



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The beast. 1916

Wason, J. Cathcart

London: P.S. King & Song, Ltd., 1916

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/UGJRD36REEYNX8C>

This material may be protected by copyright law (e.g., Title 17, US Code).

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

0706
3rd EDITION.

6d. net.

THE BEAST

BY

J. CATHCART WASON, M.P.

(Orkney and Shetland).

Formerly Member, House of Representatives, New Zealand.

“That no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark or the name of the Beast or the number of his name.”

“And I saw the Beast and the Kings of the earth gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the throne.”

“And the Beast was taken and with him the false prophets, and both were cast alive into a lake burning with fire and brimstone.”

“Woe to him who shall cry Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace.”

LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

LONDON

P. S. KING & SON, Ltd.

ORCHARD HOUSE, WESTMINSTER.

A quite unnecessary peace debate was initiated by Mr. Snowden in the House of Commons recently Mr. Asquith replied by reaffirming what he said at the Guildhall last November :—

“We shall never sheathe the sword, which we have not lightly drawn, until Belgium recovers in full measure all and more than all that she (and I may now add Serbia) has sacrificed ; until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression ; until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation ; and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed.”

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND.

WESTMINSTER CHAMBERS,
13 VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.
14th October, 1915.

MY DEAR WASON,

With reference to the very excellent pamphlet which you published some time ago, I have received letters asking that it be brought up to date and a second edition published. If you can see your way to do this, I am sure your action will be very much appreciated in the Colonies.

Yours sincerely,
THOS. MACKENZIE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
15th October, 1915.

MY DEAR MACKENZIE,

Many thanks for your kind letter, and I am glad to repeat the address originally given at the Congregational Church, West Hampstead, on May 2nd, 1915. I would especially call the attention of our friends to the portion dealing with the Violations of the Laws of War, issued by the French Foreign Office, which convicts the Germans of almost unspeakable atrocities.

Our people should know what horrible treatment the French, Belgian, Serbian, Polish, and Armenian civil population have received by the orders of the Beast.

Yours faithfully,
J. CATHCART WASON.



Gramophone presented to the Y.M.C.A. by sympathisers with our martyred Sister, Edith Cavell, through Mr. J. Cathcart Wason, M.P.

"Woe to him who shall cry Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace."

THE BEAST

BY

J. CATHCART WASON, M.P.

(Orkney and Shetland).

Formerly Member, House of Representatives, New Zealand.

"That no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark or the name of the Beast or the number of his name."

"And I saw the Beast and the Kings of the earth gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the throne."

"And the Beast was taken and with him the false prophets, and both were cast alive into a lake burning with fire and brimstone."

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON

P. S. KING & SON, LTD.

ORCHARD HOUSE, WESTMINSTER

1916

Those who did Sister Edith Cavell to Death.



THE KAISER.



VON BISSING,
Governor-General of Brussels.

Reprinted from an Address given at the
Congregational Church, West Hampstead,
on May 2nd, 1915.

THE BEAST.

I am very sensible of the honour you have conferred on me in inviting me to address you this afternoon. There is only one subject possible. My object is to attempt to bring before you the great fact that within a few hours of where we now stand, the most bloody, ruthless war the world has ever known is being carried on by the Kaiser with a brutality that the most fertile imagination could not excel.

“Kultur” and science have been brought into play to better the primitive savage form of torture. The last news from South Africa brings details not only of the poisoning of wells, but of infecting mines with disease.

On March 22nd, a message dated March 10th, from a Captain Kruger, of the German Protectorate troops, to an outpost of Pforte, was intercepted. It reads as follows :—

“The patrol at Gabib has been instructed thoroughly to infect with disease the Ida Mine. Approach Swakop and Ida Mine with extreme caution, and do not water there any more.”

Since their evacuation of Aus, Warmbad, and other places, the German troops have consistently poisoned all the wells along the railway line in their retirement.

Every worthy attempt to mitigate the horrors of war has been brushed carelessly aside by the order of the Beast, who has shown that nothing is sacred in his eyes except his despotic will. By his orders old women and young women, religious women, have been shamefully outraged, and are even now bearing in their wombs the fruit of the terrible treatment to which they have been subjected; even tender little children have not escaped the lust of the Beast. Priests and doctors have been murdered in the execution of their sacred duty, civilians driven into

churches while their women could be tortured and outraged at ease, compelled to strip naked and dance before the merry men of the Beast.

Mr. Philip Gibbs, in "The Soul of the War," tells us of a French officer, who said to him :—

"It is good for you Englishmen when you go back home. Those who are not killed here will be very happy to see their women again. You do not want to die because of that. If I were to go home now, gentlemen, I should not be happy ; I should find my wife and daughter both expecting babies whose fathers are German soldiers. England has not suffered invasion."

