

**IN LUXEMBURG  
IN WAR TIME**

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In Luxemburg in war time by Francis Gribble

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**FRANCIS GRIBBLE**

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THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBURG.

# IN LUXEMBURG IN WAR TIME

BY

FRANCIS GRIBBLE

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## PREFACE

THE full history of the German occupation of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg will doubtless be written, before long, by some one who knows more about it than I had the opportunity of finding out. It will be unpleasant reading for the Germans, though it will not bear the same resemblance to the Newgate Calendar as the faithful chronicle of their proceedings in Belgium, and the north of France. Murder and arson, unless they are yet to come, will not figure in it ; but there will be a dark picture of the arrogance of a bully who found no adequate excuse for brutality. The Germans did not mind being called arrogant in the days when they were prosperous—the use of the epithet then seemed to them a jaundiced tribute to their superiority ; but the unimpeachable demonstration that, at their best, they were underbred intruders in polite circles, will make a very different impression on them, after they have been put in their proper place.

Whether they will then protest against their punishment, or apologise for the shortcomings

## PREFACE

of their character remains to be seen. Most likely they will split up into contentious groups,—each group loudly accusing some other group of having got the country into trouble by its “want of tact.” For tact, strange as it may seem, is a quality in which some Germans do already perceive other Germans to be lacking. The perception dawned upon them when they observed neutral peoples rejoicing over their reverses ; and, Germans being what they are, it is quite likely that Societies for the Cultivation of Tact in Germany will be as numerous in the future as Societies for the Promotion of German Trade or the Preservation of the German Language have been in the past.

Such Societies might, at any rate, find an extensive field of usefulness. Tact, in the past, has existed in Germany—in German political circles, at all events—mainly in the form of low cunning ; and, even in that shape, it has been a failure, thanks to the spiritual pride of certain German crusaders, whose ambitions outran the hypocrisy of the statesmen, and impelled them to boast before putting their harness on. They felt, perhaps, that national crimes could only be justified by a national system of philosophy. So they worked out a suitable philosophy, and preached it, thereby, as it were, raising to the rank of prophet the Oxford Don who, long ago, looked forward to the day when we should see