

the eyes of their comrades who had escaped it! They had to die without medical aid, without medicine, without beds, and without clothing, like so many mangy dogs! It is horrible to record it, and it was a revolting sight to see."

"But I cannot say the same respecting the unhappy men who fell into the hands of the Germans by the capitulation of Metz. Their condition is indescribable. The total number of prisoners is estimated at 330,000, of which 30,000 have been assigned to Coblenz. Many of them are in a state of inanition, so weak as not to be able to stretch out a hand to take their food. Dysentery and typhus are decimating them. I am assured by a humane and experienced medical man, who has just paid a visit to the Osterstein barracks, into which two thousand men are crowded, that, having noticed a movement under a heap of straw, he turned it over and found three men beneath it in the agony of death. A few paces further on four corpses were lying on the ground. He adds that forty more deaths are expected, and that the state of the majority of these men is to the last degree deplorable. . . . It is a Herculean task. This sudden irruption of starving, naked, and dying wretches is well calculated to turn the heads of the coolest."

"The Ton-Halle* Hospital deserves especial mention. Before the war it was the place of entertainment for the inhabitants of the suburbs, but it had been requisitioned to receive a portion of the ever-rising tide of unfortunate French patients. Two hundred and fifty men were here, stretched upon a little hay and straw, no better than a dung-hill. Boxes, pit, gallery, stage, scene-room, were all crammed with French soldiers, and in the large ball-room those in the most serious stages of illness were placed on little iron bedsteads. Every morning I found here the corpses of men who the day before believed themselves to have been in the prime of life and the full enjoyment of health. Those words of Dante, 'Abandon hope, all ye who enter here,' might very appropriately have been written over the portal of this place, for there were very few families in all corners of France who did not lose at least one of their sons in it. On my first visit, accompanied by the Abbé von Enzenberg, I found it filled from pit to gallery with dying men lying about in all directions. After this introduction on the part of the Abbé I visited the place every evening.

"The saddest scenes, however, were to be witnessed in the morning, for then the corpses of victims who had died during the night were car-

ried out to a central depôt changed into a dead-house, at what was called the barracks field-hospital. In the centre several tables were ranged, on which the coffins were placed, each one bearing the name of the defunct and the number of the grave into which it was to be placed. At the door stood about fifty unarmed French soldiers, and after prayers had been read some of them would step forward and bear the remains of their comrades away on litters. Then a procession was formed, a Prussian guard of honour at the head of it with loaded rifles, and so the mournful *cortège* passed through the silent streets, the passers-by reverently uncovering, and often following on at the end. When the military burial-ground was reached, situated to the north-west near the fortifications, the coffins were lowered into a vast common grave at the sound of the drum, and after a short address from the officiating clergyman, the salvo was fired by the Prussian escort; for a simple soldier it was eight shots, for a corporal, twelve; for a non-commissioned officer, fifteen. Then we marched back to the Barracks Hospital, only to find collected there again as many more coffins placed for burial as we had just taken away. This kind of thing went on for a long time; it was sickening, horrifying, and heartrending."

"Father de Robiano, who belonged to one of the most illustrious families in Belgium, had special charge of the sick and wounded in the Central Hospital at Berlin, and the few Frenchmen, officers, and soldiers who were there were admirably nursed by nuns under the special protection of Queen Augusta. He accompanied me thither several times, and on one occasion I had the honour of greeting the Queen of Prussia, then about to receive the Imperial crown of Germany. Her kind disposition, her benevolence and modesty, left a profound impression upon me. She manifested great interest in the depôts I had already visited, promised her valuable assistance on behalf of the most neglected ones, expressed a strong desire that I should go to Spandau, and promised to use her influence with Monseigneur Namzanowski, almoner-in-chief, in order to remove the initial difficulties which I should find at first in my humble ministry. I spoke to Her Majesty of her daughter, the Grand Duchess of Baden, and the flattering account I gave of her daughter's charitable efforts brought the tears to her eyes."

"In 1863 an international conference met at Geneva, attended by delegates from fourteen different countries. It was decided that committees should be formed in all these countries,

* Music Hall.

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