

THE HESSIANS.

Wilhelm V., of Hesse-Cassel, fought on the side of Sweden during the thirty-years' war, for which he was put under the ban of the empire. The successors of Wilhelm V. pursued the practice he had begun of hiring out Hessian soldiers to fight in the service of foreign Princes, a practice by which the finances of the State were considerably augmented at the expense of the welfare and morality of the people, although in some instances it led to the formation of important alliances on the part of the reigning House.

The Landgraf Friedrich in 1730 had become King of Sweden, in right of his wife, the Princess Ubrike Eleanor, sister of Charles XII. His brother, Wilhelm VIII., to whom he resigned his Hessian territories, fought under the British and Hanoverian flag in the Seven-Years' War, and gained considerable renown for himself and his troops during the course of the war. Wilhelm's son, Friedrich II., persevered in the same course, and kept up a splendid court on the proceeds of the pay, amounting to £3,000,000, which the British Government gave him for the services of 16,992 Hessians, who fought against the Americans in the war of independence.

Although we are accustomed to call all the German soldiers in the service of George III. during our Revolutionary War **Hessians**, they were not all from that country, but from various minor German States, as the following table shows:

The number of troops sent to America by each of the German States, and the number returned to the State after the war, as follows:

Brunswick sent	5,723
Returned in 1783	2,708
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Did not return	3,015
Hesse-Cassel sent	16,992
Returned in 1783 and 1784	10,992
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Did not return.....	6,000
Hesse-Hanau sent	2,422
Returned in 1783	1,441
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Did not return	981
Anspach-Bayreuth sent	2,353
Returned in 1783	1,183
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Did not return	1,170
Waldeck sent	1,225
Returned in 1783	505
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Did not return	720
Anhalt-Zerbst sent	1,152
Returned in 1783	984
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Did not return	168
Total number sent	29,867
Total number returned	17,313
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Total number who did not return	12,554
Of the 12,554 who did not return—	
Killed and died of wounds.....	1,200
Died of illness and accident.....	6,354
Deserted	5,000
	<hr/>
Total	12,554

I quote the following letter as of interest, showing the opposition of Frederick the Great to the hiring of German soldiers to aid the English. It is addressed to his nephew, the Margrave of Anspach:

Potsdam, this October the 24th, 1777.
Monsier, My Nephew:

I owe to your Most Serene Highness that I never think of the present war in America without being struck with the eagerness of some German Princes to sacrifice their troops in a quarrel which does not concern them. My astonishment increases when I remember in ancient history the wise and general aversion of our ancestors to wasting German blood for the defense of foreign rights, which even became a law in the German State. But I perceive that my patriotism is running away with me, and I return to your Most Serene Highness' letter of the 14th, which excited it so strongly. You ask for free passage for the recruits and baggage which you wish to send to the corps of your troops in the service of Great Britain, and I take the liberty of observing that if you wish them to go to England, they will not even have to pass through my States, and that you can send them a shorter way to be embarked. I submit this idea to the judgment of your Most Serene Highness, and am none the less with all the tenderness I owe you. Monsieur my Nephew, from Most Serene Highness' good uncle.

FRIDERIK.

England advanced two months' pay and provided all transportation from the first day's march. The debates in the British Parliament often alluded to the avarice of the German Princes. The Hessian officers, while waiting for the transport ships to take them to America, spent the time in exercising the soldiers, and, in spite of the weather, the men were drilled daily, often in the deep snow. Lieutenant General Philip von Heister, an old officer, who had served in the Seven-Years' War with credit, was in command of the first division. Liberal promises were the reward of the American soldiers;

twenty dollars and 100 acres of land were guaranteed to every private and non-commissioned officer. The Germans who were sent to America brought to their own country much useful knowledge of actual war, and the Hessians who had fought in America were among the best soldiers in the German army during the French Revolution.

