

## PHARISAISM AND WAR

The fact is that none are so exposed to Pharisaism in its more insidious forms as those who are the guardians of morality. The guardian of morality is almost bound to be a sort of professional reprover. One remembers schoolmaster after schoolmaster who fell into the trap. If English art is Pharisaic, the rabbis are to be found in the ranks of the art teachers. When a parson once forgets that

penitence comes after all  
Imploring pardon,

there is nothing that can save him. The agnostic lecturer on ethics is in like case. For the professional reprover finds it almost impossible to admit his own sins or even to face them with clear and open eyes. To do so would make it impossible to correct those put into his charge, and therefore self-examination would be dangerous and confession a breach of trust. If this is true, we can see now why Britain is in such a peculiar danger. Her cause is for the most part good : why, then, should she 'weaken' it by examining what of wrong may be found in herself ? Moreover, the danger became more serious when, because of her detached position, the championship of public morality was thrust upon her. She stands in Europe as the foe of organized militarism and the protector of a small and injured state. Finding herself thus on the side of the angels, how natural it is for her to close her eyes and to forget that she has ever been on any other side or that there are any of her children who fall short of the highest chivalry. How inappropriate is the language of the General Confession to the champion of righteousness ! Many of the clergy of every denomination, feeling specially concerned by the immoralism of German action, stretch anxious hands to keep the jolts of criticism from the ark of the British covenant. Some who have fought English militarism in the past have for the first time found themselves in accord with a great popular enthusiasm, and they are so glad to be done with weary opposi-