

ENGLAND'S BREACH OF NEUTRALITY IN AMERICA.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE Germans made proposals to Belgium for a peaceful passage through the country, and when they were refused committed a breach of neutrality and forced their way through. It is commonly claimed that it was the duty of Belgium not to allow the Germans to cross. The English had crossed Portuguese territory in the Boer war, but this is declared to be excusable on the ground that the Portuguese could not have resisted, and if they had become implicated in a war the result would have been the same.

In consideration of these facts, what shall we say of the breach of neutrality which the English have committed on the soil of the United States of America? Indian troops have been transported on the Canadian Pacific to be embarked at Halifax and on their way passed through the state of Maine for about one hundred and twenty-five miles. Was this breach of neutrality excusable on the ground of absolute necessity, or because the United States are too weak to resist England?

Why do the Belgians begin a war and fight to the bitter end in the vain hope that the friends who promised their help would come to the rescue, while we allow this breach of neutrality without even a verbal protest? Would the Americans of a hundred years ago have been so submissive?

The logic of our administration is peculiar. It is regarded as a punishable act if a few men of the New York branch of the Hamburg-American line are under the suspicion of having supplied German ships with coal, but if big business concerns send enormous masses of arms and ammunition to England and France, it is not considered unfriendly to Germany and the dual monarchy, but quite a proper transaction because there is no law against trading with anybody.