Recruiting officers were active all over Germany. Spendthrifts, loose livers, drunkards and such as made political trouble, if not more than sixty years old, of fair health and stature, were forced into the ranks. The present of a tall, strapping fellow was at that time an acceptable compliment from one prince to another, and in every regiment were many deserters from the service of the neighboring States. With this mixed rabble the honest peasant German lad was forced from his plow. Johann Gottfried Seume, who attained prominence as a writer, was a victim of the recruiting system (he was a theological student at Leipsic and was arrested at Bach, on his way to Paris). He writes: "No one was safe from the grip of the sellers of souls. The Landgrave of Cassel, the great broker of men of the time, undertook, through his recruiting officers, and in spite of my protestations, the care of my future quarters, on the road to Ziegenhayn, to Cassel and thence to the New World. Persuasion, cunning, deceit, force, all served. No one asked what means were used to the damnable end. Strangers of all kinds were arrested, imprisoned, sent off. They tore up my academic matriculation papers, as being the only instrument by which I could prove my identity. At last I fretted no more. One can live anywhere. You can stand what so many do. My comrades when at Ziegenhayn, where we waited to be sent to America,

were a runaway son of the Muses, from Jena; a bankrupt tradesman from Vienna, a fringe-maker from Hanover, a discharged Secretary of the post-office from Gotha, a monk from Wurzburg, an upper steward from Meiningen, a Prussian Sergeant of Hussars, a cashiered Hessian Major, from the fortress itself, and others of like stamp." Seume writes that he had hopes of promotion, which were shattered by the end of the war. As in times of peace, no one who was not noble could aspire to be anything more than a Sergeant Major.

When the news that the Hessians had been hired out to England for the purpose of putting down the rebellion was heard in America, it greatly increased the irritation of the Colonies. Hesse-Cassel and Brunswick were first approached, when George III. found the need of soldiers, and he offered not only a subsidy for their troops, but treaties of alliance and protection. For each man England agreed to pay thirty marks, a German coin of the value of one shilling and four pence. For every man killed, wounded or captured or made unserviceable by wounds or sickness, a like sum was to be paid, and like provision was made for those lost in sieges or by infectious disease on shipboard, but for deserting no compensation was to be made. They were to take an oath of service to the King of England, thus putting them under double allegiance to their own sovereign and to that of Great Britain. Food and clothing were to be supplied just as to the British army. The forage money paid to the officers was a handsome addition to their regular pay. General Von Reidesal was said to have saved 15,000 thalers from this source on his return to Germany. A thaler is worth 0.726 cents. On the voyage to America their quarters were very crowded, and each man had a small mattress, a pillow and a woollen cov-

erlet, and every six a wooden spoon and a tin-cup. The food consisted of peas and bacon on Sundays, four pounds for six men; soup, butter and cheese on Mondays, four pounds of meat, three pounds of suet for pudding and one-half pound of raisins. This was repeated on Wednesday and the rest of the week. Every six men received daily four cans of small beer and a cupful of rum, which was often increased by an exchange for bread and cheese. Every soldier had a prayer book in his knapsack, and men and officers were in the habit of daily pious exercises. They set sail on the 7th of May and reached Sandy Hook on August 17th.

The Germans were heartily welcomed by the English, and gave glowing descriptions of the harbor in New York. The first move was to remove all silver from their uniforms, just as the British had done, to lessen the risk from the American riflemen. Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton inspired confidence in his people and thrilled them with emotion. Even to this day, when an unexpected and joyful event is to be related, the speaker who, perchance, knows not the origin of the proverb, exclaims "Great news from the Jerseys!"

The Hessians lost their leader, Colonel Rall. He paid with his life the the penalty of his carelessness. In surrendering his sword, he begged Washington to be kind to his men. Rall died the same evening, and was buried with due ceremony in the Presbyterian churchyard at Trenton. The Hessians lost their Colonel, and, in addition, 17 were killed, 78 wounded and 84 officers and 25 musicians and 729 enlisted men were taken prisoners; in all 963 men. The Americans lost two killed and two frozen, and four or five wounded. Washington gave the Hessians all their baggage, with their

packs, unsearched. They were amazed at the generosity of the General, so opposite to their own conduct, and called him a good rebel. On the Hessian standards taken at Trenton were engraved these words, 'Nescit Pericula.' A fearlessness of danger was not displayed in the battle when the standards were taken, and the following poem was written at that time:

"The man who submits without striking
a blow,
May be said, in a sense, no danger to
know;
I pray, then, what harm, by the humble
submission
At Trenton, was done to the standard
of Hessian."

Col. Karl Emil Kurp von Donop was one of the most distinguished of the Hessian Colonels. He was shot and fatally wounded at the battle of Red-bank, where he was found by Captain du Plessis, a French officer under General Green. He lived three days after the attack, and begged to be warned when death was near. "It is an early end to a fair career," said Donop, "but I die the victim of my ambition and the avarice of my sovereign."