And again he says :—

"At Saint Denis en Rebais, on September 7th, an Uhlán who was eager for a woman's love saw another pretty woman who tried to hide from him. There was a mother-in-law with her and a little son eight years of age. But in war time one has to make haste to seize one's victim or one's loot. Under the cover of his

rifle—he had a restless finger on the trigger—the Uhlan bade the woman strip herself before him. She had not the pride or the courage of the other woman ; she did not want to die because of that small boy, who stared with horror in his eyes. The mother-in-law clasped the child close and hid those wide staring eyes in her skirts, and turned her own face away from a scene of bestial violence, moaning to the sound of her daughter's cries.”

Everything in the way of private property that could be stolen has been looted and sent off to Germany, and now trustworthy accounts come to hand, not only of the poisoning of wells, but of the cowardly use of asphyxiating gases ; there is ample evidence that the victims suffer most awful torment by protracted suffocation and by the burning up of the mucous membrane.

Torture and starvation of defenceless prisoners, and all this frightfulness has been approved and commended by distinguished Professors, eminent Divines, and with rare exceptions no German has raised any protest.

The tyranny of the Beast is an intolerable outrage to humanity, every word he utters is received with fulsome adulation. Like another Herod, he makes an oration to the people, who with one accord cry: "This is the voice of a God, not of a man"; and Herod fell down eaten by worms.

History repeats itself, and now the Beast may be rotting in anguish and distress and may fall any moment, like Herod, eaten by worms.

It is therefore that morning and evening I thank God on my knees that we are in this war up to our necks and are putting up a brave fight for everything that makes life worth living. Just think what our position would have been had we sanctioned the violation of the treaties by which we were solemnly bound, and permitted without remonstrance the Beast to destroy France.

Possibly we might have been allowed a few years longer of miserable, inglorious ease, our rich allowed to become richer and our poor poorer, until it suited the arrangements of the then Kaiser to add our wealth to that

of the all-powerful Germany, and the only life left to us would have been a living death as the vassals and harlots of Germany.

“God punish England,” says the blasphemous Kaiser, and his Professors and Divines echo the cry. History will be satisfied that England has done nothing to justify the Beast’s hatred. On the contrary she has shown every desire to conciliate. We showed we never dreamt of offence or of war, by resolutely refusing to follow Lord Roberts’ advice and establish National Service.

Our treatment of our soldiers in the past has been a National disgrace. Officers were not allowed to wear the King’s uniform except when on actual duty. Privates were treated as the scum of our social life, were not allowed to enter a place of refreshment or amusement, were enlisted by most disgraceful methods which eased the tender consciences of prudes and hypocrites who called it our glorious Voluntary Service. The day is now and will always be, when everyone will be proud to wear the King’s uniform, and the life of the coward and shirker will be unbearable.

We are fighting for liberty, not only for ourselves, but for Germany. I have met, liked, and respected many Germans in Australia and New Zealand, and I never met one yet who had the least desire to exchange the privileges enjoyed under the British Empire for the despotic rule of Prussian autocracy. I remember the chorus of a very popular song: "Oh Fatherland, dear Fatherland, I hope I never see you no more."

In all our Colonies and Dependencies, Germans enjoyed all the privileges and advantages that we claimed for ourselves. Without abandoning their own nationality, they could become free and independent citizens of the British Empire. We have done everything in our power to conciliate and cultivate their friendship, and now there is no epithet too vile, no insult too outrageous for them to repeat, including the childish exhibition of malevolence, "God punish England."

But we are dealing with people who are permeated with poisonous doctrines that have been preached to them by learned Professors

and Divines; forced on them by Prussian militarism by the command of the Beast.

Listen to the eloquence of Lord Rosebery to the Battalion of the Boys' Brigade at Glasgow :—

“We are seeking in this war, not merely to defend our liberties, but to supersede by a moral force a conspiracy immoral, and, indeed, infamous in aim and method, against the freedom and welfare of all countries. That conspiracy, long devised, seeks under the sardonic phylactery of culture to relegate the world by barbarous methods back into barbarians. The deliberate murder of the wounded and the innocent, and wanton destruction of shrines, the cruel oppression of non-combatants, the odious outrages against prisoners, the disdain of treaties and of International Law, and of all the decent restraints which are common to civilised countries—all these and other crimes are proved to the hilt against our enemies.”

But for years past we have been living in a fool's paradise of content. It is good for

us that the storm has now burst, and the heavily charged atmosphere likely to be cleared and purified.

Have we not set up fresh gods to whom we have bowed the knee and worshipped? Do not our sins of arrogance, pride, love of wealth and display rise up against us? Can we truly say that we have remembered the teachings of Christ, that our religion has not been a surface veneer, and that while we have said Sunday by Sunday that we are miserable sinners, in our hearts we have said: "Thank God that I am not as other men are"?

