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## The German U.E. Loyalists of the County of Dundas, Ontario.—Part I.

BY ALEXANDER CLARK CASSELMAN, TORONTO. *A.D. 1900.*

On both banks of the Rhine where it is joined by the Neckar, is a large district about 3,500 square miles in extent, that from the Middle Ages to the beginning of this century was known as the Palatinate, and whose people were called Palatines. Its capital was Heidelberg, and within its borders were the cities of Mayence, Spires, Mannheim and Worms, all names famous in history.

Situated as this Garden of Europe was, near to Wittenburg and Geneva, its inhabitants soon embraced the Reformed faith. Some became followers of Calvin, and some of Luther. The Electors or rulers of the Palatinate for many years were Protestants, but in 1690, the Elector, John William, a devoted adherent of the Roman Church, tried to bring his people back to the old faith.

From its position the Palatinate became both the cause and the theatre of that long war between Louis XIV. of France and nearly the rest of Europe. Louis wished to fulfil the desire and dream of every French ruler,—to make the Rhine the eastern boundary of France. Turenne, Louis' general, laid waste the Palatinate to the west bank of the Rhine. Two Electors, unable to bear such oppression, died of broken hearts. Louis claimed the Palatinate for his brother Philip. The League of Augsburg was formed against him, the soul of the combination being William, Prince of Orange. In this war Louis' generals again overran the Palatinate to chastise its people for receiving kindly the French Protestants who left France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. General Montclas, accordingly, gave the people three days to leave their homes. The villages and towns were burned, the castles and churches destroyed, the ashes of the Emperors in the tombs at Spires were scattered to the winds. Many of the people perished of hunger, but as Macaulay says, "Enough survived to fill the towns of Europe with beggars who had once been prosperous shopkeepers and farmers." The ruins, softened by time, still remain as reminders of Louis' wrath and as a warning to France that a United Germany shall never permit the like to occur again.

This blow, although hard for the Palatines to bear, was really the means of their deliverance. For while Louis was thus seeking a personal vengeance, William had become firmly seated on the throne of England; and thus he brought in opposition to France the power that was to emancipate Europe, destroy the