On May 8, 1777, when Washington's headquarters were at Morristown, N. J., he issued an order forbidding the playing of cards among the soldiers under penalty of a court-martial. Old General von Heister used to say, "Isht dakes de veek to fool der Deutche; isht dakes de day to fool de Anglees; isht dakes der tyfel to fool de rebel; but all together couldn't fool de Lord." So it is with Mr. Washington. However easily he may bait old Witherspoon, Billy Livingston, Jacky Jay and some of the other pious ones, who are hanging on the rear of his moral forces, when the time comes, he'll find he can't "fool the Lord with pretended piety or Presbyterian general orders." It is said General Kuy-

phausen, in an engagement, was careful to guard his old comrade, General Von Steuben, from danger, and commanded his men not to fire when Steuben exposed himself at close quarters.

When Landgrave Frederick II. called Lieutenant General Philip Von Hiester to command the Hessian forces, he did so in these terms:

“Hiester, you must go along to America.”

“Very well, Your Most Serene Highness, but I take the liberty of making a few remarks.”

“And what may they be?”

“First, my debts must be paid, my wife and children must be taken care of until I come back, and, if I should fall, my wife must have a pension.”

When the Landgrave had smilingly assented, Hiester cried out:

“Now, Your Serene Highness shall see what this old head and these bones can do.”

On the morning of March 20th, 1777, a young woman passing an evacuated house in Woodbridge, N. J., saw, through the window, a drunken Hessian soldier, who had strayed from his party. There being no men within less than a mile of the town, she went home, dressed herself in man's apparel, and, armed with an old firelock, returned to the house, entered it and took the Hessian prisoner, whom she soon stripped of his arms and was leading him off, when she fell in with the patrol guards of a New Jersey regiment, stationed near Woodbridge, to whom she delivered her prisoner. I quote the above, showing bravery and devotion to country in a woman, even if the poor soldier was in a condition not to show his military training. Great crowds congregated to see the Hessians wherever they were, as their reputation had spread far and wide. Many expected to see wild robbers and murderers, with terrible angry faces—

devils in human form—and beheld only instead neat soldiers, preserving, even in their misfortune, cleanliness, order and discipline. They were looked upon with astonishment and sometimes with anger. On their return from Virginia, when the Hessian and British soldiers were allowed to go on parole to Philadelphia, to be exchanged by General Howe, they were frequently threatened with violence by the mobs. Corporal Ruben, a Hessian soldier, says in his diary: “Big and little, young and old, looked at us sharply. The old women cried out that we ought to be hanged for coming to America to rob them of their freedom, while others brought us bread and wine. Washington had ordered our American guard to march us through the city of Philadelphia, but the mob was so rough and threatening that the commander said the Hessians will go to the barracks, and then drove the mob off.” Washington quieted the people by posting a notice, in which he said the Hessians had not come voluntarily, but under order, and they should be treated as friends and not as enemies. On the 8th of June, 1777, the men were taken to Lancaster, where they worked during the summer on the farms. Congress paid them in money the value of their rations and the farmers gave them their meals and pay beside, but any one who allowed a Hessian prisoner to escape was fined \$200—paper dollars. On the King’s birthday, June 4, the British troops imprisoned in the barracks in Lancaster celebrated the day with great excesses, finally driving off the guard of fifteen men, where five were killed and wounding some of the prisoners. Again we hear of the Hessian prisoners in Lancaster, after the surrender of Burgoyne, when they were sent from New York to Virginia, where they were pardoned.

Elking tells the following story:

“When the Hessian prisoners were being taken from Lancaster to Winchester, in the autumn of 1777, and came to the boundaries of Virginia, the Pennsylvania escort refused to march further, and would not set foot on the sacred soil. In fact, they dispersed, and all went home. The escorting company, which should have come to meet them from Winchester, had not arrived. The Captain who had been in command of the Pennsylvanians was a man of great presence of mind and of equal confidence in human nature. He told the Hessians, whose affection he had won by his humanity, that they must march on without an escort, as he should hurry forward to Winchester. He trusted to the prisoners, promising them good treatment on their arrival. So he departed. The prisoners, if such they can be called, whom none constrained, marched on in an orderly manner. On the third day the old Captain came back, with an escort of Virginians, and found all the Hessians present at roll call, though some unprincipled Englishmen had disappeared. The Germans were thereupon all treated to brandy, while the English captives had to take up their line of march without that stimulant, and the Hessians received many courtesies forever afterwards.”

