

INTRODUCTORY

village relates, some of the older inhabitants declined to flee before the on-coming Germans, because, as they said, "We shall be perfectly safe. The Germans won't hurt us. We *know*, because we have been through this before." All the evidence available seems to indicate that the German army of 1914 was much more inhuman than that of 1870. But there is also reason for believing that the German army of 1870 was more cruel and brutal than any other European army of that period. It has been said, moreover, that not only has the German army of 1914 been more cruel than that of 1870, but that for wanton wickedness and calculated bestiality the army of 1914 has excelled anything known in European warfare for a century or two. The progress of humanity since 1870 has had no effect for good upon the German army. On the contrary, both German army and people seem to have become more brutal and diabolical than before. Some sinister influence has apparently brought about a very pronounced and unmistakable decline in German national morality.