

African War, ordered by way of reprisal the destruction of houses and farms in the vicinity of the place where damage was done to the lines of communication. Reprisals may be employed by way of punishment for breaches of the rules of war. The only reference to punishment in the Hague Conventions is in the words, "a belligerent party which violates the provisions of the said regulations shall, if the case demands, be liable to compensation" (Art. 3 of Convention IV. of 1907), and, as no reference is made to reprisals, we are thrown back upon the general principle, which applies to the whole of these regulations, that, in cases not included in the regulations, populations and belligerents remain under the protection and the rule of the principles of the law of nations as they result from the usages established between civilised nations, the laws of humanity and the requirements of the public conscience: (Preamble to Convention II. of 1899 and IV. of 1907). The Hague Conventions do not mention reprisals because the Brussels Conference of 1874, which accepted the unratified Brussels Declaration, had struck out several sections of the Russian draft code regarding reprisals.—*Law Times*.

The May number of the *Law Magazine and Review* has an interesting article on the same subject. One writer discusses the law of nations in relation to reprisals in warfare, not that International Law is of much importance when Germany is concerned. That nation's disregard of law, of treaties, of the ordinary rules of civilization and of the dictates of humanity, has covered it with loathing and contempt. In speaking of the nature of reprisals and their justification, the following conclusions are reached: (1) that they have been recognised through all the ages as a means of securing legitimate warfare; (2) they ought not to exceed in severity the evil sought to be redressed; (3) while it is eminently desirable that the persons to suffer from reprisals should be the actual wrongdoers, yet this is not a *sine qua non*, and innocent persons may be made the victims.