

**ANNA, COUNTESS ZU
STOLBERG
WERNIGERODE, A STORY
OF OUR OWN TIMES**

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Anna, Countess zu Stolberg Wernigerode, a story of our own times by Arnold Wellmer

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ARNOLD WELLMER

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COUNTESS ZU STOLBERG WERNIGERODE

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Anna, Countess of Stolberg-
Wernigerode

ANNA

COUNTESS ZU STOLBERG WERNIGERODE

LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF "BETHANY" DEACONESS HOUSE, AT BERLIN

A Story of Our Own Times

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF ARNOLD WEILNER

By D. M. P.

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CHAPTER I.

THE ADMISSION.

OUT yonder in the Köpnicker fields, to the east of Berlin, surrounded by pleasant gardens and wide lawns, there stands a stately building with high tower, and wide-spreading, airy wings—the hospital and deaconess house of Bethany.

This house of mercy, which is used for nursing the sick, and for training young women to minister efficiently to the sick bodies and souls of their poor brethren, was one of the earliest erections of that large-hearted king, Frederick William IV. of Prussia.

There were deaconesses in the very earliest ages of the Christian Church, who, as handmaidens of the Lord, were responsible for the care of the sick and the poor in the congregations; and we find the title applied by St. Paul to Phœbe, who had proved herself to be indeed a true servant or deaconess of "the church which was at Cenchrea." In the course of centuries, and owing to the decline of Christianity, the office became universally ignored. Suddenly, in the loving heart of a single pastor, in a poor little town on the Rhine, there arose a burning desire to renew it, and God gave this solitary man (uninfluential though he was) power for the work. In 1836, Pastor Fliedner was enabled to open his modest deaconess house at Kaiserswerth—a mere seed of corn, but one planted in God's own fruitful soil!

The Crown Prince of Prussia, Frederick