

agreeable; and Great Britain's good friend, France, would suffer an enormous disadvantage. Would Great Britain do well if, simply to preserve the continuance of her active trade, she broke her word, deserted the Belgians and the French, and acquiesced?

This, then, is my foundation: a disposition to look upon war as a fact of human life, which persists, which is exceedingly serious, which it is right to avoid if avoidance be possible and honourable, but which it may be necessary to face. I now pass to a second consideration. If it be necessary for the state to engage in war, who should prosecute that war? On whose shoulders should the work of the actual fighting fall? I think that few will disagree with me when I urge that it is good politics for a state to arrange that those persons who cause a war should bear the brunt of it. The modern state on the whole is ruled by its electors; except in some countries which possess a strong governing class and an efficient bureaucratic administration, statesmen are far more occupied in following the voters than in leading them. Broad lines of policy usually are sanctioned by the electorate, and sometimes are forced by the electorate upon the government. Sometimes a given line of policy leads to war; an old instance is the insistence of the populace upon the Anglo-Spanish war of 1736, with which Jenkins's Ear is associated, and a later example is the Paris mob of 1870 with its shouts of "à Berlin." It would seem a good arrangement so to organize the state that every man who casts a ballot should know that if his country goes to war as a result of the election in hand, either he personally or some member of his family will be called upon to leave his ordinary occupation and go a-fighting. It is my judgement that it is those who know least about war who are loudest in clamour for it. I have gone through one war fever, and recollect very distinctly that ninety-nine Canadians out of every hundred who cheered for the South African war did their shouting without the remotest idea that they themselves would do any of the fighting. I still cherish a half-