

AN ENGLISHMAN'S VIEW.

To the Editor of the Herald:

May I, as an Englishman, offer some criticism of the views of the "Crush Germany" school, which have appeared recently in your correspondence columns.

It is suggested that the peace terms which Germany would today allow would usher in an era of "frightfulness" in which America would have to arm to the teeth or else suffer the fate of Belgium, give up the Monroe doctrine and allow Germany to dominate the Panama Canal and finally possess the supremacy of the western world. To prevent all these terrible results of an early peace, the Allies must go on fighting for another year or two until, as it is supposed, Germany is crushed and sues for peace in the good old-fashioned style. Then all will be well. The Allies will of course not be crushed themselves. Their losses will be as nothing. They will come through "purified as by fire," as the Archbishop of London says. But whatever the cost be, the widows and orphans will be comforted by the thought that their menfolk had died that the Monroe doctrine might live, and that the people of the United States had been saved from the fate of Belgium!

But it may be asked whether Germany is today in a position to impose her will upon the Allies. Is it not true to say that Germany, despite her occupation of Belgium, and her victories over Russia's horde of peasants led by a Grand Duke, is at least in no better case than are her enemies? Germany, with a million of her best men dead, and a million more maimed and halt and blind (may I say that to me, in common with nearly all English people I know, these terrible words do not bring any feelings of gratification or of triumph); Germany, with a Colonial Empire on which the sun never rises, and a flag unknown on the Seven Seas, facing financial bankruptcy, and with many of her most important industries permanently ruined – is this the Germany that is going to dictate terms to her foes? Somehow the dictation of peace terms seems to have gone out of fashion in recent times. The British did not dictate terms to the Boers, nor did the Japanese to the Russians – indeed it is not done any more in the best military and diplomatic circles, and it is safe to say that it won't be done by either side in Europe when the soldiers "down tools."

Then let us have done with this madness of "crushing" our enemies – and let us have peace.

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