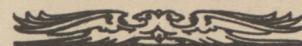




Arras the Beautiful

ARRAS, on the River Scarpe, was the capital of the Gallic tribe of Atrebates in the time of Caesar. Later the capital of Artois, Arras is now the chief city of the department of Pas-de-Calais. Since the fourth century Arras has been famed for its woolen cloth, and particularly for fine tapestry hangings. The Hotel de Ville, built in the sixteenth century and restored in the nineteenth, was one of the handsomest in northern France. Its largest bell weighed nearly nine tons. Robespierre was born in Arras.



Arras the Destroyed



ARRAS was invaded in 1914, when her Grand Palace and Petit Palace were destroyed by bombs. The illustration shows the destruction of the Hotel de Ville (town hall). The statue hung suspended as shown for many weeks. By April, 1917, not a vestige of this beautiful building was left. The great cathedral of Arras was absolutely shattered, as well as the railway station. Not one house was left intact. Just one of the former inhabitants, an old lady, was left there. Although it teemed with military life, beautiful Arras became a corpse—a dead city.

