

BARRICADES IN GERMANY.

DID BOYS FIRE ON WOMEN?

It has been repeatedly stated of late that there have been attempts at revolution in both Germany and Austria. The statements are rather too confused and lacking in proper detail to carry conviction; but that there have been serious troubles in the Central Empires there seems good reason to believe. The military machine, however, has the Germans in its grip; and there is no doubt that the machine has not hesitated to tighten its grip where considered necessary. We have been told of the shooting down by Prussians of Saxons who appeared desirous of surrendering to the English, and of the slaughter of great numbers of mutineers. One of the stories told is that the women of Düsseldorf not only rioted, but that they actually erected barricades; that the soldiers refused to fire upon them; but that the Boys' Brigade did.

This statement is in an article written by Charles Tower in the "Daily Mail." It is as follows:—

My acquaintance from Düsseldorf vowed that the Boys' Brigades were called out during the strikes to fire upon the women at the barricades, when the soldiers refused. He was divided between horror at the task imposed upon the boys of 15 and 16 and admiration of a drill system which could prevail upon the lads to fire on their own womenfolk.

It was a German who was supposed to have made this statement. Still another German said that he

had seen women and children lie in horrible heaps about the Düsseldorf barricades; what time the machine-guns opened upon them during the strikes; another was in Frankfurt when the bombs fell upon a regiment of Jugendwehr (Boys' Brigade) and plastered the streets with human fragments.

It is difficult to arrive at the truth; but it is highly probable that efforts have been made to overthrow the military despotism of Germany; but it is clear that they have, up to the present, been unsuccessful. Military despotism is much more highly organized in Germany than it was in Russia. If, however, things went so far that the barricades were erected in the streets of Düsseldorf; and that they were defended by women; then these facts indicate that things had reached a point that was decidedly dangerous to the ruling classes. If it be true about the boys firing upon the women, it is probable that the Germans were cunning enough to use the boys from the "snob" suburbs, and that the women on the barricades were of the laboring classes.

A colored Hilgant astonished everybody at the City Court the other morning by preferring to be sworn on the water from the Ganges, imagining that every court is furnished with a main laid on direct from that traditionally soul-stunning stream. A quick-witted bobby, however, misunderstanding the verbiage slightly, hopped out and quickly returned with a tumbler of water from the gurgley, of similar constituents to the water of the Ganges so beloved by colored ganders. And everybody was happy once again.