

guard who, in his human sympathy, brought prisoners extra food:

"But I don't believe in nationalities any more; nationalities are a curse, and as long as we have them the ruling class will play us off, one against the other, to gain their own ends. There is only one race—the human race—and only two divisions of it: there are those who represent money rights and special privileges, and those who stand for human rights. The more you think of it, the more you see the whole fabric of society resolving itself into these two classes. The whole military system is built on the sacrifice of human rights."

I looked at him in astonishment. "Who are you?" I asked.

"I am just a bridge-builder," he answered, "but I'm a follower of Liebknecht. . . . We can't do much until the Prussian system is defeated. There are just a few of us here—the guard who got you the blanket is one of us. We do what we can for prisoners; sometimes we are caught and strafed. . . . There is no place for kindness in our army," he added, sadly.

There are many other passages in "Three Times and Out" that would bear quotation did space permit. Whether or not readers agree with Private Simmons' views on various subjects that are touched upon incidentally in the book, his personality as revealed in this collaboration with Mrs. McClung is an attractive one. For instance, he may not be reckoned orthodox in certain references to the Old Testament, but his comments, as suggested by the war and the Ger-

mans, are arresting. He is certainly not alone in finding difficulty in portions of the record which thrusts the burden of questionable deeds on "the Lord's command." Nor is he alone in the conclusion: "I don't think the Germans have ever got past the Old Testament in their reading."

Space must be found for a reference to the dark-cell punishment. In this, as in other ways, the German authorities tried by cowardly brutality to break the spirits of prisoners who repeatedly sought freedom. It is good to read of such souls as Simmons, who came through, worn out physically, as was inevitable, but sane in mind and undaunted in heart. Many of his comments by the way should be noted by "authorities." These, for instance: "If the authorities in our prisons could once feel the horror of the dark cell when the overwrought nerves bring in the distorted messages, and the whole body writhes in the grip of fear—choking, unreasoning, panicky fear—they would abolish it for ever."

" . . . The starving man is a brute, with no more moral sense than the gutter cat. His mind follows the same track—he wants food. . . .

"Why do our authorities think they can reform a man by throwing him into a dark cell and starving him?"

In his "Conclusion" this writer notes: "There is no doubt that the war was precipitated by the military class in Germany because the people were growing too powerful."

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—D. A. C.