

**NOBLE BLOOD: A  
PRUSSIAN CADET STORY. A  
WEST POINT PARALLEL AN  
AMERICAN CADET STORY**

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Noble Blood: A Prussian Cadet Story. A West Point Parallel An American Cadet Story by  
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**ERNST VON WILDENBRUCH & CHARLES KING**

**NOBLE BLOOD: A  
PRUSSIAN CADET STORY. A  
WEST POINT PARALLEL AN  
AMERICAN CADET STORY**



# **NOBLE BLOOD**

**A Prussian Cadet Story**

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF  
**ERNST VON WILDENBRÜCH**  
OF THE GERMAN ARMY

BY

**Charles King, U. S. Army and Anne Williston Ward**

AND

## **A West Point Parallel**

**An American Cadet Story**

BY

**GENERAL CHARLES KING, U. S. A.**

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**THE HOBART COMPANY;**

**New York City.**

# NOBLE BLOOD

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF  
ERNST VON WILDENBRÜCH  
OF THE GERMAN ARMY

BY  
CAPTAIN CHARLES KING, U. S. A.  
AND  
ANNE WILLISTON WARD

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## INTRODUCTION.

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Few stories of cadet or student life have impressed me as did "Das Edle Blut." Told so simply—so naturally—as to read like a stenographic report of the old colonel's own language, it is so strong a word-picture of German cadet life, so true to human nature and so touching in its pathetic close, that I could not resist the desire to place it before American readers of soldier tales. The permission of the author having been graciously given, the translation has therefore been made, and



while all stories must lose in translation, it is hoped that among our youth its manly lesson may not be lost.

That I should venture to add to it a cadet story of our own is indeed hazardous, but I tell it because certain of its incidents were instantly recalled by the glowing pages of Ernst von Wildenbrüch, the gifted author of "Das Edle Blut."

CHARLES KING,  
*Captain U. S. Army.*

*Steamer Kaiser Wilhelm II.,  
North German Lloyds,  
Nearing Naples, December 18, 1896.*

## NOBLE BLOOD.

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I WONDER if there really can be in this world people who are utterly devoid of curiosity; people who are capable of passing by a person whom they see gazing intently at some unknown object, without experiencing the least desire to pause, follow the direction of the other's eyes, and find out what so mysteriously attracts his attention.

I, for my part, should any one ask me whether I belonged to that strong-minded class of human beings could scarcely answer "Yes" with a

clear conscience ; for there was once, long since, an occasion on which I not only experienced that itch of curiosity, but ignominiously succumbed to it, and did as every other inquisitive person would have done under the circumstances.

The event to which I refer took place one summer afternoon in an inn of the old town in which I followed the profession of the law.

The room in which we sat was on a level with the great square outside, of which its windows commanded a full view.

At this hour of the day it was usually almost deserted, a state of things very agreeable to me, as I have always been a friend of solitude.