

thought of the unwise thing to do she could not have acted more against her own interests than by the shameful arrest, disgraceful trial, and heinous killing of Miss Cavell. This act sent a shudder through the nations, and revealed in a way that had never been revealed before, the spirit of frightfulness that dominates the German war rulers and leaders. Much had been said about the outrages committed upon the Belgian people, but this act seemed to be so unique and uncalled for that it at once rose above all others.

Miss Cavell was born in 1866 at Swardeston, England. Her father had been an Anglican rector there for forty years. She was educated there and in Brussels. In September, 1895, she entered the London Hospital to train as a nurse, where she remained for five years. In 1906 she accepted the position of matron over a medical and surgical home in Brussels. She was chosen for this position by Dr. de Page, a Belgian. She at once set to work to introduce modern methods, and to give the nurses a thorough course of training. She was a foreigner and had to use much tact in making her changes.

When war broke out she was in England visiting her aged mother, and at once returned to Brussels to do her share in caring for the wounded. It was well known that she took care of Belgians, English, French and German wounded soldiers. She knew no distinctions, and she made none. Her fault was that she had supplied a few British, French and Belgian refugees with food, clothing and money, and had aided them in making their escape to Holland.

Over against this minor fault stood out the fact that she was a woman, a nurse, and that she had on many occasions nursed and cared for Germans. She was denied counsel, except such as the German authorities chose to appoint. She was tried in camera. When the passing of the sentence of death was made known, Mr. Brand Whittlock, representing the United States in Brussels, interceded, and was assured that nothing further would be done without being advised. Notwithstanding this, she was taken out of her cell during the night to be shot.

On the way to the station of the firing squad she fainted and fell to the ground. At this juncture the officer in command drew his fire-arms and shot her as she lay prostrate at his feet. This converted a sort of quasi legal execution into a foul and brutal murder. Von Bisping, the military governor of Belgium, stated afterwards that "in his mature judgment this was a proper trial and a just punishment." Execration on his mature judgment! But this is the sort of judgment of which we have had so many examples in Belgium, Poland, Serbia, Britain, France, Roumania, Italy, Armenia and on the seas, where murder, rapine, burning, poisoning wells, rivers and bullets, scattering disease germs among cattle, and such diabolical acts have been done un-