

Belgian territory, every act and deed they did there was an unlawful and inexcusable act; they could not make their position lawful merely by their successfully overcoming its inhabitants. They entered as criminals and as criminals they remained, so long as they were there, and every violation of the rights of its inhabitants in person or property was a criminal offence, according to international law.

No one can deny that if a single German had entered Belgium with a view to going to France and the Belgian authorities refused him permission, that if he thereupon proceeded to kill Belgian people he would be guilty of murder, or that if 100 Germans did so it would make no difference in the quality of their act; and if 100,000 or 500,000 do so by orders of their leader what difference can it make, except that in such a case the criminals are multiplied and that not only the individuals who engage in in the act but he who ordered them to do it become equally liable for the crimes committed?

If this be a correct view of the position of the wrongful invaders of Belgium from an international standpoint, then it inevitably follows that the trial and execution of Edith Cavell, and Captain Fryatt, were also wrongful and illegal acts and that those who were parties to their killing were guilty of murder. To pretend that these unfortunate persons were amenable to German law is to assume that the Germans were lawfully in Belgium and competent to make and execute their laws in Belgium; but as we have said, they were wrongfully there, and were no more capable in international law of rightfully making laws in Belgium than would any other gang of thieves and cutthroats.

Great Britain once sent, at great expense, an expeditionary force into the heart of Abyssinia to rescue a single British subject from unlawful imprisonment; and that she will willingly submit to the murderers of two of her people going unpunished is not very likely.

The maxim "*qui facit per alium facit per se*" is not merely a maxim of English law, it is one of those fundamental principles which are of universal application—and, according to that maxim, the ex-Kaiser and his advisers who instigated and carried out the