

ARE WE TO PUNISH GERMANY—

by the event, the war may not be continued merely because of the manner in which it has been conducted. Quarrels in some barbarous nations become blood-feuds lasting from one generation to another, and it is one of the chief duties of a family to carry on its blood-feud. International law tries to prevent wars from becoming blood-feuds and from wrecking all civilization by their persistence.

When nations at war keep agreements which they have made in peace, they still have some civilized relation with each other, so that, after the war is over, they can fall back easily into their normal state of friendliness, feeling that the quarrel was about some particular point and not a quarrel for ever or to the death. But if agreements are made in peace and broken in war, there will be a greater exasperation than if there had been no agreement at all. The war, whatever its result, will not end the quarrel; the peace will be one of exhaustion rather than of reconciliation, poisoned by memories of the manner in which the war was conducted.

So it is important that agreements made in peace should be kept in war, merely because they are agreements, and because the breaking of them produces a lasting resentment and a general insecurity. A nation that refuses to enter into any international agreements threatens