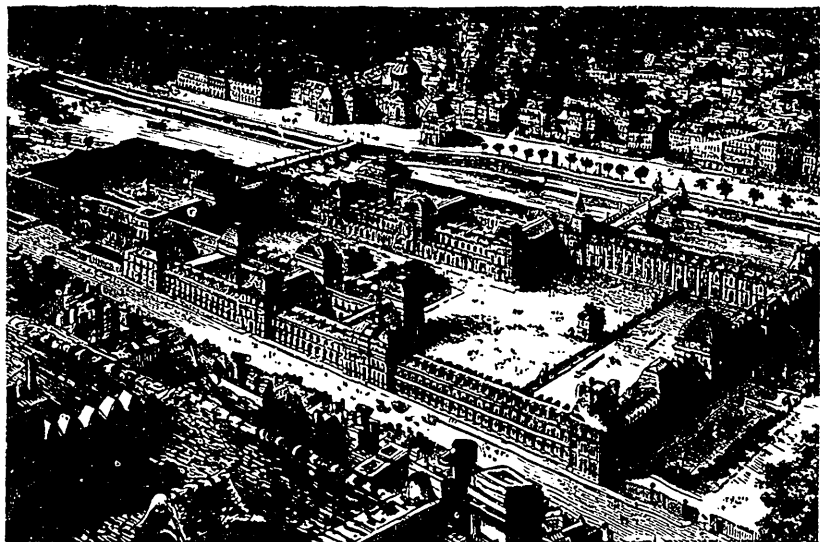


I was surprised on the whole to see so little evidence of the most memorable siege of history. Except a few ruins, there was little to remind one of the dreadful scenes of the Commune or the siege. The Colonne de Vendôme, hurled from its base in detestation of the Imperialism which it commemorates, again rears its majestic form in air; and throughout the gay pleasure-city nearly all trace of its "baptism of fire" has disappeared.

The Tuileries, however, even in their best estate would not compare with the stately architecture of the Louvre, the abode of a long line of sovereigns, and now the home of the immortal



THE TUILERIES AND LOUVRE, PARIS.

works of the mightier sovereigns of art. Its majestic façades, with their sculptured and columned fronts, its noble statuary, its spacious courts, its vast galleries, and its priceless treasures of art, make it almost without a rival in the world.

Several of the old French palaces are surrendered to purposes of trade. One of these, the Palais Royal, is entirely occupied by shops and cafés. It was built by Cardinal Richelieu, and was the palace of Anne of Austria, Louis XIV. and Philip of Orléans. Here were celebrated those disgraceful orgies which helped to bring on the Revolution. It is a vast court adorned with fountains, statuary, trees, and surrounded by the palace buildings.