We mourn our loved ones who have laid down their lives that England and liberty might live, and many more must yet fall and suffer before the dawn of a new day, of a new life, of a renewed awakening of love of Christ.

Nothing can exceed the desire which practically everyone has, to help a bit, even a little bit, and the problem is continually before us, how to?

One thing needful is to try and maintain a cheerful countenance. It was remarked the other day that the most cheerful persons one

sees are our gallant boys home from the front on short leave or leaving everything to go there. Another important way by which we can all help is to bravely and honestly try to help others and to think as little as possible of our individual comfort.

Rigorous economy is absolutely essential, and the weighty words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer cannot be too often repeated :—

“There was a great appearance of prosperity now, but it was purely artificial. We were living upon borrowed money. That could not last. We should have to pay for it. When the war was over there might even be a slight period of prosperity in order to repair its ravages, but then would come a great collapse. If the nation was wise, let it be wise in time. Let it look ahead, take advantage of the opportunity, and lay by for that day when it came, so that we should be able to face it without the distress, the misery, and the wretchedness which always followed a great war.”

Speaking of ordinary households, keeping a domestic servant or more, it is certain that the increased cost of living would be far more than met if reasonable care were taken to avoid waste in every form ; and economy in these lines is a sacred duty.

It is very dangerous for the mere man to even offer any suggestions interfering with matters that are exclusively in the province of ladies, but with all respect I suggest that the most fruitful cause of waste in ordinary households is the antagonism that often exists between kitchen and parlour. This is largely brought about by the custom which far too often prevails of having different qualities of food for kitchen and parlour—a cheaper tea, a cheaper butter, cheaper meat. It isn't human nature to expect any economy under such conditions. Perhaps, above all other duties, it is most important that, as far as in us lies, we should not practise any economies at the expense of others.

For years past we must all have seen and deplored the growing ill-feeling and distrust between Capital and Labour, and the popularity of a certain type of Socialism that

would destroy both. This evil can only be met by a frank recognition that all labour is equally honourable, and that the humblest labourer doing his work honestly is just as good a citizen, just as necessary to the State, as the wealthy magnate at his desk. The innate dignity of labour, properly performed, must be recognised and encouraged.

England emblazons the lion on its standard, but the animal that best shows our character is the British Bull Dog. We have our enemy by the lip, and we hang on and on with never a growl, no matter what punishment we receive, until the vicious devil with which we are struggling is grovelling on its knees, foaming at the lips.

Fifteen months after the outbreak of war, the German Conservative Party (in spite of all the proved facts) issue a manifesto that "every effort must be made to overthrow England, who provoked the war."

Ian Malcolm, M.P., tells us that when he asked the Crown Prince "Who wants war?" that hope of German morality, replied: "I do! I want war with those French swine."

When the Kaiser addressed his troops embarking for China : “ When you come into touch with the enemy give no quarter ; make no prisoners. A thousand years ago the Huns, under their king Attila, made themselves a name which still lives in tradition. Do you likewise ; strike home, so that, for a thousand years to come, no Chinaman dare look askance at Germans.”

It is very clear now that his threat was addressed against the British Empire.

It is certain that all the fiendish horrors and outrages committed in France, Russia, Servia and Armenia would have been a trifle compared with what would have fallen on our dear country.

Mr. Philip Gibbs, in the “ Soul of the War,” tell us that about three years ago a gentleman from America called to see him and told him that after a year’s experience in Germany he came to tell the English people through the medium of an English newspaper, “ That the English people do not know that the entire genius of intellectual Germany is directed to a war against England,” and Mr. Gibbs goes on to say—“ My

Editor would not believe him and none of his words were published in my paper or any other."

But while the vast mass of the people of Great Britain utterly disbelieved that the Kaiser, professing extreme friendship, was preparing everything to cut the throats of everyone who stood in his way, Colonials were under no such delusions.

The New Zealand Government, under the Premiership of the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Ward, K.C.M.G., in especial at the first hints of aggression came forward with the noble gift of a battleship. When the New Zealand Government formally handed the ship over to the British Government, the Hon. James Allen used words which none of us can forget:—

"We in New Zealand do not recognise in the least that the gift of this ship is an adequate contribution for the defence of our King and Country.

"We desire to share every risk, every peril with the Mother Country, and to cement the ties that bind us together by

sacrifice and by the life-blood of those nearest and dearest to us."

Every family in New Zealand is sharing to-day our joys and sorrows, and in the very early days at Gallipoli Mr. Allen's son laid down his young life for the Mother Country, and the son of the Hon. Thomas Mackenzie had both eyes destroyed by the Turks—a nation for whom in the past we have made great sacrifices, and who have been hurled into the war by traitors to their country purchased by German gold.

Despite the campaign of lies that has been waged in the United States, we are thankful to know that probably with the exception of those influenced by German gold, the heart of the people goes out to us with warm love and sympathy.

