

nation has the duty to preserve itself. That is its highest commandment. A nation which, against its vital interest, would observe an international treaty would commit high treason against itself." From this passage it is evident that the Germans have drafted or are drafting a new international code for themselves. For the last 30 or 40 years they have determined to become a world power: a power which shall be so strong as to be able to dictate terms to other nations. Germany, as a world power, would be the maker and the interpreter of international law. If one article in the code turned out to be inconvenient she would ignore it or (for the sake of appearances or consistency) cause it to be amended.

SIR JOHN SIMON.

Sir John Simon, K.C., M.P., a distinguished member of the Bar, has recently resigned the post of Home Secretary, owing to disagreement with the Government on the matter of compulsory service.

Of him, as a politician, it is not proposed to speak; suffice it that he has apparently surrendered office, honour, and troops of political friends for the sake of a principle. As a lawyer his success was rapid and triumphant. It is always said that, like many others who have achieved distinction in the law, he began his career without "a sixpence to jingle on a tombstone." The late Home Secretary soon left his contemporaries far behind in the legal race. In the very early days he acted as "devil" to Sir Robert Finlay, but he did not long retain that post. Perhaps the field was too narrow. Whatever the reason he soon launched out on his own; acquired a large practice, and when, in a very few years' time, he became Solicitor-General, he held the general retainer of a number of the most important railways in the Kingdom.

It is anticipated that he will now resume his practice at the Bar. In former years it was not considered "the thing" for any ex-Cabinet Minister, unless he had been a law officer, to