

in times of peace, to the injury of the just rights of any other nation however politically insignificant. On the contrary, she has for the benefit of humanity at large effectually put down piracy and slave-trading. It is only in time of war that friction has ever arisen on the subject; and even then she has acted only when compelled by the law of self preservation to resort to measures which resulted in a restriction of the freedom of others. She has done so in the war which has just come to an end. Neutral nations have been restricted in the use of the seas for the purpose of carrying on trade with the enemies not of only Great Britain, but of humanity; and by these measures she has once again been enabled to deliver Europe and the world from what aimed to be a worldwide tyranny. In doing what she did in this respect, Great Britain acted it is true on her own initiative; she had to. She determined for herself what was best to be done to meet the common danger, and she did it effectually, as the event has proved. All that remains for the contemplated league of nations to do is to give its personal sanction to Great Britain doing again, in a like emergency, the same thing. To seek to restrict her action otherwise would be to endanger not only her own existence, but that of the league of nations itself. When the wolf is at the door it is a bad time to argue who shall close it.

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### *PUBLIC POLICY.*

Decisions founded on what is called "public policy" are of all decisions the least satisfactory as expositions of the law, and the most unreliable. What the Courts to-day may be pleased to say is "public policy," the Courts a few years hence may declare has ceased to be "public policy," and that something else and wholly different has taken its place. It is about as bad as that kind of "equity," which was said to depend on the length of the Chancellor's foot. Public policy, after all is said, appears to be that particular view which the Judges for the time being come to the conclusion is best in the supposed interests of the public; and it is very easy to see how wide a difference of opinion the question what is to-day "public policy" naturally invites:—