

## IF WE CAN ?

which she does not look. The question is, therefore, whether this recklessness of hers is to impose the same recklessness upon us. Whether we too are to forget the future of civilization in our effort to punish Germany and defend ourselves. There is, of course, a real danger that we shall catch her recklessness, if she is strong enough to win further victories of moment. Our exasperation will grow with her success, especially if she succeeds through her breaking of international law. Then this may become a war as religious, or as irreligious, as the Thirty Years' War and may end in a general and lasting demoralization.

But we can separate in our minds the effort to defend ourselves from the effort to punish Germany ; and this separation is important as concerning our motive.

There are people—and it is very natural—who wish not only to defeat the Germans, but to punish them for the manner in which they are conducting the war. But at once the question arises, If we are going to try to punish the Germans, what Germans shall we succeed in punishing, and will the German nation regard it as punishment ? Let us take the case of gases. The gas used by the Germans not only puts those who are overcome by it out of action ; it also causes them to suffer great pain for a long time afterward. Now, it may be