

BELGIUM AND GREECE

shut off from the outer world by high mountains and wild passes; there was only one road by which aid could reach her, and that was from Salonika through Greek territory. If we look at the matter from the point of view of Serbia, this will at once show us that the Treaty with Greece was not an accidental and unimportant thing; it was in truth the very condition of her existence. Were the road through Greece which had thus been secured to her closed, she could look for nothing but the annihilation which has, in fact, fallen upon her. It is true that the *necessity* was not that of Russia or France or England, it was that of Serbia; we can understand that the Germans would not recognise that a small State opposed to themselves, which had for long been marked out for destruction, should be reckoned in the matter at all, but for the Allies there was a paramount and overwhelming necessity, that of doing all in their power for the salvation of Serbia.

The application, therefore, was made by Serbia in the height of her peril, at the very crisis of her existence as an independent State, to her Greek ally. The application was made, and it was refused. It was, perhaps, the most dastardly refusal of which there is any record in history, a refusal sufficient to justify a demand that the nation which was guilty of it should be struck out of the society of civilised States.

When the refusal was made it would have been open to Serbia to call for the help and countenance of Britain, France, and Russia, to lay before them the case, and to ask that, as allies, they should support her request with the strongest diplomatic: