

Sir Edward Grey on August 3rd that "if Belgian neutrality were violated it would mean war with Germany." (B.P. 26). On the same day the German Ambassador asked that Belgian neutrality be not made a condition of England's neutrality in the war. On August 4th the British Government 'protested against the violation of a treaty to which Germany was a party in common with themselves, and requested an assurance that the demand made upon Belgium would not be proceeded with, and that her neutrality might be respected by Germany.' (W.P. 153). The aid of Great Britain, France and Russia was at the same time pledged to Belgium. It was soon to be required. German troops penetrated Belgian territory on the morning of August 4th and at 6 a.m. the German Ambassador announced that Germany would carry out the measures of security which "French menaces" made indispensable. (B.P. 27). Thereupon the Belgian Government appealed to the Powers. (B.P. 40). The news that Belgian territory had been invaded and that Germany had announced her intention of treating Belgium as an enemy led Sir Edward Grey to make more imperative his request for German assurances. A last effort of Germany to reconcile him to her breach of Belgian neutrality by promising that Belgian territory would not be annexed, failed of its object. An answer to the British request was demanded by midnight of August 4th. Since no answer came, a state of war between the two countries was declared on the following day. With Austria-Hungary, bound to England by so many ties, the opening of hostilities was postponed until midnight, August 12th.