Under the command of General Von Reidesal at Lancaster they met with a curious reception. The story had spread that the King of England had given Lancaster to **General Von Reidesal** as a reward for his services, and he had come to take possession. The people were greatly excited, and it took some time to convince them of the truth. After the surrender of Cornwallis the Hessian soldiers were not deprived of their effects, but were treated kindly. The fifth article of the

surrender provided that the soldiers should remain in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. German settlers showed them much kindness and German speech and hospitality gave them great comfort. Their food, too, was improved, and their quarters were two barracks, with one hundred huts, built by the English. The troops quartered in Maryland were sent to Lancaster, Pa. Two Hessian regiments were quartered in the poor house, and were made comfortable. In the course of time their provisions ran short, and the officers bought supplies out of their own means, and later gave each man a Spanish dollar to help buy food. It was not until late in the spring that their baggage arrived from New York, and each man got a new ribbon for his queue, that he might keep that in order. Congress ordered all the men of Cornwallis' and Burgoyne's armies at work on the farms to report at Frederick, Maryland. Some had become owners of their farms and were married. These were allowed to ransom themselves for about eighty Spanish dollars. Those who did not have that amount often found Americans to advance it, and they agreed to return it in labor for a stated time. These were called Redemptioners, and their contracts had a legal sanction, and were made public at church, and were generally considered binding.

When General Burgoyne's soldiers laid down their arms at Saratoga, on the 17th of October, 1777, General Reidesal gave orders that the flags of the Brunswick regiments should not be given up. He had the staffs burned and concealed the colors themselves, giving out that they were burned also. He concealed them for sometime in Cambridge, when the Baroness was taken in the search. Frau von Reidesal, with the help of a "very honorable tailor," sewed the colors up in a mattress, and an officer was sent to New

York, through the lines, on some pretext, to take the mattress with him, as part of his bedding. The Brunswick colors were thus saved. It is the common testimony of the Germans that officers and soldiers treated them with courtesy and kindness, and a German officer at this time said: "This whole nation has much natural talent for war and for a soldier's life."

In 1779, when General Reidesal was in Virginia, he lived like a native farmer, built a block-house, with furniture made on the spot; worked at his own garden; had horses and cattle; and his wife proved a good housekeeper. The heat was oppressive. and, on a short visit to Frederick Springs, to find relief, he made the acquaintance of some of Washington's family.

Large barracks were erected in Lancaster borough to secure the Hessian prisoners taken at Trenton. Other prisoners were also confined there, and at one time they numbered over 1,200. Col. Biddle, of Philadelphia, who took part in the battle of Trenton, was appointed by Washington to receive the swords of the Hessian officers. In the Lutheran Church, in Lebanon, many Hessian soldiers were quartered, and the United States barracks at Carlisle were built in 1777 by Hessians captured at Trenton. A Revolutionary soldier, John C. Colby, of Centre county, was a deserter from the Hessians. Christopher Marshall, in his most entertaining and instructive diary, under date of August 25, 1777, says, "To the barracks; waited till our division of Hessian prisoners, consisting of 345, marched out under a strong guard (with some women and baggage wagons), as the prisoners yesterday had done for Lebanon.

"October 4, 1778. Hessians marched to the eastward from Virginia to be exchanged. They had not the appearance of our poor, emaciated country-

men, discharged by the English tyrants. Ours were reduced to the utmost extremity; those hearty, plump and fat, with wagons to carry their baggage, women and children; ours so stripped as hardly to have rags to cover them. So disproportionate are those circumstances; but Heaven, I hope, will protect us from their future cruelty and barbarity.

"October 17, 1777. This afternoon brought to town, via Reading, 30 English and five Hessian prisoners taken in the last skirmish at Germantown, brought by some of the militia and lodged in jail; also three Light Horse and Jager, who were confined with the other prisoners.

"December 19, 1778. In the afternoon came to the barracks the First Division of Germans, consisting of the Dragoons, Battalions of the Grenadiers, Regiment of Rhye and Regiment of Rush, amounting to 947, besides women and children. A great many of the Dutch round Lancaster came in to-day, I presume, to wait upon the German prisoners.

"December 21. This morning the First Division of Germans here marched away.

