

prise that hostilities between neighbours must render ineffective ; to each there is real tangible peril in an active warfare which has sprung up between combatants without warning or declaration. A suspension of actual hostilities would permit citizens of either nationality to return to their own flag, and it would permit neutrals to revise their plans and adjust matters in such a way as to avoid suffering from the quarrel of others.

Secondly, a declaration of war is of the greatest service to military men in actual army service. Even those most seriously questioning its advantages must confess that there is somewhere a line like that of Cæsar's Rubicon which divides the state of peace from that of war. Some overt act must be made to change the normal conditions under which man exists before the spectre of war arises. This may come about by the rapid mobilisation of troops, and throwing the same into the territory of the country with which there is a misunderstanding, besieging a city or town, violating such a treaty as provides for war in certain instances ; in numerous ways, doubtless, but all of them more or less confused and unsatisfactory. Better a clear statement of fact, a rehearsal of injuries, though fancied, and a clear-cut declaration of issue joined, which is to be settled by force of arms, than any such substitute.

For with a knowledge that nothing offensive will be permitted until such a formality has been followed, the frontier officer may both refrain from entangling himself, and, what is of far more consequence in times when a hundred thousand lives may bear the penalty of a rash act, may desist from pursuing such a course as would irrevocably commit a nation to war. We have seen before that the citizen had reason to fear a conflict which is joined without warning. Is it less true of the soldier ? From division commander to subaltern in charge of some Alpine eyrie overlooking the enemy's territory, we have reason to believe that the doctrine championed by Phillimore and his *confrères* must be viewed with disapprobation and disgust. Responsibility is good, and is eagerly accepted when a man knows where he stands in war time, but to be placed where one's action may be disavowed by Downing Street or the Wilhelmstrasse, that is a different matter ; such responsibility is not courted.

Thirdly, serious as the situation may become to the officer upon whose judgment such important events may turn, how much