Ex-President Roosevelt says:—

"It is a base and evil clamour for peace in the abstract when silence is kept on concrete and hideous wrongs to humanity."

Let the people who advocate on the platform the Principles of Peace hold a meeting specifically to denounce the invasion of

Belgium and to demand that the United States shall do what it can to put a stop to these wrongs.

At a meeting of Baptist Ministers in Boston, Dr. Eliot said:—

“Do not pray for peace now. I cannot conceive a worse catastrophe for the human race than peace in Europe now. I do not see how any thinking American can keep himself neutral. Liberty and every other American ideal are involved in this war.”

And to a meeting of the Pilgrim Society, on the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Joseph Choate sent a message pointing out how—

“If he were living to-day we know how heartily he would sympathise with you in the terrible contest you are waging in the defence of those great causes, how emphatically he would have protested against the gross violation of treaties and the utter repudiation of all the progress that has been made by civilised nations in the last fifty years in mitigating the barbarous horrors of war.”

Morton Prince, M.D., in his paper "The American versus the German view of the War," gives us some lurid examples of German Kultur in Belgium.

My picture is of what Mr. Powell saw.

"In many parts of the world I have seen many horrible and revolting things, but nothing so ghastly, so horrifying as Aerschot.

"We know that young girls were dragged from their homes, stripped naked, and violated by many soldiers in the public square in the presence of officers.

"We know that both men and women were unspeakably mutilated, that children were bayoneted, that dwellings were ransacked and looted, and that, finally, as though to destroy the evidences of their horrid work, soldiers went from house to house with torches, methodically setting fire to them."

Mr. Hugh S. Gibson, Secretary of the American Legation in Brussels, was in Louvain on the second day, and this is what he saw.

"The Germans had dragged chairs and a dining table from a near-by house into the middle of the square, in front of the station

. . . . some officers, already considerably the worse for drink, insisted that the three diplomatists join them in a bottle of wine, and this while the city was burning and rifles cracking, and the dead bodies of men and women lay sprawled in the streets."

But "Why did you burn Louvain at all?" Mr. Powell asked the General, and was told the trumped up story of the peaceful citizens having fired on German troops—the drunken soldiers having fired on each other in all probability.

"But how about a woman's body I saw with hands and feet cut off; how about the white-haired man and his son whom I helped to bury outside of Sempst, who had been killed merely because a retreating Belgian soldier had shot a German soldier outside their house?"

"There were twenty-two bayonet wounds in the old man's face. I counted them. How about the little girl, two years old, who was shot while in her mother's arms, by an Uhlan, and whose funeral I attended at Heystop-den-Berg? How about the old man who was hung by his hands from the rafters of

his house, and roasted to death by a bonfire being built under him?"

Germany stands condemned by American opinion. America sees only a peaceful, unoffending nation defending her inalienable rights to her own soil, and she sees the inhabitants for this offence shot down and their houses one by one put to the torch! She sees tens of thousands of homes desolate and hundreds of thousands driven into exile or starving and dependant upon American charity—all this, mind you, not as a sporadic instance in one city, but repeatedly day by day in many cities and towns, and not as unavoidable accidents from the shelling of the enemy in battle, but deliberately, systematically and unnecessarily after the capture and occupation of the city, for the sole purpose of revenge to overcome resistance by Unionism.

It is for these reasons, if for no other, that Germany appeals in vain to American sympathy.

Our Government was so appalled at the awful crimes and atrocities committed by the Beast in Belgium that on the 15th December, 1914, Mr. Asquith made the following appointment:—

“ I hereby appoint—

The Right Hon. VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M.

The Right Hon. Sir FREDERICK POLLOCK,
Bt., K.C.

The Right Hon. Sir EDWARD CLARKE,
K.C.

Sir ALFRED HOPKINSON, K.C.

Mr. H. A. L. FISHER, Vice-Chancellor,
Sheffield University.

Mr. HAROLD COX.

to be a Committee to consider and advise on the evidence collected on behalf of His Majesty's Government as to outrages alleged to have been committed by German troops during the present war, and I appoint Viscount Bryce to be Chairman.

(Signed) H. H. ASQUITH.

15th December, 1914.”

All these gentlemen are of the very highest moral and intellectual standard.

I give herewith a few extracts from their report and the final conclusions of the Committee.—

A business man—

‘My wife’s mother and my sister-in-law, who lived also in Werchter, went to my house to look after the cattle. . . . My house was burned and my sister-in-law and mother-in-law said that they went into a little place near the stable, and while they were getting ready for a little meal four German soldiers arrived. . . . At midnight the four soldiers returned, and after two of them had searched the stable to see if any men were there, the four soldiers violated my mother-in-law and my sister-in-law. They held a revolver at the two women before violating them.’

