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### Something of Berlin

By Gertrude E. Mallette

Walking through Berlin's far-famed Unter den Linden for the first time, one is always impressed with the magnificence of the German capital, that booty for which more than one nation today is crouched to spring. At the western extremity of the thoroughfare stands the stately Brandenburg Gate, an imitation of the Propylae at Athens, which is surmounted by the car of victory so loved by all the Germans. This particular piece of bronze has been several times the prize of victory, Napoleon carried it off to Paris in 1807 and Victorious Germany carried it back on the last day of March in 1814, just seven years after its capture, when Blucher led his forces into the capital of the defeated Napoleon.

From this point the broad avenue extends toward the east with two fine rows of lime trees in the middle, from which it derives its name. On each side rise the palaces, dwellings and hotels, and at the cross streets one gets a glimpse of the long lines of glittering shops spreading away as far as the eye can see. At the western end of the avenue stands Rauch's great equestrian statue of Frederick, which is regarded as the finest monument in Europe. To the right is the plain palace of the Emperor, and back of it the Royal Library. Again, to the left, one sees the academy and university buildings. And then, before one stretches out a long "square" and the view is terminated in every direction by numerous statues of warriors and palaces and public buildings. Critics have found fault with the details, but every stranger is impressed by the magnificence of the combined effect, and everyone acknowledges Berlin a worthy head of the Empire.

As one advances further and crosses the bridge over the River Spree, likewise adorned with statues, he sees upon the right the old royal palace with the grand colonnade of the museum upon the left. Here again statues of famous generals rise in every direction, for this is the Walhalla of a military nation, and where one finds one monument to a private in the rank of fame, he meets a dozen reared to soldiers. Lessing and Kant may claim a place on the pedestal of the statue of Frederick the Great, but their spot is at the rear.

Berlin University, one of the leaders of the world's educational institutions, is established in the former palace of Prince Henry, brother of Frederick the Great, which was presented to the University in 1809 by Frederick William III. The main building consists of three wings, which form three sides of a rectangular court, leaving the fourth side open toward the street. Perhaps no other city in Europe so soon convinces an American of the real worth of our boon of freedom of moving around as does Berlin, in the capital of the German Empire is without doubt the most police ridden of the continental cities, and one is compelled to exhibit his passport even in order to glance through the books in the public library.

One wonders what the ravaging hand of war may wreak as Berlin lifts her head today the target of the Allies, and who knows but the historic bronze of Brandenburg may once more be snatched from its lofty pedestal the taunting prize of war?

### RUBBER FOOTWEAR COST NOT TO BE RAISED

Officials of the United States Rubber Company have decided after much consideration not to make any immediate advance in the price of rubber boots and shoes. With the price of crude rubber doubling in less than a month and with tire prices up to 15 to 20 per cent all around, it would seem as if the big rubber company had a plausible argument to put up prices. This is particularly the case as the company cut prices the first of the year by 1 1/2 cents due to lower quotations for crude rubber.

But the rubber company has taken the broad position that it is not justified in view of the artificial conditions which have boosted rubber in taking advantage of its customers' necessities. The rubber company has a three months' and perhaps slightly longer supply of crude rubber on hand. It will keep on with the present price schedule.

If the commerce of the world is kept off the high seas and if the foreign exchange market continues closed, rubber is likely to rule at \$1 or even more.

If such conditions rule for three months then would be the time, when United States Rubber would advance footwear prices and would be obliged to look to Para for its stocks. The alternative would be the acquisition of a neutral or best of all an American vessel to go to the east and bring home a big rubber cargo.

The difficulty with Brazil as a rubber producer, is that it is constantly dropping in its output. In 1913 the production was 39,000 tons. This year the most optimistic do not go above 35,000 tons and some go as low as 30,000 tons. Less than 33 per cent will come from Brazil compared with 60 per cent to 70 per cent three or four years ago.

The United States Rubber has reopened its footwear factories, which have been shut down for the summer vacation, and running nearly full in this department.

