

by Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., C. R. Buxton and others; and, last of all, came a letter to the President himself from Hon. Bertrand Russell, who is "compelled by a profound conviction to speak for all the nations in the name of Europe. In the name of Europe," says Mr. Russell, "I appeal to you to bring us peace."

Why look outside these letters, so far as our side is concerned, for the motive of Mr. Wilson's intervention? They supply in themselves a sort of working hypothesis which will at least help to explain his action. Their authors must thoroughly approve of the President's message; whether they are so well satisfied with the reply of the Entente, or Mr. A. J. Balfour's supplement to it, doth not yet appear. The only other motive—apart from the ambition to go down to history as a great pacificator—that has been attributed to Mr. Wilson in the public press, is fear of Germany and a realization of the obvious fact that, though it is open to the United States to break off diplomatic relations with that country, she is not really in a position to hold Germany, or indeed any other Great Power, to "strict accountability." This may help to explain the disquietude of Washington over Mr. Gerard's recent speech at Berlin. All that the American Ambassador really said was that the relations between Germany and the United States had never been so cordial as they are at present. Unkind critics might point out that the same statement could be made by—Turkey! But what if Mr. Gerard meant to imply was that the Emperor had better stick to his present advisers; if the other lot, headed by Von Tirpitz, should chance to gain his ear, there might have to be more talk about the "verge of war"?

In any case, we may well be proud of the dignified restraint which has marked the reception by the Allied Powers of Mr. Wilson's somewhat clumsy intervention. Nothing has impressed Americans so deeply as the new British Premier's adoption of Abraham Lincoln's memorable words: "We accepted this war for an object, a worthy object. The war will end when that object is attained. Under God, I hope it will never end until that time."