

world-embracing contest of all time; and in it this Dominion must necessarily take a part.

This war is not of England's making or seeking. She takes part in it for no selfish purpose whatever, but has been drawn into it to vindicate the national honour, to enforce existing treaties, to defend those who, under such treaties, look to her for protection and support and to uphold her position as the world's greatest exponent of true freedom and Christian and personal liberty.

Treaties entered into by nations (valuable consideration being assumed) are binding upon the nations entering into them in the same way that contracts entered into by individuals are binding upon the parties thereto. And they cannot be violated without the penalties which necessarily and properly ensue when such treaties or contracts are broken. In the case now before the world a treaty was entered into between Great Britain, Germany and other nations to secure, amongst other things, the neutrality of Belgium. The valuable consideration for this contract was the peace of Europe. This contract having been broken by Germany, Great Britain has taken the only available course to enforce the intent of the treaty. The position which Great Britain would occupy if she failed to do so cannot better be expressed than in the words of Mr. Asquith, than whom no man is less likely to depart from the strictest limits of truth in expression. In an address to the House of Commons, when referring to the "infamous proposal" of Germany to give her a free hand to tear up the above treaty, he said:—

"If Great Britain had accepted, what reply could she have made to the Belgians' appeal. She could only have replied that we had bartered away to the power threatening her our obligations to keep our plighted word. What would have been Great Britain's position if she had assented to this infamous proposal, and what was she to get in return? Nothing but a promise given by a power which at the moment was announcing its intention of violating its own treaty.