

Scottish history, which abounds in stories of heroism and devotion, records an instance where King James I., while sojourning in his palace at Perth was surrounded by a band of traitors who desired to encompass his death. A number of them entered the palace and rushed towards the King's room, from the door of which the bolt, through treachery, had been taken. Catherine Douglas, one of the ladies in waiting with the Queen, closed the door, and without hesitation thrust her bare arm through the staples in lieu of the bolt which had been stolen. That delicate arm, before it was crushed and broken, had held the murderous crowd in check long enough to allow the King to escape from the room, and his life was saved for the time being. The action of Belgium to-day closely resembles on a larger scale that of Catherine Douglas five hundred years ago. She also, without hesitation, stepped nobly into the breach, and by her heroic stand saved the day for France and probably for the world. She held the Huns long enough in check to allow the small British expeditionary force to get ready to take up its share of the burden, and also to give General Joffre ample time to mobilize the French army and get it in fighting form.

King Albert could have saved himself and his country a world of suffering had he, like the Kaiser, chosen to pay no attention to a scrap of paper. Had he done so, however, his name would have gone down in ignominy to future ages instead of as one of the noblest characters this century has produced. He stood at the parting of the ways, and unhesitatingly chose the thorny path of honor and duty. By so doing he has won the love and admiration of all liberty-loving nations which with one accord re-echo the ringing words of Sir Walter Scott:

"Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife,
To all the sensual world proclaim,
One crowded hour of glorious life
Is worth an age without a name."

Retribution.

But what of the despoiler of his country, the man who for over a quarter of a century has simply been playing a part, and who evidently adopted in their entirety the axioms handed down to him by Frederick the Great? One of these was, "If someone is disrespectful towards you, reserve your vengeance for a time when you can obtain full satisfaction."

The Kaiser considered all Europe disrespectful towards himself because it did not acclaim him the greatest ruler in the world, but, instead, frequently greeted his silly vaporings with jibes and sneers. This was gall and wormwood to one of his vain nature, and occasionally his petulance asserted itself and he would make