

the great apostle of modern Germany, who has said: "The Germans are not psychologists," and he knew them. They have not understood that they themselves had brought a new element into the situation, which sufficed to overthrow her entirely. I would add that in spite of the "kultur" they have given proof of an inexcusable ignorance of history.

There is a point upon which the British Foreign Secretary gives proof of absolute firmness and frankness, and that is the neutrality of Belgium. First he asked for a declaration concerning the maintenance of this neutrality, and, at the same time, informing Germany that England would defend her, and when Germany violated it England responded by war.

The Emperor, his chancellor and his secretary of foreign affairs imagined that Great Britain could let Belgian neutrality be violated, and why? "What do these propositions of Germany signify?" said Mr. Asquith. "They signify that despite France, who is not supposed to know anything about it, we would give to Germany, in case of victory, all liberty to annex all French possessions outside of Europe. They signify that the day on which Belgium would have addressed us the touching appeal that we have received from her for the protection of her neutrality guaranteed by us, we would have been obliged to reply: we ignore you, we have renounced in favour of the power that menaces you, we have renounced the obligation of keeping our word, which we have given. What would have been the position of Great Britain if we had accepted this infamous proposition? To betray our friends and dishonour our obligations, we had the promise—and nothing more—that Germany would do certain things under certain conditions, a promise made by a power who, at the same instant, announced her resolve to violate the obligations that her own treaties imposed upon her."

Germany anticipated difficulties, dissensions within the British Empire. They were keen and deep. The German Emperor has accomplished a miracle, which he certainly did not expect. By a word he has solved all difficulties, he has effaced all dissensions, he has provided for the prime minister the opportunity of explaining to the whole Empire the "infamous proposition" to show them that they must choose between a dishonourable peace and an honourable war undertaken for the defence of a weak state,