

publicists to-day has a meaning which is vital to the existence of the family of nations, and is intimately bound up with the principle of self-preservation and independence. It was the application of this principle which in our own history was responsible for the alliance of Queen Elizabeth with our rivals the Dutch against Philip II of Spain ; it was in furtherance of its maintenance that we fought Louis XIV, that Wellington fought in the Peninsula, and Nelson at Trafalgar, and that the allies triumphed at Waterloo. It was definitely stated in the preamble to the Treaty of March 12, 1854, between France and England, that it was to maintain the balance of power that the allies in the Crimean War sought to check the aggrandizement of Russia. The reason why some form of the balance of power, as I understand it, must lie at the root of the modern Law of Nations arises from the fact that it comes into play when one of the members of the great international society so far forgets its social obligations as to engage in a course of action endangering the vital interests of the whole society. Dr. Lawrence puts the position in words with which I heartily agree, when he says :

If, therefore, a powerful state frequently endeavours to impose its will on others, and becomes an arrogant dictator when it ought to be content with a fair share of influence and leadership, those who find their remonstrances disregarded and their rights ignored perform a valuable service to the whole community when they resort to force in order to reduce the aggressor to its proper position. As the duty of self-preservation justifies intervention to ward off imminent danger to national life or honour, so the duty of preserving international society justifies intervention to bring to an end conduct that imperils the existence or healthful order of that