

THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS.

measure, but as a normal measure. No effective protest has been made against this claim. (4) She has claimed that the obligation of safeguarding non-combatant lives is adequately met by leaving men, women and children in open boats, in stormy seas, and far from land; a practice hitherto unknown. Only the feeblest protest has been made against this claim, and it has been allowed to go by default. (5) She has asserted the right to slay enemy non-combatants at sight. Practically no protest has been made against this claim, except on the ground that neutral non-combatants may happen to be among the rest. (6) She has asserted the right to destroy all neutral property in enemy vessels without compensation. No protest has been made against this claim. (7) She has asserted, finally, the right to destroy at sight all shipping, enemy or neutral, which ventures to traverse any areas of the world's seas which she chooses to indicate, including some of the most frequented highways of sea-going trade, and to take the lives of all their crews and passengers. Against this there have been strong verbal protests, and one neutral power has gone so far as to sever diplomatic relations. By these means Germany claims to be establishing the freedom of the seas.

On the other hand, Britain and her allies have also introduced certain innovations. They have introduced what may be described as "blockade-at-a-distance," a thing unknown in earlier usage, but rendered necessary by the submarine. It cannot be denied that this blockade has been "effective." They have asserted the right to bring neutral vessels into harbour to be searched for enemy goods, and against this practice (which does not endanger neutral life or property) there have been strong protests, on the ground of the delay which it causes.