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Notice is hereby given that I will be at my office at John H. Carr, 28 Union Square, in this town, on the fourth Saturday of each month for the transaction of business connected with the duties of Trustee.

JAMES H. CARR,

Trustee Jordan Township.

SIMON P. THOMPSON, DAVID J. THOMPSON.

Attorney at Law. Notary Public.

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Shop located opposite the public square.

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JAMES W. DOUTHIT,

LAWYER,

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

## ACROSS THE DEEP.

Entertaining Account of the Feast Day of Sedan.

JENA, GERMANY.  
September 5, 1893.

[Concluded.]

But ere this, the procession was passed from view and only the triumphant strains of Sedan linger in the city below, before they are borne down the vale of the Saale to mingle with the strains of innumerable villages or creep slowly up the hill sides and spread over dale and forest beyond. But the banner still remained and joyously waved their bright colors to gladden the heart of the German as well as the visitor. A celebration of the nature of the 4th of July can not be justly appreciated from a four story window. One must be a part of the crowd to enter in its sympathy. In fact I longed for an American banner that it might speak of a different unity than that of the German.

As I have said the *Festtag* of Sedan is principally for the purpose of instilling the lessons of patriotism in the hearts of the young as well as to keep alive the bivouacs of Metz and September 2nd. I perceived that every boy was decorated in a sash of national colors and bore in his hand a banner. The girls in all fashions from 16 years and under, till in some cases the mothers were compelled to go along and assist, or given in the charge of her numerous older sisters. The crowd was drifting toward Paradise street and so I. But I had not gone far when Jena's band struck up the old familiar "Yankee Doodle" of Germany, and like the other small boys I had a longing desire to see what developments were taking place just around the corner. I went, I saw, and I was astonished. By a combination of English and German I asked what it meant and was informed in lightning words that it was the children—a wonderful revelation in the way of reply, for I had already observed the myriad numbers. A second attempt brought forth the fact that it was the school children in procession. A comfortable position was selected, for I knew the seige would be long. Now for the procession: First, of course, as triumphant as Bismarck himself, our friend, the musical director of Jena and his co-laborers, then a squad of soldiers bearing the imperial flag and coat of arms. The girls came next—small girls, large girls, ugly girls—not many pretty ones. Israel in the seven colors, crowned with wreaths of evergreen: some with arms bare and on that cool morning were purple with cold. But still they come—five in a row: at their head their teachers—all men. The women are not supposed here to be capable of such capacities. The girls were so alarming in numbers that I proposed to count the boys, but when should they come! I began to reflect and question where all these children came from. Did they rain down? Could they come from Jena—a city of only 18,000? I knew from their appearance that only the poorer classes were in the procession and must make some allowance for the "stay at homes." I thought to myself, may some superior power have mercy on America! May our people awaken to the fact that we have long enough been the place where the effete societies of Europe have emptied their surplus population! But the boys! They come in fives and sixes until it becomes almost impossible to count them. A practiced shepherd or cattle man is necessary. After an endless wait they are passed and on the least calculation there were two thousand! All under 16 years. Crops are almost a failure here this year and board will surely be high. Will leave here soon. After the principal streets had been honored by the presence of the children and many a mother's heart had been gladdened. The procession was broken up into convenient squads and taken to appointed places to engage in further patriotic effusions. Now comes something which the reader of these rambling remarks (if he has had the patience to read thus far) can not understand. An American at home can well understand the significance of a procession of school children, but he can not understand the propriety of giving to each child a glass of beer on such occasions as a reward of deserving merit. This is exactly what was done on this occasion and in this connection I will only add that to disassociate a German from his beer would

be as great a mistake as to think of fish aside from water. Beer is pre-eminently the national drink of Germany. But with every regard for the patience of both editor and reader the *Festtag* of Sedan is not ended. The children come together again in the afternoon and listen to patriotic speeches from teachers.

