



The Blowing up of the Old Stone Bridge

"Suddenly, while the bridge was crowded with advancing Germans, a loud roar was heard. The bridges, however, the enemy got across in great force, and the situation was most perilous. The day, points of passage, and during forty-eight hours of grave anxiety they stopped every attempt to cross."

even those like the Lion d'Or which stand not fifty yards away, are wiped out. Over 50,000 high-explosive shells and thousands of gas shells, and, worst of all, of fire-raising shells, were in that time rained upon an area round the cathedral of about three-quarters of a mile by a mile and a half. . . .

"Practically every house is a ruin, and all their contents are burned. Tottering walls, gaping windows, piles of broken bricks and masonry, and charred beams, and twisted ironwork, and broken glass, and crumbling plaster, some of them still mouldering—that is Rheims. This is what the German has left of an old historical French town, which, when war began, numbered 120,000 inhabitants. . . .

"The Germans have had their way. They have made a wilderness. They have scattered far and wide over 100,000 homeless outcasts. Of the cathedral and the Hôtel de Ville they have left only the walls standing, so