

—this rhetorical warrior asserts that “before God and history, my conscience is clear.” The monarch who could have saved Europe from the deaths or wounds of ten million men, audaciously says:

“I did not will the war.”

He says that the Entente Powers had prepared for ten years to attack Germany, and that they decided “the moment had come” to humiliate her.

When even Austria, appalled by the thunder clouds, would have accepted a discussion, this Sovereign, who calls upon God for His blessing, suppressed the fact. Not a gun need have been fired in Europe had he said one word—“Peace.” He knew that France passionately desired peace. He knew that his own Ally would have welcomed it. He knew that the Tsar wanted peace. From all the great capitals appeals rang out to him. He made war. He knew that “the moment had come.” His slaughter-machine had reached its limit of perfection. The plans for “making a corpse of Belgium”—a German phrase—were complete. For two or three years the Kaiser and his Government had known the hour at which they would set Europe aflame. History will deal faithfully with the Kaiser’s responsibility.

The second document, in which we see the old, old Kaiser, is a telegram to the Queen of Greece, his sister. It has the true Pistol quality which we must expect from this showman hero, in shimmering armour, who has acted so long that he has at last ended by deceiving himself:

“My destructive sword has crushed the Russians. They will need six months to recover. In a short while I will announce new victories—won by my brave soldiers, who have shown themselves invincible in battle against nearly the whole world. The war drama is now coming to its close.

“My kindest regards to Tino.”

That is the message. “Tino” is the abbreviated, familiar name for King Constantine of Greece. The people of Greece and the newly-elected Venizelos Party are in favour of intervention; so the Kaiser telegraphs to the Queen a hint that he has beaten the world in arms, and that Greece had better keep out of the row or she will run the common risk from “my destructive