

France is suffering terribly from the effects of the war; taxes are high; everything is taxed. You cant bring a bushel of potatoes nor a sack of flour into Paris without paying a city tax.

In Austria business is worse than in any other country. They had two panics last year and the last one was the worst panic that was ever known in any country. Speculation on the Stock Exchange and in other things is worse in Austria than in any other country and of course the panics are worse. So many rich people are ruined. I met in company last evening an Austrian Baron and found him a very pleasant gentleman. A year ago he owned a splendid chateau near Vienna worth half a million florins. He had also two and a half millions invested in stocks and real estate. There was a director in several banks. The panic cleaned out everything and his creditors have allowed him three years to redeem his Chateau. There are plenty more just such cases as his. Society is in bad condition. In Prague there were six murders New Year Eve, and there have been several since. One day at noon I was in Lieben near Prague. While I was there at a tannery on the River they found the body of a woman floating in the river. At two o'clock they found the murderer. He had done it that morning before daylight and