

HOUR OF DESTINY

these Islands, it is easy to see how uneasily Italy regards the pressure which the English Minister desires to exercise. And the more so as at the same time he was desirous of leaving the evacuation of the part of Albania, which was still in the possession of the Greeks, entirely in their discretion, and they in raising "Holy Battalions" in the territory in question do not present a very complaisant attitude. I should put against Homer Lea's proposition, that Great Britain to maintain her position as a World Power must annihilate Germany—that is to say not only rob her of her fleet and cripple her commerce but also destroy her land forces—the view that England can have no desire to annihilate our army. That would be contrary to the whole of her policy to date. A strong Power on land on the European Continent is indispensable to her so that she may induce it to go to war on land against any State which might become dangerous to her sea power. This is the principle on which she has always played