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Archives Center - NMAH

Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 15, 1914

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Aug 5. Very sultry. last night and to day. More alarming war news. The Japanese officers have received further news and Japanese are discussing it eagerly. One Japanese tells me Russian and German warships have engaged at Aland near Sweden in Baltic Sea and Russians have been defeated. Also that Germany has violated neutrality of Belgium by sending troops thru Belgium. - At noon ships journal publishes ~~fact~~ that Russia Germany, Austria and France have all declared war officially but that England ~~officially~~ English King is trying to pacify. Then later rumor here aboard is that one British warship is before Kiel. and that two English merchant men have been taken by German warships. It seems now that there is very little doubt that serious things are happening in Europe. Will they get wiser by it. I expect that whatever

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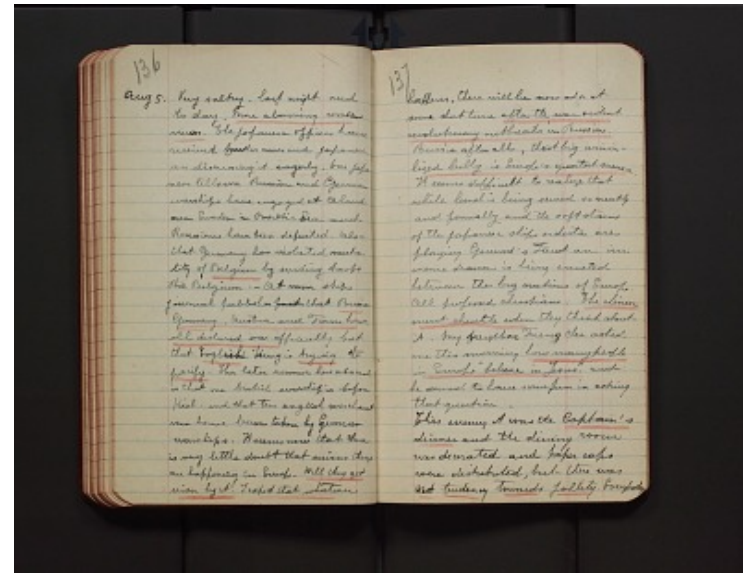
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happens, there will be now ~~a~~ or at some short time after the war violent revolutionary outbreaks in Russia. Russia after all, that big uncivilized bully is Europe's greatest menace. It seems difficult to realize that while lunch is being served so neatly and formally and the soft strains of the Japanese ships orchestra are playing Gounod's Faust an immense drama is being enacted between the big nations of Europe. all professed Christians. The Chinese must chuckle when they think about it. My neighbor Fueng Chi asked me this morning how many people in Europe "believe in Jesus." and he seemd to have some fun in asking that question.

This evening it was the Captain's dinner and the dining room was decorated and paper caps were distributed, but there was no tendency towards jollity.

Everybody

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