

desired to ascertain the views of one whose opinions have had a determining influence on German military ethics:—

“Any war between the Great Western Powers at the present day can now only be a life or death struggle. No considerations of humanity, of justice, of treaty obligations, will interfere with its one great object, which will be to annihilate the enemy's power of resistance. All methods are fair when war is no longer a mere duel, but a death grapple in which, just as teeth and nails are used between individuals, what is equivalent to them is used between nations.” (*Edinburgh Review*, 1914, p. 1190.)

Bismarck put it even more tersely and bluntly in his famous saying:—

“Where Prussia's power is in question, I know no law.”

(*Wo Preussens Macht in Frage kommt, kenne ich kein Gesetz*).

One of the fundamental principles of International Law is that of the equality of States and the right of each of them to govern itself and to live its own life without interference. Listen to the contempt with which Bernhardt repudiates this doctrine:—

“The weak nation is to have the same right to live as the powerful and vigorous nation. The whole idea represents a presumptuous encroachment on the natural laws of development, which can only lead to the most disastrous consequences for humanity generally.”

Starting from this premise the whole system is easily constructed. If there is a state immeasurably superior to all others in civilization, that state alone has rights, while the less civilized states have merely duties of submission and obedience. The obvious privilege of the predominant state is to realize in the highest degree its destiny by imposing its will on less cultured states, and to subjugate them if they offer any resistance. And as some at least of the inferior states may shew a preference for their own civilization, this will generally, mean war.

In every text-book that we have ever read the subject of International Law was divided into two parts:

1° Normal relations between states, i.e., in time of peace; and

2° Abnormal relations, i.e., in time of war.