transport of individuals. These considerations of humanity should decide."