Prices of mechanical goods have not been advanced. The same price policy will prevail here as with boots and shoes.

### "ERIN GO BRAGH"

Nothing has so strikingly demonstrated "the call of the blood" that cements the various parts of the British empire as the response of all parties in Ireland to the summons to the Union Jack. Mr. Redmond's speech declaring that Nationalist and Ulsterman would fight shoulder to shoulder in Britain's cause evoked the most remarkable outburst of emotion ever witnessed in the house of commons. It was at once seen to be the deathblow to German diplomacy and Germanic intrigue. It has been the burial-ground of the civil war that seemed inevitable, and has proved a triumphant vindication of Irishmen's stern sense of responsibility and unflinching loyalty to the crown. Nationalist has since joined the Ulsterman in marching together through the streets of Dublin to serve the empire, which Unionist and home ruler have proved equally proud and eager to serve. Ireland has, in short, given splendid evidence of her loyalty of heart and ability to govern herself in complete harmony with imperial interests.

The best laid schemes of men and politicians "gang aft agley." So the well-laid plans of the Kaiser were fated to miscarry at their birth. It is an open secret that the German government had reckoned upon the outbreak of war setting light to the torch of civil war in Ireland. Though Germany and its ambitious ally had allowed for most eventualities, they overlooked three things: The bravery of the Belgians, the integrity of Great Britain, and the intense patriotism of the Irish people.

Much of the glowing patriotism of the United States owes its inspiration to those of Irish blood. Not even our own nation has a more passionate love of country than the Irish. Only those among us who were born or who have lived in Ireland can know the intensity of the national spirit, which for more than twenty centuries of repression from within and oppression from without has burned unquenchable with the pure fire of a patriotism and a pride of race that transcend the passion of the Pole or the supreme self-sacrifice of the sons of Nippon. Thus has the German war lord been the means of stopping the internecine strife in Ireland to stir the blood-tie of that dauntless nation to whom patriotism is a religion, and whose country is alike to Protestant and Catholic a common mother. Thus is it that the Kaiser is faced by such a trinity of British "war lords" as Kitchenier, French and O'Callaghan—the three Irishmen to whom has been given the supreme command of the forces of the British empire by land and sea.—Seattle Post Intelligencer.

### CANADA COURTS TO CONTROL PRICES

OTTAWA, Sept. 12.—A law for the control of the prices of fuel and all necessities will be enacted by the Canadian Parliament next week. The government will make a law by which the prices charged by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers may be reviewed by a judge, and if it is found that advantage has been taken of conditions, prices may be reduced by court order.

### AMERICANS TO MAKE NECESSITIES AT HOME

NEW YORK, Sept. 12.—It is rumored that a New York \$100,000,000 syndicate may be formed to produce necessities heretofore made abroad but that are not being imported in sufficient quantities.

### WAR DEVELOPS AN AMERICAN POET

One of the compensations of the development of an American poet heretofore unknown to fame. B. F. Griffin, for 15 years news editor and editorial writer on the Boston News-Bureau, one of the leading financial journals of the United States, through his two poems, "If" and "Our Losses," has attracted the attention of literary America to him.

It was sometime after "If" was printed in modest manner in the magazine page of the Boston News-Bureau before the author's identity was discovered, though the poem, which was not copyrighted, made an instantaneous hit, and was reproduced by the New York Evening Post and other publications.

Immediately the Boston News-Bureau was besieged by inquiries as to the author of the poem, but Mr. Griffin modestly forbade the gratification of the desire for the information.

However, finally the paper, refusing to be dictated by an associate editor longer, published the following:

"Such complimentary notes have been received by the Boston News-Bureau concerning the poem first published in its magazine page on August 1, entitled 'If' and signed 'Boston News-Bureau Post,' that it seems becoming now to say that the Boston News-Bureau Post is and has always been Bartholomew F. Griffin, to whom for 15 years the readers of the Boston News-Bureau have been indebted for a large part of the mastery, condensation and accuracy of the Boston News-Bureau Bulletin which are the foundation of the paper.

