



Professor Darnley Naylor.

by Athens at Salami. When a cruel aggression is made, as in those days by Persia and in these by Germany, brave men to drive back and punish the invaders will never be found wanting. What is true of Sparta is also true of Turkey, against whom we are now fighting, for Turkey has through all its days been a nation of fighters whose contribution to the advance of civilisation has been a little less than nothing at all.

Too Late to Talk of Peace.

"Since you have asked me for my opinions regarding the war in general, I should like to say a word or two upon the topic of war and arbitration, suggested by what has happened. Please do not mistake me. War, I believe, can never be approved by those who attempt to follow out the teachings of Christ. We are all to blame in every nation for allowing the war spirit to grow and thrive. But when war has once broken out the position is altered. When I hear that a criminal has been hanged I grieve that we have not had the influence to prevent his having developed into a criminal, but when we have allowed him to become like and act like a brute it is too late to talk of peace."

The Churches Have Tried to Serve God and Mammon.

"You must hold, then, that the abandonment of Christian ethics has been at bottom the cause of this war?"

"Yes, I do. It is perfectly plain that Germany has for some decades cast Christianity to the winds, at least in university and official circles. Had the churches throughout the world exercised their influence always on the side of peace this horrible situation might not have arisen. But as a rule the churches have not done their duty. They have tried to serve both God and Mammon at the same time. Fearing to be thought unpatriotic they have smiled upon a system of force in a manner nothing short of

Treason Against Christ's Teaching.

"It must never be forgotten that He recognised lines neither of nation nor of colour, and so far from using force He suggested on a certain occasion that two swords were enough, and then reproved the man who used one of them. I may be mistaken, but I believe it is utterly and eternally wrong for ministers of the church to discard their true uniform and put on that of the army, accepting also official military titles. By all means let them be at the front to comfort the suffering and the dying and restrain men in the midst of barbarism from such acts as have disgraced Germany, but ministers belong to the International Army of their Master, and to that alone. Tigers, however, have burst through our zareba, and there is nothing for it but to kill. We now fight to prevent the further existence of those tigers, and if we fail to do that then all this blood and money has been poured uselessly into the earth."

Hang Them Like Criminals.

"Don't you think the real perpetrators of this international outrage should be brought to book?"

"Well, I am by no means a bloodthirsty man, as everybody knows, but I do sincerely wish that the men primarily responsible for the war should at its conclusion be hanged for the criminals they are. I would have no nonsense about the honours of war, for I regard these men as offenders against society."

Helping the Belgians.

"They have used Belgium cruelly?"

"Yes, but in reference to Belgium, now that Germany has definitely added it to her empire, I am not sure that we are wise in sending our money into that unhappy country. We should, of course, assist Belgian refugees in England and in the countries of the Allies, but any surplus moneys should, in my opinion, be funded until the time when Belgians return to their own land. Then, indeed, the money will be necessary to get them up again on their farms and in their businesses; for when the excitement is all over we are apt to forget those whose sufferings will be almost as great for many a year to come. At present the Belgians form the 'thin red line of heroes;' when peace is established it will be necessary to do more than ask after the welfare of their souls.

Disturbers of the Peace.

"It is no time to discuss the terms of peace at present, but I sincerely hope that a system of international referendum will be adopted by which every community will have the right of saying under what flag it desires to live. This will be the beginning of a new 'politik,' which will tend more and more to make war impossible. It should be remembered that every nation contains Bernhardis and von Trietschkes. Such men should be regarded, not as patriots, but as disturbers of the peace, and should be treated as such."

A Foul Blow.

"America does not seem anxious to help in treating them as criminals?"

"My feeling about America is this. I have no desire to see her dragged into our quarrels, but I did expect that President Woodrow Wilson would have expressed plainly his abhorrence of Germany's breaches of international law. We ask no more from America than moral support, and it does seem to me that official America ought without question to have protested against the breach of Belgium's neutrality, against the destruction of buildings and works of art which are the property of the world, and against the abominable treatment meted out to women and children and non-combatants. It is no breach of neutrality when you are watching a prize fight to protest, and protest loudly, against the delivery of a foul blow."

No Doubt About the End.

"As to the final result of the war, I have no misgiving. I still believe that God's in His Heaven, but the terrible waste of young and vigorous lives is heart-breaking, and these awful losses have shown clearly to the most obtuse that the 'dysgenics of war' is the only title which the future sociologist will dare to affix to his chapter on civilisation."