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THE RELATION OF WAR TO CHEMISTRY IN AMERICA¹

WAR is an evil beyond the power of language to express. To kill one's neighbor or one's enemy is so repellent a thought that one cries out in horror at the idea and instinctively wants to refuse to have any part in action or government which involves such baseness irrespective of the provocation. It is only with the greatest difficulty that we persuade ourselves to act together in any such capacity except in spontaneous defense. Were it not for the religious emphasis upon our duty to support the civil magistrate in the execution of righteous law, and therefore to resist aggression against such law, we would find little ground to stand upon in our present crisis, except it be the desire to bring annihilation upon the philosophy which gave rise to this world war.

It has become more and more apparent that we have been dealing with a power in the case of Germany that is as unscrupulous as her acts are unmanly and cruel, and that the complaints of her opponents against her since 1870 have probably not been overdrawn. The pall of horror and indignation which fell upon us during the invasion of Belgium and France was relieved when the Marne gave hope that there was still power enough in the world to frustrate the dream of the bully. This pall has been slowly growing upon us again, however, in spite of the persistent efforts of the German propaganda amongst us to conceal and belie the reports of the damnable conduct of their armies and government at

¹ The annual address before the Ohio Academy of Science, Columbus meeting, April 6, 1917.

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