



THE FALL OF PARIS

The Siege and the Commune 1870-1871

Alistair Horne

Anchor Books, Doubleday & co, Inc. 1967

page 299

Some hideous scenes now ensued. The men continued to discharge their rifles into the dead and mutilated bodies, while maenads from the mob squatted and urinated upon them. Small urchins fought one another for a view of the corpses from the garden wall. At this point, Clemenceau arrived, shouting distractedly, 'Pas de sang, mes amis, pas de sang!', to be told '*** 'It's too late'. In Clemenceau's own words:

... The mob which filled the courtyard burst into the street in the grip of some kind of frenzy. Amongst them were chasseurs, soldiers of the line, National Guards, women and children. All were shrieking like wild beasts without realizing what they were doing. I observed then that pathological phenomenon which might be called blood lust. A breath of madness seemed to have passed over this mob: ... men were dancing about and jostling each other in a kind of savage fury. It was one of those extraordinary nervous outbursts, so frequent in the Middle Ages, which still occur amongst masses of human beings under the stress of some primaeval emotion.