

An Open Letter to German Intellectuals.

Mr. BRONISLAW HUBERMAN'S
INDICTMENT.

London.

Germany's intellectuals, who have remained silent in the face of Nazi persecutions and violation of human rights are accused "as those truly guilty of all these Nazi crimes, all this lamentable breakdown of a great people—a destruction which shames the whole white race," in a stern indictment published in the form of an open letter to German intellectuals in the "Manchester Guardian" by Mr. Bronislaw Huberman, the noted violinist.

"Since the publication of the ordinance regulating the application of the Nuremberg legislation—this document of barbarism—I have been waiting to hear from you one word of consternation or to observe one act of liberation," Mr. Huberman wrote. "Some few of you at least certainly must have some comment to make upon what has happened if your avowals of the past are to endure. But I have been waiting in vain. In the face of this silence I can no longer stand mute."

Mr. Huberman recalled his correspondence with Dr. Wilhelm Furtwaengler two and a half years ago, when the latter attempted to dissuade him from publishing his refusal of an invitation to play with Dr. Furtwaengler's orchestra in Germany. He quoted part of his reply to the noted conductor in which he described a case of Nazi "violence at great length which Dr. Furtwaengler characterised as "a monstrous generalisation which has nothing to do with reality."

"In the meantime," Mr. Huberman continued, "two and a half years have passed. Countless people have been thrown into gaols and concentration camps, exiled, killed, and driven to suicide. Catholic and Protestant ministers, Jews, Democrats, Socialists, Communists, army generals became the victims of a like fate. I am not familiar with Dr. Furtwaengler's attitude to these happenings, but he expressed clearly enough his own opinion and the opinion of all 'real Germans' concerning the shamefulness; and I have not the slightest doubt of the genuineness of his consternation, and believe firmly that many, perhaps the majority of Germans, share his feelings.

"Well then, what have you, the 'real Germans,' done to rid your conscience and Germany and humanity of this ignominy since these make-believe Germans, born in the Argentine, in Bohemia, in Egypt, and in Latvia, have changed by alleged 'monstrous generalisation' to legal reality? Where are the German Zolas, Clemenceaus, Painlevés, Picquarts in this monster Dreyfus case against an entire defenceless minority; where are the Masaryks in this superdimensional Polna case? Where has the voice of blood, if not the voice of justice and common sense, been raised against the even more inhuman persecution of those born of mixed marriages between Aryans and Jews, and of pure Aryans who have the misfortune to be the spouses of Jews?

"Before the whole world I accuse you, German intellectuals, you non-Nazis, as those truly guilty of all these Nazi crimes, all this lamentable breakdown of a great people—a destruction which shames the whole white race. It is not the first time in history that the gutter has reached out for power, but it remained for the German intellectuals to assist the gutter to achieve success. It is a horrifying drama which an astonished world is invited to witness; German spiritual leaders with world citizenship who until but yesterday represented German conscience and German genius, men called to lead their nation by their precept and example seemed incapable from the beginning of any other reaction to this assault upon the most sacred possessions of mankind than to coquet, co-operate and condone.

"And when," Mr. Huberman wrote further, "to cap it all, demagogical usurpation and ignorance rob them of their innermost conceptions from their own spiritual workshop, in order thereby to disguise the embodiment of terror, cowardice, immorality, falsification of history in a mantle of freedom, heroism, ethics, science, and mysticism, the German intellectuals reaches the pinnacle of their treachery: they bow down and remain silent.

"Must, then, the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church in Germany battle alone in their truly heroic struggle for Germany's honour, tradition and future?

"Germany, you people of poets and thinkers, the whole world, not only the world of your enemies, but the world of your friends, waits in amazed anxiety for your word of liberation," he concluded.



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