

speakeeth. He tells us that our duty to-day is to deliver the world from the far more brutal and the far more dangerous despotism of the Kaiser.

To any man of even ordinary humanity, there is something terrible in the suggestion that proposals of peace should in any circumstances be declined. But the first duty of any one, however insignificant or unknown, who offers counsel with regard to the War is to tell, with the utmost plainness, the truth as he sees it. It is, however, a comfort to any writer if he is able to express his conclusions in the words of men far better known than himself, and of larger experience, and, it may be, of more impartiality than he can claim for himself. Let me urge upon the attention of my readers the words of three men who have spoken with authority. Hear first the language of a French premier. His words were spoken more than a year ago, but they represent the spirit of the French people. They represent the spirit of the soldiers who, at the Battle of the Marne, drove back from Paris German armies which counted with confidence on immediately entering into the capital of France. They represent too the spirit of the soldiers who later, after a battle measured not by days but by months, compelled the best troops of Germany to sacrifice every hope of capturing Verdun.

We are convinced of victory, which will be the victory of justice. We want Europe liberated, Belgium free. We want the restitution of the lost provinces and the crushing of Prussian militarism, for the peace of the world is irreconcilable with its bloody caprices.<sup>1</sup>

Next read the declaration of my friend Lord Bryce, who has acquired a wider political knowledge of all

<sup>1</sup> *Pall Mall Gazette*, April 13, 1915.