

new state. It would not matter whether Canada were called an independent. The Germans would see that in the terms of peace a fair face would be kept on the change; while security would be taken that its heart and brain would be operated from the Fatherland.

And for the effect in the United States. The Edmonton editor who said "We are not Canadians," had many congenial spirits in that country. Does anybody suppose that the intense patriotism for the Fatherland, which the German instils into his children, wherever they are begotten, would not respond to the spectacle of a great Germanic entity being developed on this side of the Great Lakes? It would act like a Friedmann serum on the health of the republic. It would spread subtly, unmistakably, a

fear for the future solidarity of the vast republic, different in manifestation, but of the same essence as the fear which haunted France for forty years; which could not save Belgium; and against which the British Empire had not been proof.

In sum: the vision which seemed to have become a precious reality for the world would have been dissolved. The dominion of the soldier over the citizen would have been established as it had never been before. The Britannic ideals of freedom for every constituent within the congeries of states would have gone down. Militarism would have been triumphant; and Canada would be its kept mistress in the western world; unless the other alternative had happened.

*(To be resumed.)*

## BY HER STRIPES WE ARE HEALED

The tragedy of Belgium, which has suffered for Europe, cannot be described in any terms of a Christian Hell.

By G. K. CHESTERTON

There are certain quite unique and arresting features about the case of Belgium. To begin with, it cannot be too much considered what a daring stroke of statesmanship—far-sighted, perhaps, but of frightful courage—the King of the Belgians ventured in resisting at all. Of that statesmanship we had the whole advantage, and Belgium the whole disadvantage: she saved France, she saved England—herself she could not save.

This is not the case of a little people in Asia or Africa who have no other course but to fight or be exterminated or sold into slavery. The Belgians had another course: they could have looked the other way while the Prussians crossed their country, so to speak, with their boots off. It is quite clear that even the Prussians, at the very beginning, wished to make it easy for them: the first messages from the German diplomatists spoke of respect for independence and sovereignty: the first soldiers from Aix and the Rhineland spoke to the natives of a mere piece of assist-

ance among neighbours. It is true that Germany did not keep it up long.

I do not know what the word "Junker" precisely means—something like "puppy," I imagine—but evidently what the North Prussians call an aristocrat is some sort of allotropic form of what we call a cad. Now the most sacred stamp and seal of the cad is this—that he cannot be courteous, even when he really wants to be.

He says to a country like Holland, "We salute your delightful dykes. Our culture contemplates your pleasing canals. Your army is under the protection of our never-to-be-broken word—and lucky or it, for one Pomeranian Grenadier could kick all your waddling regiments into the Zuyder Zee."

Having put the Dutchman at his ease, the Prussian turns, let us say, to the Switzer and says, "Schiller has written of William Tell. Hoch the Willaim Tell! How fortunate for that hero that he did not have to face the Krupp howitzer with his little bow and arrow! As you are a neutral power, it will be unneces-