

build their nests in the mouths of the overturned and rusty cannon, are all evidence of the long reign of an unbroken peace. *Esto perpetua*—so may it ever be.

A few words in conclusion as to the construction of this story of the war. The historical statements here given have been carefully verified by the consultation of the best published authorities, and by personal researches on the scene of the conflict, and frequent conversations with surviving actors in the stirring events which then took place. In portraying the minor characters, filling up details and reported conversations, some license had to be given the imagination. In this connection I may adopt the language of the distinguished philosopher, Isaac Taylor, author of "Aids to Faith," with reference to a somewhat similar work of imagination of his own: "Let me say, and I say it in candour—that if, in a dramatic sense, I report conversations uttered longer ago than the battle of Waterloo, it is the dramatic import only of such conversations I vouch for, not the *ipsissima verba*; and likewise as to the descriptions I give. I must be understood to describe things in an artistic sense, not as if I were giving evidence in a court of justice."

And now my task is ended. Much of this simple story has been written hastily, amid the