Immediately after the battle of Malines a long series of murders were committed either just before or during the retreat of the army. Many of the inhabitants, who were unarmed, including women and young children, were killed, and the evidence goes to show that the death of these villagers was due to deliberate purpose. The wounds were generally stabs or cuts, and for the most part appear to have been inflicted with the

bayonet. The witness in Malines saw a German soldier cut a woman's breast off after he had murdered her, and saw many other dead bodies of women in the streets. A married woman saw a drunken soldier drive his bayonet into the stomach of a child two years old, and carry it away on his bayonet, 'he and his comrades still singing.'

In Holfstade many corpses were seen, in houses and in the streets. A young man had had his wrists cut. A boy of five or six had had his hands nearly severed. Women and children had been bayoneted. A young woman had had her breasts cut off. Some were holding their hands together as if in the attitude of supplication. A girl complained that she had been violated by several soldiers for two hours, in full daylight and in view of villagers.

Villages were burned and pillaged, civilians of both sexes shot indiscriminately, and batches of selected males executed under an organised system. Thus at Hervé, fifty men escaping from burning houses were seized and shot outside the town; and at Melen forty men were shot. In one household—

‘The father and mother were shot, and a daughter of twenty-two, having been outraged, died because of the violence she had received. A son was wounded by several shots.’

‘Near Vottem (says a soldier) we were pursuing some Uhlans. I saw a man, woman, and a girl about nine, who had been killed. They were on the threshold of a house, one on the top of the other.’

At Jumet a wounded girl who had hidden in an oven was fired at by a German soldier; she died next day. A witness at Charleroi “saw the Germans putting straw into the cellars of houses which had been burnt the day before, but in the cellars of which there were still living people, and setting the straw on fire.”

A woman tells how—

‘At Marchiennes-au-Pont, on August 22nd, a young girl of 17 was killed by the Germans in a field behind the house in which she lived. I saw the body two days afterwards. . . . The body was quite naked, and the breast cut and covered with blood. . . . I was told

that the girl, mistaking Germans for English, cried "Vive l'Angleterre!" She was dragged from the house into this field, outraged, and killed.'

A soldier describes the rape in open day of fifteen or twenty women in the Place de l'Université.

'While this was going on, about seventy Germans were standing round the women, including five officers (young). The officers started it. . . . Many of the women fainted and showed no signs of life.'

Similar crimes were general throughout the district from the very beginning. The writer of one of the German diaries says:—

'We crossed the Belgian frontier on August 15th, 1914, at 11.50 in the forenoon, and then we went steadily along the main road till we got into Belgium. Hardly were we there when we had a horrible sight. Houses were burnt down, the inhabitants chased away, and some of them shot. Not one of the hundreds of houses were spared. Everything was plundered and burnt. Hardly

had we passed through this large village before the next village was burnt, and so it went on continuously.'

An English woman :—

'The German then took my husband and locked him up in a room. There was no one else about. He then came to the room where I was in bed ; I got out of bed and asked him to fetch a doctor, as I was ill. He then outraged me. I begged him not to, as I was about to be confined, but he insisted. After he left I let my husband out, and we ran away. My baby was born in the fields before we could reach shelter. It died a few days later.'

'After the baby had been killed we saw the officer say something to the farmer's wife. She tried to push him away. Two soldiers seized the woman and put her on the ground ; they then pulled all her clothes off. The officer then violated her while one soldier held her by the shoulders and the other by the arms. After the officer each soldier in turn violated her, the other soldier

and the officer holding her down. After the woman had been violated by the three, the officer cut off the woman's breasts.'

The summing up of Lord Bryce's Committee is as follows :—

“ It is proved :

- (i.) That there were in many parts of Belgium deliberate and systematically organised massacres of the civil population, accompanied by many isolated murders and other outrages.
- (ii.) That in the conduct of the war generally, innocent civilians, both men and women, were murdered in large numbers, women violated and children murdered.
- (iii.) That looting, house burning, and the wanton destruction of property were ordered and countenanced by the officers of the German Army ; that elaborate provision had been made for systematic incendiarism at the very outbreak of the war, and that the burnings and destruction were frequent where no military

necessity could be alleged, being indeed part of a system of general terrorisation.

(iv.) That the rules and usages of war were frequently broken, particularly by the using of civilians, including women and children, as a shield for advancing forces exposed to fire, to a less degree by killing the wounded and prisoners, and in the frequent abuse of the Red Cross and the White Flag.

Sensible as they are of the gravity of these conclusions, the Committee conceive that they would be doing less than their duty if they failed to record them as fully established by the evidence. Murder, lust, and pillage prevailed over many parts of Belgium on a scale unparalleled in any war between civilised nations during the last three centuries."

Few people realise that by the Beast's commands possibly worse outrages have been perpetrated in France, Russia, Servia, and, worst of all, the wholesale torture and massacre of nearly a million Armenians.

