THE PAN-GERMANIC CRIME: IMPRESSIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN BELGIUM DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

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The pan-Germanic crime: impressions and investigations in Belgium during the German occupation by Paul van Houtte

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PAUL VAN HOUTTE

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THE PAN-GERMANIC CRIME

"No society of civilised States is possible without honesty and regard for international treaties. Belgium has proved this bravely; and, despite her devastated cities, her sacrificed offspring and her scattered people, she is still proving it upon the battlefield in Flanders. For this she will be great among the nations for evermore."

Le Temps, Paris, November 17th, 1914.

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PAUL VAN HOUTTE

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PREFACE

THE object of this pamphlet is to make a contribution to the history of the crime. Its contents are not personal judgments nor theories more or less open to question, but precise, authentic documentary evidence. Apart from certain quotations or facts anterior to the month of August, 1914, which are already recorded in history, what I put forward consists of events which I myself saw during the first months of the German occupation, or of which the story has been told to me by sober and trustworthy witnesses, who lived in the midst of what they describe and had before their eyes the atrocities narrated by them. The reasons which have compelled me, for the present, to suppress my informants' names will easily be understood. As soon as it shall be possible I will bring out a second edition of the book, in which the initials shall be replaced by the actual names and particulars shall be given about the persons who kindly consented to send me the results of their enquiries and researches.

P. VAN H.



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