

We did no good and we sowed the seeds of a rankling bitterness that is bearing its fruit, now that the chance has come for them to teach us how much more pleasantly we also could settle our own affairs if strangers would kindly leave us alone.

Such a spirit is not right. It is a sort of national tit-for-tat; it is unworthy of the highest standard. Granted all this. But is it not very human? And should we not have acted in precisely the same way in their place? Of course we should, only *we* should have done it on the most undeniable grounds of morality and Christianity combined—the real old “British mixture” that we always keep in stock and are ready to infuse at a moment’s notice for the benefit and edification of our neighbours.

And now for a few words as to the plan of these slight sketches. To begin with, I have no plan, so the words, fortunately, can be very few.

It is impossible to interest others in that which has not interested oneself, and it is impossible to write