

**THE CHAPLAIN IN THE FIELD OF WAR:  
BEING THE EXPERIENCES OF THE CLERICAL  
STAFF DURING THE PRUSSIAN CAMPAIGN  
OF 1866, CONDENSED FROM THE  
OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE REV. B. ROGGE,  
CHAPLAIN TO THE PRUSSIAN COURT**

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**GEORGE GLADSTONE**

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EXPERIENCES OF THE CLERICAL STAFF DURING THE  
PRUSSIAN CAMPAIGN OF 1866.

*Condensed from the Official Report of the Rev. B. Rogge,  
Chaplain to the Prussian Court.*

BY  
GEORGE GLADSTONE, F.R.G.S.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following pages were prepared for the press before the outbreak of the war between France and Germany, which has already devastated many of the fairest lands of the Continent, and carried mourning and lamentation into many hundreds—nay, even thousands of families. The original intention of the Author was to have made a simple translation of the work, published in Berlin, by the Rev. B. Rogge, under the title of “Die Evangelischen Geistlichen im Feldzuge von 1866,” which he prepared, at the request of the Chaplain-General of the Forces, from the official reports sent in to the Prussian Government at the close of that war. It contained, however, an amount of detail which would scarcely have been of interest to English readers, and the result is that the work appears in an abbreviated and somewhat altered form, though still substantially that of the Rev. B. Rogge.

The facts are therefore officially vouched, and the whole tone of the original writer has been so strictly adhered to in the translation, that the Author feels no hesitation in availing himself of some extracts from a letter of Chaplain-General Thiele, to a brother clergyman in the English army, the Rev. Francis Cannon, who has kindly placed the letter at his service. He says: "This work is written with much warmth and spirit, with a truly Protestant tone; and is well adapted not only to inform the readers as to the Christian arrangements in the army, but also to give them an insight into the life and feeling of the soldiery, and to convince them that faith and piety was, by the grace of God, awake in them, and really contributed to these grand successes. Several distinguished individuals who were at the seat of war have testified, from their personal experience, how truly and conscientiously the field chaplains performed their duty, and have expressed to me their pleasure in bearing such testimony. I anticipate, therefore, that the account of the labours of these chaplains will be all the more interesting to you. In several quarters the wish has been expressed that this work should be translated into English; and I presume that not a few of your countrymen, especially officers, who take a lively interest in



“the building up of the kingdom of God within the army, would rejoice at seeing it appear. I cannot but approve of this view, and hope that the spreading of this work amongst the soldiers of your country will not remain without a blessing.”

The Rev. Francis Cannon, whose encouragement the Author desires gratefully to acknowledge, fully endorses the opinion of the work thus expressed by the Prussian Chaplain-General, and had time permitted would have added some words of his own, in order to commend the volume to the attention of those more particularly connected with the British army.

Under present circumstances, however, it has appeared desirable not to postpone, even for a single day, the issue of the work to the public, believing that it will not only prove a useful companion to, and afford a deeper insight into, the reports of passing events which are daily presented by the periodical press, but that it may also serve a most important purpose in stirring up the public to still greater efforts than have yet been made for the relief of the sufferers in the present fearful war.

Some of the scenes on the field of slaughter and in the hospitals, which are presented in the following pages, are sad enough; but they will sink almost into insignificance in comparison with what now

exists in almost every town and village between Wissembourg and Metz. Were peace to be made between the belligerents to-morrow, the ministry of mercy to the sick and wounded must be continued; and how much may be needed by the tens of thousands of such sufferers, both in the shape of bodily care and spiritual consolation, may, the Author fervently hopes, be better appreciated by a perusal of this volume.

CLAPHAM COMMON,  
*August, 1870.*

## CONTENTS.

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CHAPTER I.		PAGE
THE ORGANISATION . . . . .		1
CHAPTER II.		
THE OUTFIT . . . . .		16
CHAPTER III.		
PUBLIC WORSHIP . . . . .		32
CHAPTER IV.		
PREACHING IN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES . . . . .		50
CHAPTER V.		
MORE FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITIES OF PREACHING . . . . .		68
CHAPTER VI.		
THE LORD'S SUPPER . . . . .		99