It is only by the merciful hand of God that we have been spared these awful horrors.

Under the auspices of the French Foreign Office a volume has been issued :—

“VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OF WAR.”

By the undertakings given by Germany :

It is forbidden—

To kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down his arms, or no longer having means of defence, has surrendered at discretion.

To declare that no quarter will be given.

Certain German holy preachers of the Gospel wrote to their British brethren that it was “the earnest resolution of our people to wage the war with conscientious self-restraint and in the spirit of Christian charity, and that it was the concern of all Christians in all lands to ensure that it be fought with honourable weapons”; and the Dutch German admirer claimed “that Germany stands upon a quite extraordinarily high moral level.” Extracts from diaries found on Germans prove that : “Never has a war been waged with such reckless ferocity, such horrible depravity. There can be no question of their

authenticity. They give names and dates and places in the original German, and the actual handwriting is reproduced by photography.

This book gives sworn affidavits of French soldiers and officers on the torture and massacre of wounded soldiers, and extracts from diaries found on German prisoners. I append a few extracts:—

A squad of German soldiers found some thirty French soldiers who had taken refuge in a cellar. "I said to the Frenchmen, 'Surrender,' and I communicated to the Germans in German their request to do so. One of the Germans replied: 'There is no quarter, they have got to die.' The Germans took out the French soldiers and led them to the front of the house. Then they placed them in one line on their knees and shot them." The corpses of the French soldiers remained where they were for at least eight days.

On the 22nd September some fifty soldiers of the 24th Infantry were made prisoners by the Germans near the Meuse. Among these men was an adjutant. After having disarmed them a German captain drew his revolver

and blew out the brains of the adjutant. This was the signal for a general massacre. The soldiers under their captain's orders proceeded immediately to shoot the Frenchmen point-blank. Not a single one was spared.

“I was taken prisoner. I was led before a lieutenant of the 69th Bavarian Regiment, who had me disarmed and ordered me to stand to attention. He searched me and took from me my purse with all the private papers on my person. Then seizing his revolver while I was still standing to attention, he fired straight at my face. The bullet penetrated the left side of my nose, passed through the arch of the palate, and came out under the right ear, breaking the bone of my right jaw. I have no palate left, and have lost all sense of smell and taste.”

Madame X, Commune de la Ferte Gauchez, declares with reference to German officers: “Much alarmed, I hid on the staircase leading to the attic at the side of the room where they were. They found me there, and they made me go up to the attic, where they stripped me naked, and stole my purse containing

50 francs. The officer and two soldiers then outraged me after threatening me with their guns. They then made me come down, and the officer again outraged me, as well as the maid Y. Then he sent me to spend the night with the three soldiers, while he forced the maid Y to go to bed with him."

"We have burnt the church at Villerupt and shot the inhabitants" is amongst the entries in the note-book of a German lieutenant. Then comes the familiar pretext that shots had been fired against the invaders from the tower. But the lieutenant in this account, meant only for friendly German eyes, goes on to say that in fact "it was not the inhabitants of Villerupt who fired at us, but certain excise-men and forest-rangers." "At Leffe nineteen civilians shot. . . . Ten more men have been shot. . . ." "We have received orders to shoot the entire male population," are successive entries in another note-book. "The people always civil, if one behaves properly to them," another invader remarks of the Belgians. "Everything is pillaged . . . it looks like the work of robbers," a non-commissioned officer reports.

He was not alone in his opinion. "It was not long before we could tell whether our *Kultur* was a mere surface varnish or something more deeply rooted," a comrade observes, who looked upon things from the æsthetic and moral point of view. "All moral sense is deadened," he complains, and presently we hear from another witness of "the French thrown into the blazing houses, civilians burnt with the rest." Dancing flames bore witness to another deed of German heroism! "*C'est la Guerre!*" is the brief comment on another crime. "We had dinner at one o'clock, and it was eaten in the company of dead Frenchmen; one gets used to everything," a philosopher writes. "We counted over 200 [civilians shot]. Women and children, lamp in hand, were forced to look on at the horrible scene. We ate our rice later in the midst of the corpses." Such is the civilising agency of "frightfulness" at work. Then we have the account of the burning of the whole village of Saint-Maurice. "Neither man, woman, nor child could escape. . . . All the inhabitants left in the village were burnt with the houses." "This

method of making war is absolutely barbarous" is the judgment of a non-commissioned officer. Among the victims at another village were "many old women, some old men, and a half-delivered woman, awful to see." And so the chronicle goes on. "Parux was the first village we burnt," writes another Bavarian.

The atrocious murder of Sister Cavell is but another Star in the Crown of the Beast. The noble lady was taken out and shot like a dog in the early morning.

The American Embassy used every effort to prevent the perpetration of this hideous wrong.

To His Excellency, BARON VON BISSING,
American Legation, Brussels,

October 11th, 1915.