"December 22. The divisions of Hessians or Germans set off from our borough.

"December 26. A parcel of the German prisoners returned back, as they could not cross the Susquehanna for ice floating, etc."

On the 9th of December, 1775, eight officers and 242 privates of the Seventh Royal Fusiliers from Canada, captured by General Richard Montgomery, came to Lancaster in charge of Mr. Egbert Dumont and a guard, with thirty women and prisoners. It was reported to Congress that the captive soldiers are in great distress for want of breeches, shoes and stockings, especially the latter. On the 6th of January, 1777, the Council of Safety re-

solved that the Committee of Lancaster direct a sufficient number of aged persons be enrolled for the purpose of guarding the prisoners in the barracks, and the ammunition and stores in Lancaster during the absence of the militia. Mr. Christian Wirtz was appointed Town Major of Lancaster, and on the 2d of July, 1777, he represented in a letter the safety of Lancaster required the removal of the prisoners of war to some other place. The Executive Council, after referring the matter to Congress, did appoint a guard of 300 of the militia of the county to the borough.

January 11, 1777, the Council authorized John Hubley, Esq., to employ all the shoemakers amongst the Hessian prisoners at Lancaster in making shoes for the State, for which purpose the sum of £2,000 was advanced to him on his order, for the purchase of leather and other materials for working upon, and he was to pay them a small allowance for their labor, for which service Mr. Hubley was to have a reasonable compensation.

The "Hessian Fly," one of the pests of the farmer, from its attacks upon wheat, rye and barley is supposed to have been brought to this country in the straw used in packing by the Hessian soldiers during the Revolution, and first appeared on Long Island.

The Hessian prisoners were sometimes called "unconditional prisoners." In a letter addressed to Thomas Wharton, Jr., by the Committee at Lancaster, dated January 7, 1777, the question is asked if plunder was found in the possession of the Hessian prisoners; and later, a letter of January 13, 1777, states they have had the Hessian prisoners paraded and their baggage and apartments searched, but could not find anything which had the appearance of plunder, except two or three pieces of old brass disk mounting, not

worth taking away. In the bundle of one of them was a sheet which the possessor assured us he bought at Princeton to make shirts, and with another was a silver spoon, which he asserted he brought from Germany, and, as it had marks of age and German workmanship, we left it with him. Many tradesmen were among these prisoners, who would work for small wages rather than be confined in the barracks. Hands were scarce, the master workmen kept raising their wages from time to time to keep them from changing places. The fellows soon knew their importance and made their own terms. In another letter to President Wharton, dated Lancaster, the 6th of January, 1777, by order of the Committee, William Atlee, Chairman, wrote as follows: "Sir, on the 5th instant, Captain Murray and his guard arrived here with the Hessian prisoners (I think about 830, who are placed in our barracks). They are rather crowded at present, being 14 in a room, but in the course of a week we shall be able to give them more room, as the carpenters are now busy in laying in floors in the additional buildings, and when that is done we can stow away a few more. They have not received the least insult since they came here, and, agreeable to the request of the Council of Safety, the inhabitants seem disposed to treat them with civility. They are kept from having intercourse with any but such persons as the Committee permits to see them, and the Rev. Mr. Helmutt, of the Lutheran congregation; the Rev. Mr. Helfenstein, of the Calvinist congregation, and Mr. Heyney, of the Moravian, and, with the members of the Committee, are appointed their visitors, and the two former propose sometimes giving them a sermon in German."

The following is from the diary of Brother Baden, pastor of the Moravian

congregation at Hebron, Lebanon township, then part of Lancaster county:

“On August 27 three hundred and forty Hessian prisoners arrived in Lebanon, in charge of Colonel Curtis Grubb. He sent two soldiers to the pastor to inform him that the Gemeinhaus was to be occupied by them. Brother Baden objected, saying, ‘it was not a public house, and he would allow no one in his dwelling.’ On Friday, August 29, two hundred prisoners were in the church (saal) and in the side-rooms. Brother Baden had possession of the four lower rooms. For the next year almost the Hessians were quartered in the church. They took the church violins and began playing and dancing, in the church, and out of it; destroyed property, burnt the fences and acted shamefully, as they certainly would not dared to have done in Hesse at the parsonage.”

