

consulted by the head of his country's forces as to the feasibility of collecting secretly several hundred large steamers of—say one-third of the entire steam tonnage of Germany or two-thirds of that of France—loading them with the *personnel* and equipment of a complete army, and bringing them to anchor off the coast of England, suspected, if not known, to be defended by submarines with trained and experienced crews?

No, the time has gone by; we may be starved out for want of an efficient navy, but the "blow at the heart" grows more impossible every year. Not only must we control our own feeble-minded at home, but we must refuse to listen for a moment to those sentimentalists abroad who took from us the power of using an effective bullet in our last war, and would, if they could, forbid the greatest navy in the world to build the most indispensable of ships and wield the most effective of naval weapons. The analogy of airships is an entirely misleading one. Probably when it becomes possible to steer some form of balloon so as to drop dynamite bombs at will upon the cities of an enemy, it will also be found possible to agree in prohibiting a form of attack which would render national existence so precarious as to be intolerable. But the submarine and the torpedo do not even tend in this direction. They attack not cities—collections, that is, of unarmed men, women, and children—but ships, manned and armed solely for war; and they are of more use for defence than for aggression. Our Continental friends are beginning at the wrong end; if they do not wish their transports to perish by the fate of the *Petropavlosk*, it is the transport rather than the mine or the submarine that should be withdrawn—the aggressive rather than the defensive instrument.

It is particularly absurd that "the question of the submarine" should be raised in any form as a consequence of the loss of the *A1*, because this accident was not in reality a typical one at all. It was a pure case of collision, and might have occurred as easily on the surface of the water as beneath it. We have but to imagine a small vessel without a stern light being