**LEBENSRAUM**

In August 1914, in a letter to a New York newspaper, signed “a lawyer”, Casement was writing from the heart, in jingoistic mode:

“England relies on money, Germany on men. And just as Roman men beat Carthaginian mercenaries, so must German manhood, in the end triumph over British finance…Germany fights today as the champion of Europe, nay more, as the champion of Christendom [against] the hordes of Russian barbarism, the sword of French hatred and the long purse of British greed…as an Irishman I say from my heart – God Save Germany.” Where England had an “avarice of freedom” which she was unwilling to impart to others, Germany was “fighting for light, for air, for freedom” and hoping to build “a loftier and larger dwelling…for a numerous and growing offspring.”[[1]](#endnote-1)

This is the equivalent section in ‘Crime Against Europe’:

“Germany will fight with far other purpose and one that must inspire a far more vigorous effort; she will fight, not merely to keep what she already has, but to escape from an intolerable position of inferiority she knows to be unmerited and forced not by the moral or intellectual superiority of her adversary or due to her own short comings, but maintained by reason of that adversary's geographical position and early seizure of the various points of advantage.

Her effort will be not merely military, it will be an intellectual assertion, a fight in very truth for that larger freedom, that citizenship of the world England is studious to "engross and accumulate" for herself alone and to deny to all others. Thus, while English attack at the best will be actuated by no loftier feeling than that of a man who, dwelling in a very comfortable house with an agreeable prospect resists an encroachment on his outlook from the building operations of his less well lodged neighbour, Germany will be fighting not only to get out of doors into the open air and sunshine, but to build a loftier and larger dwelling, fit tenement for a numerous and growing offspring.”

1. NYPL Maloney Collection of Irish Historical Papers, Box 1 Folio 27 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)