

between July 23 and August 4, 1914. Is it possible that you can have read, even cursorily, the diplomatic documents, and can still believe that there is the smallest tittle of truth in the German assertion that two innocent and peace-loving Empires were wantonly attacked by a gang of malicious enemies? If so, I can only marvel at your credulity.

Let me very rapidly run over the main heads of the case. I will begin by assuming, though it has never been proved, that Austria's grounds of complaint against Serbia were in the main justified. What, then, does she do? She hurls at the head of her inconvenient neighbour an ultimatum admitted on all hands to be unexampled in the history of diplomacy, demanding abject submission within forty-eight hours. England and Russia plead for an extension of the ridiculous time-limit. Germany declines to endorse the plea, and Austria meets it with a "categorical refusal." Then, to the amazement of everyone—and not the least, we may be sure, of Austria herself—Serbia, to all intents and purposes, submits. It is of no avail. Austria seizes on the two or three trifling reservations in Serbia's answer, declares war by telegraph, and proceeds with feverish haste to bombard