

principle of British justice, is assumed by his critics to have connived at the Jameson raid, of which there is not an atom of proof—who is charged with wanting war when he was pretending to want peace. Fortunately Mr. Chamberlain's part in this business is on record in the despatches. This is from *THE NATION* (New York), after the Ultimatum :

"It was made plain, in every way that words could
 "make it plain, that England asked only a reasonable fran-
 "chise and elementary political rights for her subjects in the
 "Transvaal. * * * This was what Sir Alfred
 "Milner had said would be satisfactory. Mr. Chamberlain
 "said at the time that it would be satisfactory. * * * Is
 "there any war in that—any intention to 'wipe out the
 "'Transvaal?' * * * It may be asserted—of
 "course the Boers do assert it—that the English Govern-
 "ment meant war. * * * This may be argued, as
 "any motive may be alleged, but no overt act by England
 "has exceeded her undoubted right under international law.
 " * * * Every step she has taken has been law-
 "fully taken, and words of peace, with recognition of the
 "independence of the Transvaal, have been constantly used
 "by her."

Every word of that is true—the despatches prove it.

England, then, has talked peace and acted peace ; the Boers have talked peace and acted war.

WHAT IS ENGLAND FIGHTING FOR ?

Undoubtedly one of the questions involved is whether England shall continue to shape the destinies and mould the civilization of South Africa. In the view of many eminent statesmen the fate of the whole Empire is also at stake. I will not attempt to discuss these propositions, because the outcome of the conflict is not a matter of doubt with any considerable number of our fellow subjects.

But there is another issue which, as I believe, we shall all agree is quite big enough to justify the war, even if there were no other, and if war had not been forced upon us by the invasion of our soil. That issue is whether British citizenship shall continue to be a valuable heritage or an empty phrase ; whether the Union Jack shall still be an effectual protection or become nothing more than a distinguishing badge. If Great Britain can no longer assure the safety of her subjects beyond her own borders, then the sad day has come when the British Empire must cease to be. And, for my part, though I have no fears as to the result—nor would I have were the task tenfold as heavy—I would a thousand times rather our glorious flag should be lowered in the struggle than that one of its subjects should in vain have appealed to it for justice.