

the stake, and, as Judge Pennypacker says, "Their literature smacks of fire."

Rev. F. A. Muhlenberg thus summarizes the circumstances under which they were placed: "Living under an arbitrary government, selfish and without any conscience, they were weighted down with the heavy pressure of bad fortune; suffering from the vast privileges of the nobility and official aristocrats, distressed with the fearful plague of wild animals which destroyed unmolested the crops of the farmers, because of the game laws, made for the gratification of princes and nobles addicted to the chase. Besides all this they were groaning under the severe tenant dues, as well as the violent measures in church and religion; exposed to new dangers of war and devastations, with the recollection of the dreadful, unutterable misery they had suffered since January 18, 1689, when Louis XIV. turned his ruffians on the towns and villages of the Palatinate, utterly destroying and devastating the property of the Protestants, shooting and violating defenseless women." The climax was reached when the edict was issued compelling the Mennonites to enter the army or leave the country.

Prof. Rupp says: "The persecutions in Germany having been suspended for a number of years, broke out again in 1732, when about 30,000 Protestants were driven out of the country in the midst