

guns. It may be doubted whether in all the world's history any stretch of road in any country ever sustained such a traffic as that which flowed to and from Verdun during the early months of last year. The whole might of Germany was concentrated upon the task of breaking down French resistance once and for all, by smashing through this historic French gateway, which was an old stronghold, the students say, when Julius Cæsar walked the earth. Here, France was to be "bled white"—like all the most brutal phrases of the war, the words are those of the Boche writers—while the Crown Prince's vast hordes of men hacked through their road to Paris. Here, Boche guns were massed so thickly as to fill the air with their projectiles, that they might be sure of sweeping away resistance, by obliterating a whole countryside.

Well, they accomplished all that mechanism can accomplish. They shifted whole landscapes. They obliterated villages, so that upon the sites where once they stood I have been unable to find any one whole thing as large as a brick. They slew thousands of brave men; and they sacrificed their own brutally so-called "cannon-fodder" in swathes, in thousands and in tens of thousands. And, so far from bleeding France