EXCELLENCY,

I have just been informed that Miss Cavell an English subject, and consequently under the protection of my Legation, has been sentenced to death this morning by court-martial.

Without going into the causes which have inspired so severe a sentence—one more

severe, if the information given me is correct, than in any of the other cases of the same kind which the same tribunal has sat upon—I feel justified in making an appeal to your Excellency's sentiments of humanity and generosity on behalf of Miss Cavell, that the death penalty pronounced against her may be commuted, and that this unfortunate woman may not be shot.

Miss Cavell is the matron of the Surgical Institute of Brussels. She has spent her life in relieving the sufferings of others, and has trained in her school many nurses now devoting themselves all over the world, in Germany as well as in Belgium, to the sick bed. At the start of the war Miss Cavell lavished her care on German soldiers as well as those of other countries. Were there no other reason, so devoted a career surely inspires the utmost pity and readiness to pardon.

BRAND WHITLOCK.

MR. WHITLOCK'S PERSONAL PLEA.

This was Mr. Whitlock's personal appeal to Baron von der Lancken, written by his own hand :—

“MON CHER BARON,

Je suis trop malade pour vous présenter ma requête moi-même, mais je fais appel à votre générosité de coeur, pour l'appuyer et sauverde la morte cette malheureuse. Ayez pitié d'elle. Votre bien devoué.

BRAND WHITLOCK.”

EXTRACT FROM DESPATCH OF SIR EDWARD GREY TO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

“Sir Edward Grey realises that Mr. Whitlock was placed in a very embarrassing position by the failure of the German authorities to inform him that the sentence would be carried out at once.

Miss Cavell was not even charged with espionage, and the fact that she had nursed numbers of wounded German soldiers, might have been regarded as a complete reason in itself for treating her with leniency.”

The letter of Olga Novikoff in the *Westminster*, September 30th, is very welcome, especially with reference to our expedition to Gallipoli. . . .

“We know what your Army is doing, and we view with deep compassion and fellow-suffering the losses which you

have undergone in Gallipoli, chiefly for our sake.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

OLGA NOVIKOFF (*née* Kiréeff).

4, Brunswick Place, Regent's Park.

September 30th."

All honour to the German minister who had the grace to preach at Leipsig that : "We must not forget that victory does not depend upon the calculations of men, but upon the will of God. What can we expect from God? In truth, we were at one time morally on the road to Paris. We have been too proud of worldly goods, too eager for wealth, too deaf to the laws of God, not to tremble now lest He punish us. Should He punish us, we must be prepared to receive chastisement, not only as an act of justice, but as a gift ; for God punishes in order to redeem. He never errs. We may all err ; the Emperor may err ; but God never errs."

Germans certainly deserve the severest punishment, and many are now bitterly suffering from the Beast—their Lord and God. Here are some extracts from the diary of a German private :—

[As the woeful confession of a hard driven and badly treated private soldier it sheds a lurid light upon the brutal methods of German militarism applied in an army of tyrants and slaves].

“One lives like a beast in the filth.

“We are worn out. Marches.

“Food absolutely insufficient. Every day we have to sing stupid songs, always the same, instead of getting them out of the ‘Song Book,’ and we go singing through the village like children.

“Always the same longing for peace, and before my eyes the spectre of the French front close at hand, with the horrors of its artillery fire.

“The day before the fight I saw, on the march, a colour-sergeant beat a recruit with a stick. This morning the same sight. He smothered him with blows, and the old soldier Seitz helped him.

“The old soldiers and non-commissioned officers stick to the travelling kitchens and stuff themselves. The old hands, too, know how to get themselves looked after, but when

recruits want a second helping they are driven away with jeers, and often enough a beating into the bargain.

“The colour-sergeant is a dirty bawler, always uttering threats, never a good word, always ready to use a stick, and he doesn't spare it when he gets the chance.

“The officers look splendid. They are gay, and always making jokes. The men, on the other hand, march with their heads down, buried in their own thoughts, without speaking.

“In action . . . Awful fire. “It is stupid to attack so strong a position,” muttered Captain B——. All the same that did not prevent him from firing on his own men.

“Worn out by excitement and hunger. Exuberant cheerfulness of the officers. Colonel, major, captain laugh boisterously. Their faces beaming, shining with fat. For us, hardships, dirt, hunger.

“Lieutenant Reinicke is never there when firing is going on. When the danger is over he rushes impetuously to the front. The whole company laughs at it.

“As soon as the attack opened . . . Lieutenant Reinicke stayed behind, and nothing more was seen of him; not only so, but the section leaders and the non-commissioned officers stayed behind. The sections and groups advanced without leaders. Indescribable jumble. We had heavy losses, but one no longer notices them.”

“Lieutenant Reinicke has got the Iron Cross. It is the triumph of this vile regime of masters and slaves,” and a week later, on the day dealt with in the last of these extracts, he concludes: “Lieutenant Reinicke has been drunk since yesterday.”

