

**WHEN THE PRUSSIANS CAME TO
POLAND; THE EXPERIENCES OF
AN AMERICAN WOMAN DURING
THE GERMAN INVASION**

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When the Prussians Came to Poland; The Experiences of an American Woman During the German Invasion by Laura de Gozdawa Turczynowicz

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LAURA DE GOZDAWA TURCZYNOWICZ

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Wanda Jolanda

Stanislaw Piotr Wladislaw Pawel

The Author and her Children in America after their Escape from Poland

10.8.11

When the Prussians Came to Poland

The Experiences of an American Woman
during the German Invasion

By

Laura de Gozdawa Turczynowicz

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To

MY SONS

WHEN THEY SHALL HAVE REACHED MANHOOD.

INTRODUCTION

I HAVE written our story because so many people have asked me to. Also, in the hope of helping Poland. She is worthy of help, martyred, devastated, trodden under the Prussian boot as she is!

The wife of a gallant Pole now serving humanity with the Russian Army as inspector-in-chief of the Sanitary Engineers, and the mother of two sons, to say nothing of a dear little daughter, I have the cause of Poland at heart! Much pressure has been brought to bear upon me, that I should advocate the sending of food into Poland. I cannot, in the light of my own experiences do so. Under the existing circumstances I know it would not be the Poles who would eat the bread sent them!

After the war is over, those still alive, the fittest who survive, will need quick and generous help from America—seeds to plant their fields, implements to use in cultivating them. Before the

war my husband worked so hard to help the peasants; to educate them, to teach them how to get the most out of their bits of land. How often I have driven with him away off to some tiny village, where the people would be gathered in the school, to hear how to plant their fields, their good kind faces weather-beaten, and showing the difficulty of their struggle with nature!

In Suwalki there was a Polish club, an agricultural society, with a fine building, where agricultural machines might be rented, or people helped in buying. Noble and peasant could borrow money to improve their land. How painful it was to see those machines dragged off to East Prussia, knowing the effort it had cost to get them!

Poland was in a wonderful state of evolution just before the war broke out. Surely it is only hindered, not stopped!

As a New York girl, I am afraid I knew very little about agriculture, but from the frequent journeys with my husband, and hearing his lectures as a Professor of the old Polish University in Cracow, I learned a little, and to love the peasants, as he did. It was a different life I



Madame Laura de Gozdawa Turczynowicz
(née Blackwell)

From a photograph by Newman, New York