

larger than that of the eleven easternmost counties in the province of Ontario? Fancy, for one moment an army of a million men fully equipped for war invading such a country. On all sides are seen highly cultivated fields, while factories and business houses of every description are dotted over the length and breadth of the land, and the people, industrious to a degree, are happy and prosperous. Their cities and towns, among the most attractive in the world, contain priceless treasures of art and learning, many of which could not be replaced. This beautiful land lies in apparent peaceful security, never dreaming of the approach of war's alarms, her hand against no one, none others against her, when suddenly, like a bolt from the blue her great neighbor dashes his armed hosts of war against her in overwhelming numbers, and the happy and contented people of yesterday are driven from their homes and become a mob of outcasts. The roads and highways are crowded with old and decrepit men and women, young girls and children of all ages, driven forward by troops of brutal soldiery. Many are shot or bayoneted for attempting to escape, many faint by the wayside and are left there to die. The sufferings of all these poor creatures are intensified by the shrieks of agony and the wails of anguish which are heard on all sides, as they realize only too clearly that many of their kith and kin are being subjected to a worse fate than even their own. The fortunate ones reach some railway centre, are bundled like cattle into dirty cars and carried off to the borders of Holland or to the coast where they may get a ship for England; expatriated from their own country; indiscriminately separated, husbands from wives, parents from children, friends from friends, and all for what?

To depict truthfully the misery which is now being and has been endured by Belgium one no doubt would have to visit the country, but authenticated reports show that her government is being carried on in another land and that many of her people are wandering in foreign countries, the highest and lowest, looking for work and bread. We know that many of her cities, towns and villages have been destroyed, and that her people who were left behind huddle near the ruins of their shattered homes and live in an abyss of want and woe. Their crops are frequently taken from their fields and sent to Germany while stark hunger and frequently actual starvation stares millions of the people in the face. Yet through it all, it is recorded that few beg and none ask for money, while the sad patience displayed by all classes alike is heartrending.

The martyrdom of Belgium will go down in history as one of the most atrocious crimes ever committed by one country against another. Two instances drawn from widely different sources will bring vividly before your minds the terrible condition of that unfortunate land which a few short months ago contained tens of