

OF PEACE TERMS

plication ought to be done for Ireland. The German Government has not the remotest intention of freeing the Danes, or doing anything it is not compelled to do for the Poles.

Still less is it to be supposed that, in the event of its success, it would dictate to its Turkish ally the liberation of Armenia, or to its Austrian ally the liberation of any of the Slav peoples now under Austrian dominion. The assumed indignation of the German Government, then, is a mere diplomatic or dialectic device. As regards British and French Protectorates in Africa, the pretence is still more transparent. Either these are or they are not justifiable in the present stage of Moslem civilisation. If they are not, not only is Turkish rule over Armenians doubly unjustifiable, in that it is murderous as well as unnatural, but the German Colonies in Africa were unjustifiable. But the seizure of these Colonies by the Allies is denounced in the bitterest terms by German representative and official writers as a crime against civilisation, and Turkey, they tell us, must not be touched.

A common moral basis for discussion, then, as between the Central Powers and the Allies, does not appear to exist. The former affect to view with indignation political procedures which, as regards their own action, they are determined upon carrying, to say the least, to immeasurably further lengths. The reference to the Boer Republics is decisive. Those subjected States, having received responsible self-government, have entered into a voluntary union with the neighbouring British Colonies, the former leader of the Boer forces in the Boer War becoming