

agrarian rights, is far seeing enough to understand the inevitable result of such an invasion. With the progress of his almost single-handed fight against these enemies of his peace and prosperity, the tale runs on to a startling and dramatic climax. The characters are skillfully drawn and more skillfully handled, and the bits of description of country life—its joys and sorrows are specimens of the author's best work.

Whether or not the reader agrees with commercialism as embodied in the firm of N. and V. Hammster of Paris, or the peaceful solitude of the Vale of Api, he will find much in the book to attract his interest. There is strife and disorder, love and hate.

The "Mighty Friend" is a strong and gripping drama, set off to better advantage by lighter touches of sardonic humor. It is a novel which will interest the individual, the family and the nation.

Benziger Bros., New York, etc., publish this book in a very neat and durable binding, the price being \$1.50 net.

"Why France Lost in 1870."—H. W. Wilson, *The National Review*.

The "why" is simply this: first, a rotten commissariat; second, faulty mobilization; third, a bad management.

A rotten commissariat because the fortresses were badly provisioned, equipped and armed, due in part to the wholesale graft of the army contractors who supplied such valuable commodities as paper soled boots.

Faulty mobilization because of the too frequent assumption that France could put more men on the field than, it developed, she really could. While the French soldiers were being hustled hither and yon like so many sheep, the Germans were ready for action at the front. This demoralized the army before it came in contact with the enemy. Just as a horse knows when it has a nervous and uncertain rider, so an army knows when it is weakly led.

Bad management, because the men in command were incapable, disobedient and disliked by their men. They were undecided and decidedly unfit for the positions they held. The telegrams sent from Metz to Nancy illustrate the hopeless indecision which prevailed:

"Keep all the supplies at Nancy that you have."

"Send to Metz all the supplies you have."

"Send nothing to Metz."

"Consider the last telegram as null; send to Metz all you have."