

BELGIUM AND GREECE

might, perhaps, be condemned. They suggest that there was no such requirement in the landing at Salonika. It was a contrast which, if they were wiser, they would not have suggested. As to the invasion of Belgium we know, and they themselves now know, that there was no necessity; if it had been merely a question of a defence of the German frontier, that could have been carried through with equal ease on the line from Limbourg to Switzerland. But that which they mean by necessity was not the protection of Germany, but the crushing of France. It was an illustration of the German way of calling the annihilation of an enemy mere self-protection.

What hypocrisy it is! The invasion of Belgium was not a device suddenly adopted in a moment of justifiable panic; it was a plan long conceived, carefully matured, worked out by the German General Staff, and it was because they had this plan that they ventured to defy Europe and appeal to arms in a matter which was easily capable of settlement by agreement.

But how do matters stand with Serbia? Here there was a case which justifies the use of the word "necessity." Serbia was attacked on the north by the superior forces of the Austrian Army, on the east and the south by their Bulgarian allies. Against these superior forces she could not maintain herself. She had as allies three of the greatest Powers of the world, but their alliance was useless to her unless there could be established a free communication for ammunition and troops. But the persistent enmity of Austria had always refused Serbia access to the sea; the small inland State was