

Belgium invaded, in her extremity, relied on us to honourably redeem our pledge. Our shame would have been everlasting if we had not done so.

It was that, and their righteous indignation against Prussia which, when they understood it, so profoundly stirred the British peoples all over the world. This sense of honour towards our pledged word to protect our small neighbour was the real *casus belli*.

For our policy had always been to protect, to the best of our power, the rights and liberties of the smaller European States; so that in time Great Britain had become the champion of the smaller European nations; a title which, except in the case of Denmark in 1864, she fully deserved.

That this policy of protection was relinquished on that occasion was due to the lamentable weakness of the Premier, Lord Palmerston.

The result was the bare-faced annexation of the Danish provinces of Schleswig and Holstein by Prussia in 1867. The cutting of the Keil canal followed, connecting the North Sea with Baltic; a matter of the greatest strategical importance for the German Navy.

So much for weak statesmanship and the abandonment of a noble policy. This weakness of the fathers has cost the children dear. It should show us the folly of the peace at any price policy of that "Bright and Cobdenite" period.

Today we see the result of this moral weakness. It has to a great extent nullified the enormously superior power of our Navy by enabling the German Grand Fleet to hide safely in the Keil canal or in the Baltic; and at will to operate there or in the North Sea.

History and the lore of Ages teach us that great nations who cease to respect their pledges, disregard the rights of others, adopt the policy of "Might is Right". And in their dealings believe that "The End Justifies the Means", always sooner or later fail to retain their prestige or place in the world.

Therefore for the honour of his country, it behoves each citizen to do his utmost for the cause.

He must remember that there can be no true sincerity in the man who palliates the conduct of his enemies to the detriment of his friends.

From palliating the enemies atrocities, to thinking that after all they are not so bad, and thence to asking why we should continue to fight him, are but steps towards pacificism. This is the real danger.

It is playing the Hun's game. For in his heart of heart's he wants peace. He knows that he has failed in his object of world conquest. He wants peace to prepare for the next war. When he will, he thinks, profiting by his present experience, attain his desired ends. So he endea-