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THE VINDICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

It seems to have become a settled conviction of statesmen and lawyers that the time has arrived, and the opportunity is now before that part of the world which believes in law and order, to vindicate in a striking manner the supremacy of law.

International law has on too many occasions in the past proved a broken reed, for lack of the necessary coercive power to punish a violator of its rules. The maxim that "Kings can do no wrong" has been accepted in the past as if it were an international maxim.

It is a maxim which has its foundation purely in national, but not international, considerations. A king in his own dominions is the fountain of justice, for personal wrongdoing, he cannot be his own judge, and the only remedy is to depose him; but that rule does not and ought not to prevail as an international maxim. We know as a matter of fact that kings can, and actually do, commit wrongs on the people of other nations, and there is nothing against reason or common sense in saying that when such wrongs are committed they ought not to go unpunished.

Civilized society could not exist but for the strong arm of the policeman and the coercive powers of the law: neither can international civilized society exist in security unless the international policeman and the necessary coercive power to punish violators of international law are in some way provided.

For a large and powerful nation to attack another nation without any just cause and to kill and outrage its inhabitants or reduce them to a condition of slavery and rob or destroy their property is about as flagrant an offence against not only the law of nations, but against natural justice, as it is possible to conceive.

If in a civilized community a single person is killed or robbed or maltreated, society has not done its duty until the offender