

for them, but could show no preference. She would have liked to spend the evenings with the Tascher family, whose cheerfulness, as she ever said, "would cure the jaundice," but the question of court jealousies stood in her way, and she could only visit them at long intervals.

Before the final resolve to declare war, the Emperor, Empress, and ministers went to St. Cloud:

After some discussion, Gramont told me, the Empress, a high-spirited, impressionable woman, made a strong and excited address, declaring that war "was inevitable if the honor of France was to be maintained." The Emperor gave way, and Gramont went straight to the chamber to announce the fatal news.

The Emperor himself went to war with the worst forebodings—a doomed victim. The fatal consequences of the step are well known, and this volume of reminiscences closes with the life of the exiled family in England, the death of the Emperor, and the crushing grief of Eugénie's widowhood—the death of her noble son:

After having known the most exceptional prosperity ever granted to almost any woman, Eugénie remains now alone and almost forgotten—occasionally appearing in a hired dwelling opposite the Tuileries—having lost all that she prized as an empress, all that she loved as a woman.

This volume is published in an *édition de luxe*, with striking illustrations on thick paper. It is full of entertaining anecdote, and written in a thoroughly agreeable and lively style.

LIFE IN THE TUILERIES.*

ALL exceptions taken, there is still a great charm about the Empress Eugénie, and these reminiscences of nine years of the greatest intimacy with both the Emperor and Empress make one of the delightful books of the year. But O, how desperately dull much of that court life was! After the formal court dinner the long, tiresome evenings were passed with the greatest difficulty. The ladies present had to remain standing until permission was given them by the Emperor to sit down, while the men were on their feet until the last fold of the Empress's dress left the doorway, when "all the men present, with a sigh of relief," threw themselves on the sofas with undisguised satisfaction.

On official occasions the Empress did not dislike her part, and when the arrival of an ambassador from Persia was announced was delighted with the opportunity of dazzling his Oriental mind by "European magnificence." She received him in full court dress and jewels, with all her court ladies around her. When the ambassador retired he was asked what he thought of the Empress. "The Empress," he replied with contempt, "I did not look at her. It is beneath my dignity to look at a woman. I only saw the Emperor."

The satisfaction that Eugénie received from her magnificent toilettes and her imposing receptions she paid for by a thousand irksome restraints. She would have wished to walk about without state or ceremony, but she could not leave the palace without a numerous suite, in a carriage, and with four outriders. She had twelve ladies in waiting, some of whom were her personal friends; others had been chosen for political reasons, and she did not particularly care

* Life in the Tuileries under the Second Empire. By Anna L. Bicknell. The Century Co. \$2.25.