

## LAW AND THE UNITED STATES

organisation. On the other hand, the conditions of the Monroe doctrine and geographical isolation have made the United States a nation standing more alone, less *vis-à-vis* the other nations, than any other country. It is noteworthy, too, that it possesses most markedly the idea of a union of sovereign States which the federal unity, though supremely dominant, has never swallowed up.

Thus England, France and the United States in turn furnish, each in its special fashion, convincing proof that the power of agreement or consent between two or more parties has proved, under the most exacting tests, sufficient force upon which to rest a creation in the realm of municipal law. This being so, the contentions of the social psychologists that the analogy of municipal law is fully on their side does not stand a close examination. Judged from the point of view of this analogy, there seems no reason to doubt that international law might arise strong and supreme, depending only on the union of those nations which accept certain conceptions of that law and unite to give them force. What form will such a union take? It is a riddle. Not, probably, the form of the World State of which the mediævalists dreamed, not, probably, a world federation comparable to the Union of the United States of America, because of the cumbrous form it would so have to take, but rather an agreement between sovereign states to enforce in a world restored to peace conceptions of justice and ordered law for which they must be prepared in unison to fight.

Peace, however, is not yet. The learning of Europe is on the field of battle. The descendants of those teachers and students who thronged Bologna, when the law school of Bologna was *sans pareil* in Christendom, are shedding their blood in the Trentino or on the mountain precipices of northern Italy. It is a moving story of the great palæographer who remained at work doubly hard in the *Bibliothèque nationale* all the time the Germans were besieging Paris in order that the