

peratively the disclosure of the accomplices of the assassins. Servia replies in terms of evasion, evasion impudently cynical. Austria stirs. Russia—and there is no pretense possible, the murder of the archduke was either instigated by Pan Slavism or was a threat equally to the Czar as to any other ruler—replies by mobilizing. Before Austria has moved a man or a gun, Russia mobilizes.

“And what was the position of the German emperor? He must strike now or never.

“He looked about him. The weakness of the British government and its supposed preoccupation with the Ulster folly and the suffragettes encouraged him to hope. He saw France, mere rottenness, its bandages torn off by the pistol-shot of Mme. Caillaux. All things conspired; he would make one final effort for peace by threatening Russia.

“And then he suddenly knew that it was no good. Nothing was any good; nothing would ever be any good again. *Sir Edward Grey spoke for peace, spoke of neutrality, in the House of Commons at a moment when thousands of British troops were already on their way to Belgium, and the fleet, concentrated and ready for action, already held the North Sea.*

“France withdrew her troops from the frontier ‘so as to avoid any possibility of incidents which might be mistaken for aggression,’ while her Algerian and Senegambian troops were on the water, half-way to Marseilles.

“He knew that this time there was no hope of peace. Abdication itself would hardly have saved Germany from a long-prepared, carefully-planned war, a war whose avowed object, an object in the mouth of every man in the street, was the destruction of Austria, the dismemberment of Germany. They had got him.

“Even a worm will turn; even a Quaker will fight if he is cornered.

“Wilhelm struck.”

Some time ago Belgium was decried and pilloried in all English literature for “the crime of the Congo,” as it was called by Sir Conan Doyle. But all this is now forgotten. Mr. Crowley says:

“We have quite forgotten that the Belgian is the most cruel, mean, and cowardly cur in Europe, that we have demonstrated till all was blue against him as assassin, torturer, mutilator, and cannibal. We have dined in our thousands to acclaim his disgrace. We heard of nothing but ‘red rubber,’ of niggers with hands, and feet, and indeed all that was off-choppable, off-chopped; of rape, robbery, murder, anthropophagy, and so on, until even our sanest etymol-