John Kruse, a Hessian, was a coachman for General Washington, and Miss Leila Herbert, in Harper’s Magazine for November, gives a very interesting description of him when he drove the Presidential coach, his laced cocked hat, square to the front, and thrown back on his queue, his big nose scornfully tilted. If the white horses were to be used the next day he covered them at night with a whiting paste, wrapped them in body cloths, renewed the straw in their stalls, and in the morning rubbed and curried and brushed them till their shapely flanks outshone satin.

Dr. Standley, a surgeon, after the battle at Red Bank, where the Hessians, under the command of Count Donop, said whenever he was called upon to attend a Hessian wounded in the leg or arm, whether necessary or not, he immediately amputated it, to prevent their doing more mischief. But later his opinions were very much changed, as he found they were hard-

working, industrious men. A Hessian soldier, who, later in life, proved himself a good citizen of the United States, tells when he first came to America that the impression was among these hired soldiers that if the Americans captured any of them they would be roasted alive.

A complaint was made to General Howe that the Hessians plundered all indiscriminately, Tories as well as Whigs. If they see anything they want they seize it and say, "Rebel good for Hesse man." The General said he could not help it, it was their way of making war.

"Peter Swarr, a Swiss Mennonite, whose land lay along the King's Highway, between Lancaster and Harrisburg, in East Hempfield township, erected a grist and saw mill upon Swarr's Run, and his son, John, erected a brick mill upon the same ground in the year 1778. He employed the Hessian prisoners at Lancaster borough to do the work. Skilled labor was very scarce, and he employed these men in the absence of other help."

In Lancaster, July 1st, 1775, Francis Bailey, of King street, just published and offers for sale "War! A sermon on a self-defensive war, lawful, proved in a sermon preached in Lancaster before Captain Ross' Company of Military in the Presbyterian Church, on Sabbath morning, June 4, 1775, by the Rev. John Carmichael, A. M. Now published at the request of said company." "Then said he unto them, but now he that hath a purse let him take it, and likewise his scrip; and he that hath no sword let him sell his garments and buy one."—Luke 22:36. Another statement tells us on Sunday, June 4, 1775, under the pastorate of Mr. John Woodhull, who later served as Chaplain in Colonel John Boyd's battalion, a sermon was preached by the Rev. John Carmichael to Captain John Ross' Company, when, in readiness for the

field, assembled in uniform and listened to a sermon from the text, Luke 3: 14—
“The soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, and what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely, and be content with your wages.”

The following article, taken from the New Jersey Gazette of March 18, 1778, is of local historic interest, and has never appeared, giving the details, in any of the numerous histories of Lancaster county:

“Lancaster, Pa., March 18, 1778.

“In pursuance to order from His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, a general court-martial was held at this place, when Henry Mansin (who confessed himself an officer in the British army) and Wendal Myer, an inhabitant of the county, were brought before the court and charged with being spies, carrying on a traitorous correspondence, and supplying the enemy with horses, &c. The court, after a fair and candid trial, which lasted some days, and every opportunity given to them to make their defense, found them guilty, and unanimously sentenced them to suffer death, in consequence of which they were to-day executed near Lancaster, amidst a very numerous concourse of spectators. The unhappy wretches, before their execution, acknowledged the justice of their sentence, and died fully convinced of the heinousness of their offense. They have discovered several persons who have aided and assisted them, but, unfortunately, made their escape upon the capture of these culprits. However, it is hoped that justice will overtake them, and inflict the punishment due such parricides.”

What Frederick the Great thought of this hiring out of German soldiers may be seen in a letter written to Voltaire on June 18, 1776. He writes:

“Had the Landgrave come out of my school he would not have sold his sub-

jects to the English, as one sells cattle to be dragged to the shambles. This is an unbecoming trait in the character of a Prince who sets himself up as a teacher of rulers. Such conduct is caused by nothing but dirty selfishness. I pity the poor Hessians, who end their lives unhappily and uselessly in America."

Napoleon, when thirty years afterwards, he drove away the then Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel (the Count of Hanau of our treaties), shows the contempt he felt. He said:

"The house of Hesse-Cassel has for many years sold its subjects to England. Thus have the electors gathered such great treasures. This vile avarice now overthrows their house."

In his tragedy of "Cabale und Liebe," written during the time of the Revolutionary War, Schiller left an eloquent article against this traffic in human beings.

I am indebted for many of the foregoing incidents to the excellent work of Mr. Lowell on the Hessian mercenaries.

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