

January 13, 1917.—This morning *La Belgique* publishes the response of the Allies to the President's note—a note from the

Germans, and a note from the Belgian Government. The Allies response is distinctly disappointing, not because it wholly precludes the possibility of peace (that depends on the construction one puts on it), but because it is conceived and executed on no high plane of statesmanship, displays no lofty conception of principle or responsibility in a great human crisis. In other words, it shows that there is not in the service of the Allies in any responsible position a first-rate intelligence, and, when one reads the German note, one comes to the conclusion that there is not an intelligence of first-rate order in a chancellery in Europe. Both notes are full of stupid bluff and bluster, of sickening hypocrisy, and much balderdash.