

—for he is nothing else—then I say this sacrifice of life will not be altogether in vain.” Again as regards the submarine we have known for some time what to expect. But the other day the Germans went even beyond the “unrestricted ruthlessness” to which we have become accustomed from this concealed weapon. In the naval raid in the North Sea (17th October) two of their large destroyers, after disposing of the two British warships—far inferior in size and equipment to theirs—by which certain vessels were being escorted to the Scandinavian coast, shelled and sunk by gunfire in the open sea, without examination or warning of any kind, nine unarmed merchantmen—five Norwegian, three Swedish, and one Danish—and then steamed off at full speed into safety, without making any effort to save the crews of either the British destroyers or the neutral ships. No wonder that our Admiralty promptly expressed itself in an official communication as follows: “The German Navy by this act has once more and further degraded itself by this disregard of the historic chivalry of the sea.” And no wonder that the intrepid navigator and explorer Captain Roald Amundsen lost no time in giving voice to the horror and indignation both of his own country and of the whole world by calling immediately (23rd October) at the German legation in Christiania in order to return his German decorations. In a letter which he left for the German Minister, Captain Amundsen said: “As a Norwegian sailor, I beg to return my German decorations, viz., the Prussian Crown of the First Class, the Bavarian Luitpold Medal, and the Emperor William’s Gold Medal for Arts and Sciences, as a personal protest against German murders of peaceful Norwegian seamen, the latest being those in the North Sea on October 17th.” The Germans profess to be very indignant that the Allies should avail themselves in any way of the co-operation of the “uncivilized” Japanese in their conduct of the war: yet it was from the mouth of a Japanese visitor to New York that they heard, only the other day, the truth about themselves, when he described them as “pirates of the sea, assassins of the air, and violators of all decencies in land warfare.”