

pointed out, in line with Mr. Goffin's argument, that ships carrying contraband despatches are undoubtedly confiscable, that at the present day despatches are conveyed, not by boats, but by telegraph, and that "belligerents must find in the new situation an equivalent for the protection which they have lost." The German jurist, Herr Perels, declined to discuss these subtleties and urged that it was impossible to sacrifice the interests of belligerents, because military necessities must be reckoned with, and while the Institute might propose what its members liked, the question was what governments could adopt. (Annuaire, pp. 309-10.)

Mr. Westlake strongly objects to the attempt to impose fresh burdens on neutrals by extending the rules of blockade and contraband, because these rules "are not due to principle, but to compromise, and, therefore, furnish no standing-ground on which an extensive deduction can rest," and concludes that, until some agreement is reached, the general principles of neutrality "deny to a belligerent, blockade or no blockade, the right of cutting a neutral or neutral-belligerent cable outside territorial waters." (Vol. 2, p. 118.)

At an early stage in the present war, the cables connecting German territory with neutrals were reported as having been severed by the allies, but details are wanting as to the exact place where the cutting was effected, and it is uncertain whether it occurred in the high seas or in a blockaded area.

It has been a pleasure to turn for a moment from the exponents of the new barbarism, what M. Boutrou calls "barbarism multiplied by science" (*Revue des Deux Mondes*, 1914, p. 398), to the serener atmosphere of legal discussion, where the disputants all acknowledge, outwardly at least, the binding nature of solemn agreements, the supremacy of the law, the claims of humanity and the overruling authority of public opinion.

But now that all our accepted notions are put to the test of a world conflict of unparalleled magnitude and ferocity, now that the great nations of Europe are locked in a struggle for their very existence, we cannot help asking ourselves anxiously whether International Law will survive the ordeal or whether it is destined to be relegated to the category of discarded and discredited sciences. The almost universal reprobation which these excesses have aroused