

Russia. Mr. Price cites as a confirmation of his statement the fact that Count Mensdorff told Sir Edward Grey on August 1 that 'Austria would respect the integrity and sovereignty of Serbia'. But she and her partner had been saying and swearing the same thing every day for more than a week. All the telegraph-wires of Europe had been humming with 'integrity and sovereignty' assurances. How, then, could Count Mensdorff's belated repetition of this catch-word 'confirm' the 'virtual settlement of the Austro-Serbian quarrel'?

Though Mr. Price's second edition is in some respects more faulty than his first, at least he has eliminated one of his most amazing misstatements. Determined to make out that Belgian neutrality was to Sir Edward Grey a mere pretext, about which he really cared very little, Mr. Price, referring to Sir Edward's speech in the House of Commons on August 3, actually said in his first edition: 'Towards the end only did he mention the question of Belgian neutrality'; and again, 'He referred in his speech almost entirely to France and the naval understanding, and said *practically nothing* about Belgian neutrality'. As a matter of fact, at least a third of the speech was devoted entirely to Belgium, and the speaker pointed out in no uncertain terms the disgrace that would accrue to us if we 'ran away from the obligations of honour' imposed on us by the neutrality treaty. Some one seems to have pointed out to Mr. Price that this can scarcely be called saying 'practically nothing' about Belgium, and the remark disappears from his second edition. But he still declares, in the teeth of the clearest and most abundant evidence, that 'the commitment to France was unconditional', and rendered it 'impossible for England to keep out of war, in spite of a German guarantee to respect Belgian neutrality or not to attack the French coast'. It is because such judgements play into the hands of England's enemies, and do grave wrong to a statesman who has earned the gratitude of all intelligent men, that I have thought it worth while to examine into the quality of Mr. Price's mind, and to enable the reader to estimate the value of judgements proceeding from so turbid a source.