

enough will make it true ; hence the iteration and re-iteration of phrases like "the freedom of the sea." Perhaps the height of childishness was reached when a week or two ago a leading statesman in Germany said : "We gave up our marine trade at the beginning of the war, let Britain now do the same and fight with us on equal terms." The cry of brutality against Britain for her blockading policy is repeated again and again. German brutality is justified (not simply excused) by the exigencies of war ; Britain's acts, wholly justified as they are by the rules of international law, are characterized as brutal, and sentimental German tears flow from unnumbered eyes at the degeneracy of the English cousins.*

* It is noticeable that the German when he claims a cousin across the North Sea, always calls him English. He has not yet claimed kindred with the Scot, the Irishman, the Welshman or the Canadian. Even for such small mercies may we be truly thankful !

The flat-faced, square-headed Prussian is akin to the Kalmuck, the Mongolian, not to English, Irish, Scotch or Welsh.

I should like to add here Bernstorff's view of the *Lusitania* tragedy :

"War between Germany and America over the sinking of the *Lusitania* was avoided, at one stage of the negotiations, by a personal appeal made "as man to man" to President Wilson by Count von Bernstorff, then German Ambassador, who begged the President not to insist that Germany admit that the sinking of the *Lusitania* was illegal and thereby throw away his opportunity of becoming the intermediary for peace proposals. This is given as Bernstorff's own statement in an article on the personality and career of the late Ambassador by Frank Harris, editor of *Pearson's Magazine*, and former editor of the *Fortnightly Review* and the *Saturday Review* of London. The article is to be published in the April, 1917, issue of *Pearson's*.

This version of the way war was averted was told to Mr. Harris personally, he says, by the German Ambassador.

Mark the insistence on the word "illegal" as though the horror could be diminished by the omission of the word.

"Bernstorff himself," says Mr. Harris, "did not approve of the morality of the sinking of the *Lusitania*, even on the theory that it was retaliation for the illegality of the British blockade.

" 'You should not meet illegality by lowering your own ethical standard,' he argued, 'otherwise the antagonists would go down by successive steps to brute atrocities. You have to protest against illegalities and keep the law yourself the more rigidly. I had no difficulty in promising that the *Lusitania* incident would not be repeated though it would be wrong to speak of it as 'illegal', for ships carrying contraband are fair prey now as they always have been.