

American sympathy had not previously been wanting; but these unparalleled atrocities shed a lurid light on the moral standards of Germany, and reminded the people of the United States as a whole that the war in Europe had not originated in any trumpery quarrel about a boundary-line or other trivial dispute; it was a conflict of ideals, on which the future of the whole human race might easily come to depend. In the official correspondence which followed between Berlin and Washington, it has often seemed as though Germany were deliberately attempting to flout the United States. On the American side there has been a certain amount of juggling with such phrases as "British navalism" and the "freedom of the seas," but otherwise we have little right to complain. We ourselves fought for the freedom of the seas in the days when the haughty Spaniard claimed their control, in the effort to maintain a monopoly of commerce with the West Indies. But our so-called "navalism" (which should never be mentioned in the same breath with the "militarism" of which Germany has been giving so many ruthless proofs) implies no monopoly and no interference in times of peace either with individual liberty or with national independence. On the other hand, it is indispensable to the safety of our over-sea dominions. In the mouths of our enemies the demand for the "freedom of the seas" means that we must be forced to resign that maritime supremacy which has proved itself in this war to be our imperial salvation. Next time the Germans want to discuss, at the Hague or elsewhere, the rights of private property at sea, they ought to be put through a cross-examination as to how they have been dealing with such rights on land. Meanwhile our friends in the United States should not let themselves be caught with chaff. If they will only think of their Monroe doctrine, they will realize that there is a sense in which they may be said to have grown up under the protection of British "navalism." And unless war can be abolished for the future, they will do well to profit by our experiences, and protect themselves in advance against the policy of peace at any price, which leaves a nation without