

A War-Time Journal : Germany, 1914

cannot but admire the glorious spirit of sacrifice and patriotism which animates all classes of the German people. Just what it was in the war of 1813, when women even cut off their hair and sold it to help their country.

August 4th.—Troops are marching through the streets and leaving for the Front all day long. The ladies of Altheim go to the station as the trains pass through, and give the soldiers coffee, chocolate, cigars, and zwiebacks. They get much gratitude, and the men say (poor deluded mortals) : “ Wir kriegen für Sie ” (We fight for you). I saw poor Frau G—— (my doctor's wife) to-day. She was quite calm, but looked miserable. Her eldest son, Dr. T——, left for the front this morning. I sympathised, and she said, choking back a sob : “ Man gibt das beste für das Vaterland ” (one gives one's best for the Fatherland). No letters come, nor papers ; and we are only allowed to send post-cards written in German.

August 5th.—Our baker has gone to the war, and Dr. G——'s butler ; the schools have shut up, so many masters having been called upon to fight.