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Belgian and prefer annihilation to either; but if military domination of some sort was presented as the sole means of government, the Irishman who chose the gooseberry tree on which to be hanged would unquestionably select Slavic military rule for the same reason. When did the Slav ever evince either capacity or ambition to 'dominate' another white race? Did not little Japan unaided, unless indeed as Mr. Burgess says, she was aided by English diplomacy, topple over the Russian giant to the disappointment of military Europe, especially Germany? Throughout central Europe where German and Slav are in contact, who does, or has done for centuries, the 'dominating'?

It is true that the Balkan war which wrought such disappointment in German bureaucrats with regard to their 'dominant' Turks, showed that not even the Germany of 50 years ago had learned any better than the Balkan states the art of bringing 'a people under arms' as Bismarck boasted. The Russian government just then reorganizing its forces took notice also. The result has been that the German government which, after the Japanese war, was prepared to furnish an army to uphold imperial authority in Russia, if needed, took alarm at the growing size and efficiency of the Russian army and decided that the contest, if coming, would better come at once. If threats were not good, use the saber forthwith. Fear of the Slav seems to have caused the war, but it was no fear on the German's part of being assaulted by him either in the fatherland or anywhere else.

"The men whose heads were full of that mighty attack on France that was to go, and did go, through poor Belgium, were no more afraid of harm coming to them at home than was Genghis Khan in his Asiatic fastnesses when he started to conquer the earth. Afraid, when they cynically brushed aside the mightiest bulwark of their western frontier, the neutrality of Belgium in the face of British protest and before a scarcely believing world! The only thing they feared was that the Slav, if left longer in peace, would cease to be a good subject for exploitation. To prove to all the world their sincerity in the belief that nothing could withstand their fighting machine, that to subdue everything within its reach they had only to let it loose, they aimed their first battery at that friendly land whose neutrality, sanctioned by the unbroken respect of three full generations of Europe's fighting men as well as statesmen, their solemn treaties bound them to regard. They did it because they were afraid, yes, afraid that the opportunity of successful aggression might slip away with the Slavic nations' growing strength. If there had been any real fear of attack in their souls, the shields of Belgium's neutrality would have been the last thing they would have had taken from their own frontier.

It is idle for Mr. Burgess, or any other apologist for this war, in the face of these facts, to attempt to justify the treatment of Belgium by fear of the Slavs, at least, fear of them on any ground that an honest man or humane people ought to entertain. If their German rulers are really getting afraid of them, it would seem a sure indication that humanity in the persons of the Slavic races is now making a long step upward in its weary climb from barbarism. The czar's letters and his offers of autonomy to the Poles seem to indicate a perception on the part of the Romanoffs that their government in order to represent and combine the branches of the Slavic race must liberalize itself. Some centuries ago a French aristocrat said that an English king who would be a real leader of the English people might easily be the most important person of Europe. It may easily be that a czar who should be a real czar of the Slavic peoples would be a genuine terror to German bureaucrats of southeastern Europe. His aris-

ing should cause no alarm to anybody else.

"The Charges of Barbarity.
"As to the charges and counter-charges of barbarity, it is to be said that since the entire war in Belgium is in itself an unprovoked and hideous outrage, it is probable that there is a tendency to judge the invaders severely. Then, too, in a country where no war has been known for 75 years, the populace is liable not to be instructed in the doctrine, called by Sir Frederick Pollock 'a monstrous' one ('History of the Science of Politics,' page 751) that a civilian may not defend his own home or property against an invader except under liability, in case of capture, to be shot as an 'irregular.' The Germans, if we may believe their own stories, stretched this doctrine to the limit in 1870. They seem, in Belgium, to have gone far beyond what is permitted by the Hague declaration to which their government was a party. Doubtless, in the future Belgium will have learned the lesson, so well known to the European nations liable to invasion, to keep all the male citizens enrolled to furnish a basis for popular war if it must be resorted to.

"Meanwhile the motive for ostentatious cruelty and destruction on the part of the Germans is very plain. If they can sufficiently terrorize the civilian population in Belgium with its constitutional government and popular elections they might start irresistible pressure for peace if they can also continue to push back the armies in the field. The bombs at Antwerp would seem to have this for an object. If aerial vessels were sent at night to throw bombs at the royal residence, in Antwerp, it would seem to be a rather aggravated form of attempted assassination.

"I entirely agree with Mr. Burgess that it is useless to prophecy results, certainly for us who are so far away and uninformed. If I thought for a moment that Germany's fear of imminent successful assault at home led to this violation of Belgium's neutrality as the first step in a war commenced by Germany itself on a day's notice, I should think, indeed, that the kaiser should be calling upon that God whose name seems ever upon his lips. If France and Russia had already reduced him to such an expedient, what could he do with Belgium's seven and a half millions added to the number of his foes and with the whole British empire behind them.

"It was, however, as shown, nothing of the kind. It was the attack of an aggressive outlaw regarding himself. If as above all human rules, confident in his strength that he could not be called to account, and reckless alike of his solemn engagements and of his obligations of humanity to an unoffending people. How far it was his own act, and how far the determination of his military following, is idle to speculate. In their correspondence the czar shows sensitiveness to public opinion. The kaiser shows none.

"It would seem that unless the European world is prepared to accept from the kaiser a pax Germana, as it once did from the crime-stained Caesars a pax Romana, the kaiser must eventually fail, notwithstanding his armament that makes Xerxes' invading millions, or any other recorded organization for offensive warfare, appear harmless by comparison.

"In the same way that Mr. Burgess has stated his relations with imperial European officials, which incline him in their favor, I might state the incidents which have made me sympathize with the Slavic peoples, and not by any means with Prussian or Austrian bureaucracy or with the replica of it, which has so long governed Russia. It would be of small interest and, in any event, wholly beside the questions which are simply, Was the kaiser justified in declaring war on Russia and France, and in commencing it by attacking Belgium?

"W. G. HASTINGS,
"Dean of the college of law, university of Nebraska."

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