In the evening it was rumored that there would be a public feast at the theater. So we repaired there early to be ready for all developments. We were ushered into a medium sized room, which was well supplied with tables. Already the crowd had gathered in goodly numbers and were grouped in selected circles around the tables, with the ever present glass of beer, engaged in conversation. This was a much better class of citizens than we had met earlier in the day. It was not difficult to observe that a person who celebrated with a German must do it with his national weapon—beer, and I have learned in my little experience in traveling that there is a pungent truth in that old saying that "When you are in Rome you must do as the Romans do." That is the first requisite to genial and comfortable traveling. The hour of nine brought forth music from our Jena band, but this time in the role of an orchestra. Our drum major of the day was now a full fledged leader of Jena's best musical organization, and quick and nervous were the movements of his staff as he led his followers into the intricacies of the German music. At the end of the main table sat what we would call the mayor of the city—a person whose physical condition would indicate that he has performed his part toward the consumption of Germany's principal staple. On either side sat professors of the University of Jena, ladies and the several ministers of the city—all with their beer. It is always best to be in good company. This was Jena's best. To complete this were the teachers of the city, numerous students of the University and the best citizens of the town. The rest of the company was not only cosmopolitan in country but also in taste. It was composed of Japanese, Englishmen and some seven Americans. At the end of the music the Burgomaster opened the speech making part of the program, by a powerful harangue on the virtues of the *Sedan-fest* and that it was not a day of boast, but not only to keep alive the thoughts of patriotism, but to commemorate the deeds on the battle field of Sedan and to sing of the deeds of valor which have united Germany as one nation. He ended suddenly in the proposal of a drink to the Kaiser, Wilhem III. Hardly were the words spoken when three hundred persons were on their feet and three hundred glasses of Jena's sparkling lager were seen above their heads. It was entirely unexpected to me, because it takes some time at present to get the full force of a German sentence. But I will remember that one as long as memory abides in her seat. The movement of the audience was so spontaneous and full of nervous action that the reflex on me fairly made my hair stand on my head. It was a veritable explosion of that subtle power which we call human force. Three times the glasses were raised, while the voice lent its aid in the health to the young Kaiser. Then over the room the click of glasses could be heard as a group of friends specialized in common drink. The next speaker was one of the ministers of the city and after he had given his latest generalization on the principles of brotherly love he proposed the health of the Kaiser. Coming from the minister of the gospel our consciences were not so suddenly disturbed as before. But I suggested that if the speech making was to continue long it might be wise to go home. But two more speeches followed, one for the schools and the other for the German *Franen*. Between these were interspersed what were called *Sedan songs*. These every German knows and the one very strong feature of the German, when he sings, is that he sings with his whole soul and with every effort of his lung power. There is more real force in one verse of a German national hymn than in a whole song of our own. This evening he sang, "Deutschland, Deutschland ueber Alles, Ueber Alles in der Welt." One felt that if the German manner of singing was any indication of their true power, there was truth in the lines. The next song was one of tremendous force. The first

line asks the question: "What is it that composes the German fatherland," and then asks if it is Prussia, Tyrol and all the various German states, and ends with a climax of power and force in the two lines:

"O nein, nein, nein!  
Sein Vaterland must groeser sein."

One peculiar thing about a German banquet is that the company is not permanent but is continually going and coming. As we went to our rooms, on every side could be heard the voices from the gardens as the people still persisted in showing the proper regard for the day. We had concluded that the festivities were over and as the next day was Sunday it would be in order for us to hear the minister with whom we had celebrated the previous evening. As we went out into the streets we heard once more our favorite band. The dark and dingy houses had sent their children out for fresh air and to church. It was the school children—only two thousand. They must attend services where a sermon touching the occasion was to be delivered. On either side of the alter stood persons holding the national banners and various emblems.

We took a walk to a neighboring village in the afternoon and they were still celebrating. So ends the festivities of Sedan.

The occasion in significance corresponds to our Decoration Day, as the graves of the soldiers are decorated, but in type of celebration it is more in sympathy with our Fourth of July, with the elimination of the fire cracker and the presence of beer instead of whiskey. In both these respects the German certainly has the better of the bargain. These festivities have little sympathy from the French who look upon them as a national boast, whereas they are really commemorative of her sacrifices and have back of them no malice. France will never forget the national humiliation that followed the defeat of Metz and Sedan and the unity of Germany that resulted from it is necessary to the preservation of the peace in Europe.

S. E. SPARLING.

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E. M. FORD.

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