

of her rebellious subjects are in arms against her and her allies; her subject nationalities are only waiting the opportunity to rise and strike for the freedom which the free nations leagued against Austria have promised them. Serbia is a symbol of the world which the Central Powers have attacked; she was typical of them all, from Belgium to the United States, in her willingness to make almost any concessions to military tyranny in order to prevent the outbreak of war, and in her unwillingness to make the final concession which would have implied the loss of self-respect and of freedom. "The principles for which Serbia has so nobly fought and suffered," says Mr. LANSING, "are those for which the United States is fighting." The principles for which Austria has suffered much and ignobly were visible in the ultimatum which she presented in July, 1914; and nations so powerful and remote from the immediate scene of the conflict as the United States, nations so far away as Honduras and Siam, have now joined the alliance which is pledged to the creed that these principles shall be definitely removed from international politics.

SERBIA AND AUSTRIA.

Secretary LANSING asks Americans of all creeds to invoke divine blessing on Serbia today, the fourth anniversary of Austria's dispatch of the fatal note to her. The declaration of war, the beginning of the evils of the world, followed Serbia's acceptance of all but one item, her willingness to submit to arbitration even that item, in the wholly impossible ultimatum that Austria had dispatched to her to be answered within twenty - four hours. This ultimatum was described by Sir EDWARD GREY as the most formidable he had ever heard of between civilized States; it was a demand for the instant giving up of Serbia's independence. But Sir EDWARD was judging it by the standards of the old days of peace; it has been matched more than once, indeed surpassed, by subsequent incidents in the diplomatic history of Austria and Germany. Brutal as it was, it lacked the oily hypocrisy of some of the recent peace treaties on the eastern front.

It was the first manifestation of the spirit of the thing which all but a few of the free nations of the world are now fighting. Serbia was in the way of the German and Austrian march to the east; Serbia and FRANCIS FERDINAND could be used as a convenient excuse for the looking of an attack long planned. Of this attack Serbia was to have been the first victim, but she beat back two invasions before the Bulgarian stab in the back brought her down.

Four years after that ultimatum, where is Serbia and where is Austria? Serbia's territory has been overrun; her people have died by hundreds of thousands. But her army is still in being, her spirit is still unbroken. Her Yugoslav kindred have been drawn to her more closely by four years of war than they were ever likely to be drawn in the perpetuated compromise of peace; four great and free nations have pledged themselves to the union, around Serbia, of the Yugoslav people. Four years ago the more farsighted Americans were warning their fellow-countrymen against the idea that we had no interest in the affairs of Serbia, warning them that a war begun in Serbia might conceivably affect business and finance in the United States. That was all. Today the people of the United States are praying for the future welfare of a gallant ally, and it is no derogation from the efficacy of prayer that at the same time millions of Americans are working, some hundreds of thousands are fighting, millions more are getting ready to fight, that these prayers may be realized.

Austria has overrun Serbia, indeed, with German and Bulgarian aid; and last week on the floor of her own parliament she was denounced as a hideous nightmare, as a crime centuries old. Hundreds of thousands