

we are told by Washington that the British blockade has been "ineffective, illegal, and indefensible." That is the American way of stating things. When Mr. Bourke Cockran was in Montreal he said he would leave the question of the right or wrong of the war to posterity, whose judgement is "inevitable, impartial and inexpugnable." On our side we have Mr. T. G. Bowles, who refers to the American note as in many respects "ungenerous, unfair and uncandid." We are fighting for our lives, he says, and for the liberty of the world, and this is not a time for quibbling. Any departure on our side from previous usage is the obvious result of new conditions of naval warfare. You can't stop and search ships on the high seas now-a-days in the old leisurely way. If the submarine had been available during the American Civil war, the blockade of Southern ports would have been rendered ineffective. And then there is the lawlessness of the German pirates. Washington seems to forget that what Britain had to contend with was the "sink or swim" policy applied to all shipping in the so-called war zone, whether neutral or belligerent. As to any penalty for our alleged misdeeds, there is no danger of the United States "cutting off her industrial nose," so to speak, by putting an embargo on the export of goods, supplies and ammunition. The fact is that her people have come to realize that they lost the real opportunity of "championing the integrity of neutral rights" when they failed to offer any protest against the invasion of Luxembourg and Belgium. Even now when a submarine outrage occurs the United States government is interested only in the number of American lives lost. Britain is doing far more to champion neutral rights than America. It was this that brought her into the war. She has international lawyers of the highest repute, whose answer to the Washington note will no doubt be forthcoming in the fullness of time. Meanwhile our cousins must be good enough to remember that, especially in connection with a point which concerns not her interests only but those of all the countries with which she is in alliance, it is difficult for Great Britain to run a debating-society amid the roaring of cannon.