"Mr. Griffin put himself through Harvard, dropped into the Boston News-Bureau after graduation, and has refused ever since to budge from the news desk, although the governor has wanted him for public office and his employers have tried to push him into the street. He can write the most beautiful four pages of English to resist and to explain that his work at the ends of the wires and cables, receiving with one hand the news of the world and passing out with the other hand the viced and proof corrected bulletins, is quite as important as meeting face to face the men of financial affairs.

"For recreation he writes poetry, makes up the magazine page, the major part of the best editorials and devotes himself to his home. This is one of the few articles that he is not invited to pass upon or correct."

Richard Underwood Johnson, former editor of the Century, who, writing of "If" said:

"You would send to a public service if you would send it to the whole American press. It has the war question in a nutshell and is, moreover, admirably written from a poetic point of view."

Elbert Hubbard says of "If": "It is the biggest and best thing in a literary way America has produced in a decade. I am going to pass it along."

Francis G. Peabody, professor of theology at Harvard University, writing to the author, says:

"Will you allow me to express to you something of the satisfaction and gratitude I feel in reading your noble poem reprinted in the New York Evening Post from the Boston News-Bureau? It is a most appealing and adequate expression of the fundamental emotion with which one must regard the present crisis. The English poets, Bridges, Kipling, Austin and Noys, have all tried to meet the need and all have lamentably failed. I am proud not only that an American, but that a Harvard man, should have risen to the occasion."

The two poems that have brought fame to Mr. Griffin follow:

### "IF"

Suppose 'twere done!  
The landyard pulled on every shotted gun;  
Into the wheeling death-clutch sent  
Each millioned armament,  
To grapple there  
On land, on sea and under, and in air!  
Suppose at last 'twere come—  
Now, while each house and shop and mill  
is dumb!  
And arsenals and dockyards hum,—  
Now all complete, supreme,  
That vast, Satanic dream!

Each field were trampled, soaked,  
Each steam dyed, choked,  
Each leaguered city and blockaded port  
Made famine's sport;  
The empty wave  
Made reeling dreadnought's grave;  
Cathedral, castle, gallery, smoking fell  
'Nomb and shell;  
In deathlike trance  
Lay industry, finance;  
Two thousand years'  
Bequest, achievement, saving, disappear  
In blood and tears,  
In widowed woe  
That slum and palace equal know,  
In civilization's suicide,—  
What served thereby, what satisfied?  
For justice, freedom, right, what wrought?  
Naught!

Save, after the great cataclysm, perchance  
On the world's shaken map  
New lines, more near or far,  
Binding to king or ear  
In festering hate  
Some newly vassal state;  
And passion, lust and pride made satiate;  
And just a trace  
Of lingering smile on Satan's face!

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### PAUL MAUSER IS AMONG RECENT DEAD

In the person of Paul Mauser there passed away recently one of the best known inventors of modern times. Like his contemporary, the Irish school master John Holland, the inventor of the submarine, Paul Mauser was a noble and modest personality, a self-made man, who rose from simple conditions to the highest rung of the ladder of fame. In spite of many reverses and disappointments the persevering Mauser inventor patiently improved his gun inventions until success crowned his efforts, and the Mauser rifle was introduced in most armies of the world. Though his biography is a history of modern industries in Germany, Mauser ever remained to his last day the modest, light-hearted son of the Black Forest. Success did not make him proud; for over 60 years he belonged to the choir in his native parish, and during the past ten years contributed in various ways to the progress of Church music after the heart of Pope Pius X. Judging from his peaceful dispositions his invention was doubtless intended by him as a deterrent of bloody warfare; could he have foreseen the ravages that his murderous instrument would create in the present war, in all likelihood he would never have divulged the secret of his inventive genius.

He died a few days before the present war was declared.

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### GOVERNMENT STOPS SHIPS FROM USING WIRELESS

BOSTON, Sept. 12.—Wireless apparatus on 12 foreign ships in Boston harbor has been put out of commission by the government, either by dismantling or sealing wireless room.