

## IF WE CAN ?

desire for revenge, and, having assumed that, let us ask whether it is for the good of the world that we should take it. All experience of revenge in the past will tell us that it is not. Revenge always breeds revenge, and no nation was ever convinced of its misdeeds because vengeance was taken for them. If we want to know what is the best way of dealing with our enemy, we must concern ourselves with his state of mind as well as our own. We are filled with moral indignation against the Germans ; but they are no less filled with moral indignation against us. Nothing is easier for any mass of human beings than to feel moral indignation, especially when they are in the wrong. It is in fact the means by which they protect themselves against their consciousness of their own wrong. And if revenge is taken upon them for that wrong, it merely acts as fuel for their moral indignation. They do not see it as revenge at all ; for to do that would be to admit that there was reason for revenge. They see it only as gratuitous wickedness, for which they proceed to take revenge, if they can. Therefore revenge, on one side or on the other, never has any effect except to gratify the instincts of those who take it.

Now we are not fighting this war to gratify our instincts. We have said, a hundred times, that we are fighting it for our own safety and the future of Europe ; and we must