

company, for they lay all round in a circle with their feet inwards, each shattered in the head or chest by a piece of shell, and no other dead being within a hundred yards of them. A curious, and to me unaccountable phenomena, was the blackness of most of the faces of the dead. Decomposition had not set in, for they were killed only the day before. Another circumstance which struck me was the expression of agony on many faces. Death by the bayonet is agonising, and those by steel, open-eyed and open-mouthed, have an expression of pain on the features, with protruding tongue. A musket ball that proves at once fatal, does not seem to cause much pain, and the features are composed and quiet, sometimes with a sweet smile on the lips. But the prevailing expression, *on this field*, of the faces that were not much mutilated, was one of terror and of agony unutterable. There must have been a hell of torture within that semi-circle in which the earth was torn asunder from all sides with a real tempest of iron *hissing, and screeching*, and bursting into the heavy masses at the hands of an unseen enemy.

The difficulty of guarding such an unexpected number of half-starved prisoners as had fallen into the hands of the Germans was immense. Seven hundred of them were confined on a peninsula surrounded by the Meuse, the neck of land being commanded by a Prussian gun. Their sufferings from want of food were sad, and the Pasteur of Sedan, having collected what little was to be begged or bought (what could it be among so many ?) took it down to them "You had better drive well into the midst, or you will be pushed into the river," said the German sentry. The carriage was literally stormed, and he was in danger of his life before the distribution was over. Mr. Trench, who also attempted to supply the poor wretches, is loud in his blame of the German authorities ; but it must not be forgotten how suddenly and unexpectedly they were thus called on to feed a second army.

The French had been for four days on the shortest of rations from the bad management of their own commissariat, one day almost without food of any kind ; they were thus thrown entirely upon the provisions of their enemies, who were of course totally unprepared for such an unexpected addition to their mouths. The Germans seem to have done their best, and their own men were stinted till fresh provisions came up. At the beginning of the war there is no doubt that their captives were treated with humanity, and