

a matter was nothing but a piece of international impertinence; and the suggestion that proof should be at least given of the alleged offence before some impartial tribunal was rejected. In like manner Belgium had been resolved on by the German military authorities to be the best route by which a German invasion of France could be made; the fact that it had given no cause of offence, and was in fact in no sense an enemy, went for nothing and the country was invaded and desolated and its people killed, robbed and outraged by an overwhelming force for no cause save such as the wolf alleged against the lamb whom he sought to devour.

With Austrians and Germans the mere fact that the accusation of complicity in the murder of Ferdinand was made was regarded as equivalent to proof that the charge was well founded, but even had it been so, the mere fact that some Servians had been guilty of such a deed was really no reason why all Servians should be visited with the horrors of war: and even Austrians can never have believed that all Servians, or even the majority of Servians, were implicated. Justice and humanity demanded that the accusation should first be made good before some impartial tribunal, justice also demanded that those who should be found guilty of complicity in the deed should suffer punishment in some measure commensurate with their offence. This is the course indeed which the present Austrian Emperor now practically admits is the proper one, but all these considerations proved of no avail to Francis Joseph, his predecessor. He and his fellow conspirator against the peace of Europe believed that they were ready for a fight as no other nations were, and that by rapid action they might strike down all opponents before they could properly prepare themselves to resist the onslaught. All thoughts of justice and humanity were cast to the winds in order that the bloodthirsty and cruel monsters whose selfish policy has devastated Europe might satisfy their thirst for gore.

It is therefore like the return of an insane man to reason to read the following passage from the Austrian Emperor's reply to the Pope.

"With deep-rooted conviction we agree to the leading ide