

## THE PRUSSIAN MIND

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was a saving remnant, for, after the decision had been made, "the fourth part of the Ministry, amongst them two of the most prominent, John Morley and John Burns, resigned that they might not be partakers in the blood-guilt of this insane war." \*

So much for before the war and at the time of its outbreak.

During the war England has exhibited the most remarkable national psychology. "Rightly are we angry at the web of lies which England has, through her Press, spread over the whole world. We can easily see that this, from her standpoint, is simply the systematic use of a weapon. 'War, a stratagem, as it were. She knows quite well that we never can and never will equal her in the use of this Dumdum artillery—for many of these falsehoods operate like Dumdum bullets—the uprightness and rectitude† of the German character does not permit it." Listen to that, ye crooked and lying Britons! Germans cannot lie and they would not plot in a neutral country—what liars the Americans are!

"The clearest example of what artificially induced fear will bring about, is afforded us by Belgium. That unwise conduct of Belgium at the outbreak of the war—those fanatical charges of Belgians against German settlers—that firing by civilians upon German troops from the rear—the wild flight of nine-tenths of its inhabitants out of Antwerp shortly before the Germans entered that city—all these can find an explanation only in the fact that to the ill-educated Belgians, the

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\* I doubt if these two ex-Ministers are now proud of their action. Lord Morley's blood even in his aged veins must have been a thousand times moved by the heroism of his countrymen and the Hunnish horrors of the enemy, and he can now have no doubt of the propriety and necessity of the action of his fellow-ministers in declaring war. John Burns bitterly repented almost immediately, but he had made a fatal mistake and he was denied the honour of acting in a war cabinet. To his credit, however, be it said, that he threw himself into such work as he could do, and has nobly redeemed his temporary hesitation.

† "Geradheit und Aufrichtigkeit." "Geradheit" is literally "straightness," "Aufrichtigkeit," "uprightness."