

the rules which will be acknowledged ten years after its termination by comparison with the rules now considered to exist."

This passage, in the light of recent events, may almost be considered prophetic. What the author considered to be the probable course of events has been surprisingly fulfilled. But it may occur to some people that it looks very much like a solemn farce for nations in times of peace, and when they are in a sane mind, agree to laws which shall govern their conduct in relation to other nations, and then when the time of stress comes for observing and carrying into action the laws they have thus agreed to, to treat them as if they were non-existent. Laws which persons are at liberty to disregard whenever it suits their convenience or supposed necessities are really no laws at all in any real or proper sense of the term. Laws which have a merely moral force and obligation, are for the individual who has no sense of moral obligation, no laws at all. Neither can any international law be worthy of the name of law unless in some way it can be enforced, and its infraction punished.

It would be hard, however, to adequately punish a whole nation for a breach of international law, indeed, it might be said to be impossible; but though the nation which offends cannot as a whole be punished, it would be quite within the verge of possibility to punish the individuals of the offending nation who are officially responsible for authorizing the violation of the law.

The individual, and the family, and the nation, have been brought under the dominion of laws, and it still remains to bring nations in their relations *inter se* under the like dominion.

Hitherto no attempt has ever been made to vindicate international law except by the arbitrament of the sword the wielder of which has assumed both the office of judge and executioner. That, however, is not the method of the law as understood by British people. Our municipal law is administered on an entirely different plan whether in its criminal or civil aspect. There must be a fair trial of the accused