But all the horrors perpetrated by the Huns fade almost into insignificance compared with the Armenian Atrocities, and for which the “Beast” is directly responsible.

According to Mr. Arnold Toynbee in his book “The Murder of a Nation,” the number of the Armenians under the Turkish rule was about 1,200,000, and of these it is estimated that 800,000 have been destroyed and their blood lies at the door of the German Nation—the “Beast” of Revelations.

In the "GOTCHNAG," of New York, on September 4th:—

"A foreign correspondent reports that provincial governors who show lack of vigour in executing the order to deport the Armenians, are taken to task by the German officials. The latter participate in the execution of the deportation scheme and redouble its rigours. The correspondent declares, on the basis of such evidence as this, that this plan of exterminating the Armenians has been conceived by the Germans, and that it has been put into execution on their advice."

Lord Bryce tells us that the massacres are the result of a policy which, as far as can be ascertained, has been entertained for some considerable time by the gang of unscrupulous adventurers who are now in possession of the Government of the Turkish Empire.

To give one instance of the thorough and remorseless way the massacres were carried out, it may suffice to refer to the case of Trebizond—a case vouched for by the Italian Consul who was present when the slaughter was carried out.

“ Nearly the whole Armenian population of from 8,000 to 10,000 were destroyed—some in this way, some by slaughter, some by being sent to death elsewhere. After that, any other story becomes credible ; and I am sorry to say that all the stories that I have received contained similar elements of horror, intensified in some cases by stories of shocking torture. But the most pitiable case is not that of those whose misery was ended by swift death, but of those unfortunate women who, after their husbands had been killed and their daughters violated, were driven out with their young children to perish in the desert—where they have no sustenance, and where they are the victims of the wild Arab tribes around them. It would seem that three-fourths or four-fifths of the whole nation has been wiped out, and there is no case in history, certainly not since the time of Tamerlane, in which any crime so hideous upon so large a scale has been recorded.”

The scheme was nothing less than the

extermination of the whole Christian population within the Ottoman Frontier, and the wholesale deportation was carried out with a brutal and indescribable ferocity.

“ . . . the robbery of their goods was not the worst. These poor, worn-out, perishing women were robbed obscenely of their honour, for any who had not brought a few shillings into the gendarmes' pockets by being sold to richer Moslems were abandoned to the gendarmes' own more brutal lust.

“The worst and most unimaginable horrors were reserved for us at the banks of the (Western) Euphrates (Kara Su) and the Erzindjan plain. The mutilated bodies of women, girls, and little children made everybody shudder. The brigands were doing all sorts of awful deeds to the women and girls that were with us, whose cries went up to heaven. At the Euphrates, the brigands and gendarmes threw into the river all the remaining children under fifteen years old. Those who could swim were shot down as they struggled in the water.”

“It is impossible to describe the ferocity to which they have been exposed; they have been travelling for from three to five months; they have been pillaged two—three—five—seven times; they have even had their underclothes ransacked; so far from providing them with food, they even forbid them to drink water when they are passing by a stream; three-quarters of the young women and girls have been kidnapped; the rest have been compelled to spend the night with the gendarmes who are conducting them. Hundreds have died of these outrages, and the survivors have to tell of refinements of atrocity so disgusting that one cannot bear their recital.”

From the NEW YORK TRIBUNE of October 8th, 1915:

“This shameful and terrible page of modern history which is unfolding in distant Armenia is nothing but an echo, and an extension of the main story, the central narrative, which must describe the German incursion into

Belgium fourteen months ago. That was the determining act, that was the signal to Turk and Kurd.

“To-day the world looks neither with surprise nor with incredulity at the terrible history that comes to us from the remoter regions of Asia Minor

“This thing that Germany has done in the world is not a mere injury to written law. That is but a minor detail. What she has done is to bring us all back in the Twentieth Century to the condition of the dark ages.”

Mr. Lansing has cabled to the United States Embassy at Constantinople to protest to Turkey against the Armenian atrocities and to express the hope that the perpetrators will be punished.

The Embassy is to add that if there is any repetition of the atrocities the United States Government will be compelled to take more drastic action.—Reuter.

Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., made a stirring appeal at a concert held at the Alhambra on behalf of the British Women's Hospital Building Fund for the "Star and Garter" Home, Richmond, for totally disabled soldiers and sailors. He said:—

“There never was on God's earth such a barbarian as the Kaiser, and a more wicked war was never waged. Witness the scene at a Belgian railway junction. A train is loaded up with 800 young women, married and single, with hands outstretched and tears on their faces. They are beseeching a neutral friend. ‘Where are we going? For God's sake tell us where we are going?’ they cry That fate might have been ours, our women and our homes, but for the men we are pleading for to-night.”

