

act wisely or nations always in their best interest; nor that international agreements can be implicitly relied upon; nor that nations will not violate their compacts. Such assumptions would be quite unfounded. But we must draw from that fact the right conclusion, which is, that if nations are so apt to lose their heads, it is important in normal times to develop a sense of real national interest so widespread and deeply rooted that even violent national passions will not entirely sweep it away; that since nationality is so sacred a thing we should all stand by one another to insure its respect; that since treaties are so unreliable we must have as many guarantors as possible; that as they are so flimsy, nothing less than the support of the whole of Christendom can render them reliable.

This is the only way. If we decline to follow it, but take the Prussian view that only force—the rival forces of rival units each nulifying the other—can give us security, then we shall have admitted that the boast of this being a war against the Prussian doctrine is a sham; it will be a confession that we ourselves believe such doctrine.

Those who hope to see England play a better part should fight this doctrine to the last, and by staking their policy upon the better creed, show both the courage and the faith without which no end of real worth can be accomplished.