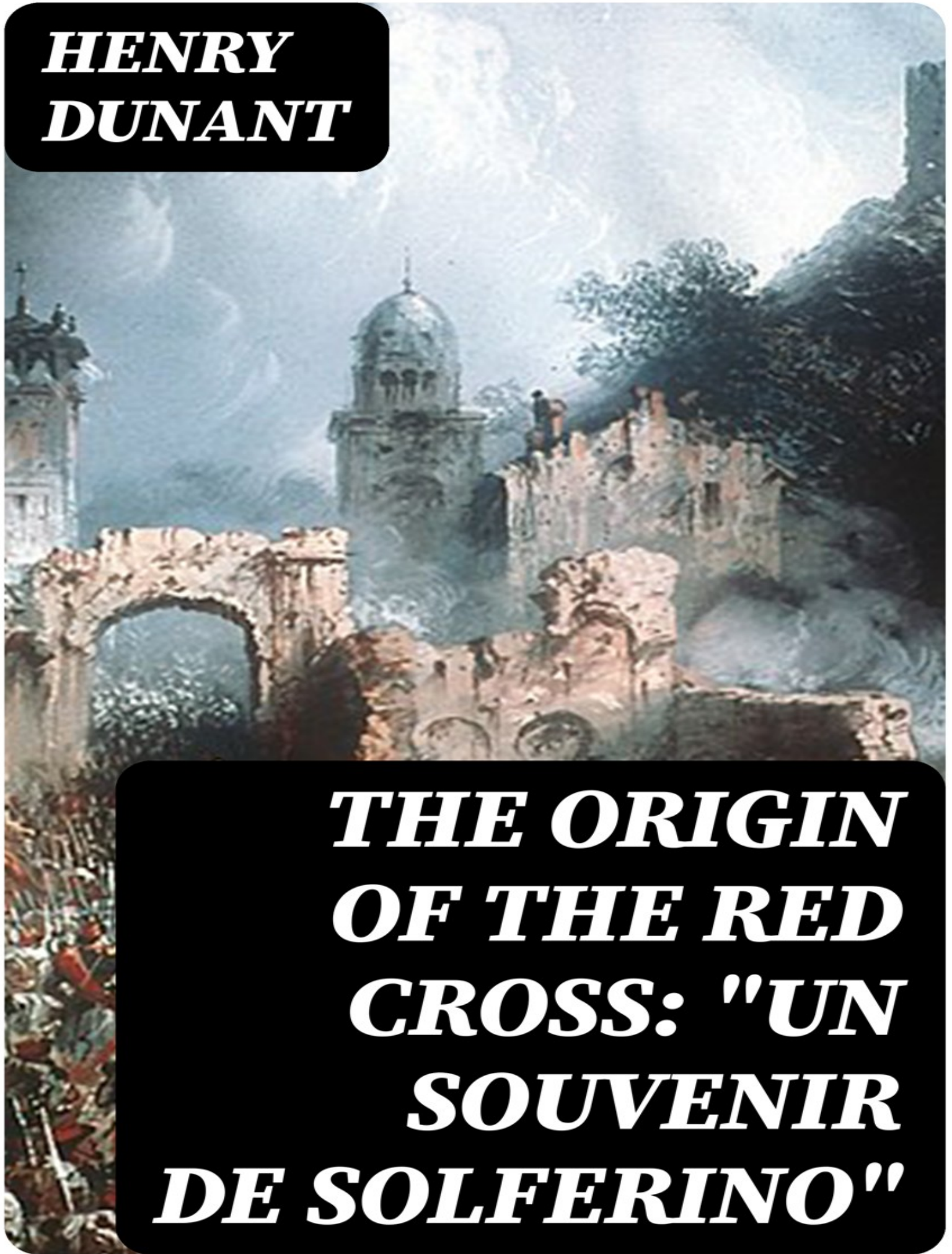
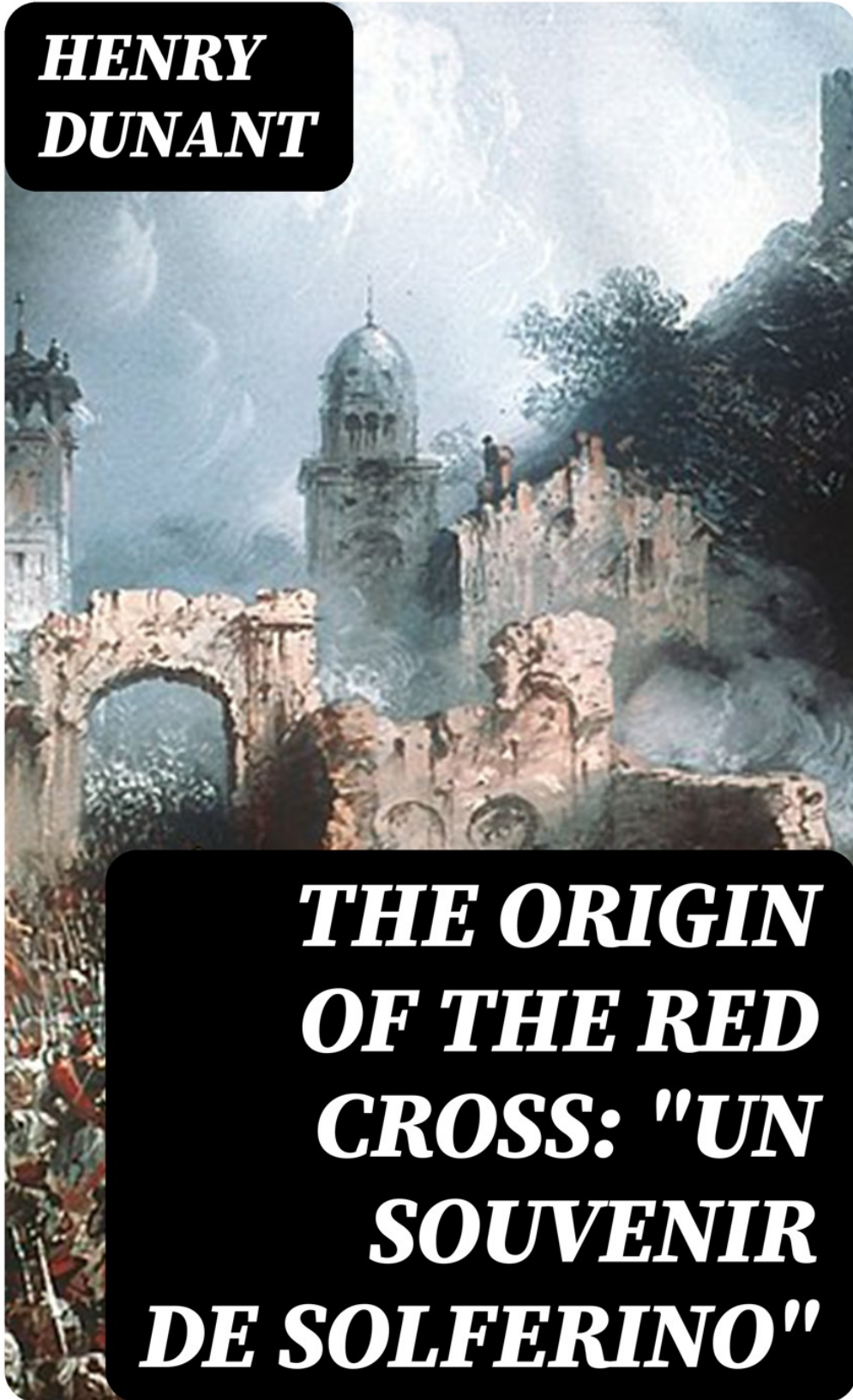


***HENRY  
DUNANT***



***THE ORIGIN  
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CROSS: "UN  
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**Henry Dunant**

# **The Origin of the Red Cross: "Un souvenir de Solferino"**

EAN 8596547092438

DigiCat, 2022

Contact: [DigiCat@okpublishing.info](mailto:DigiCat@okpublishing.info)



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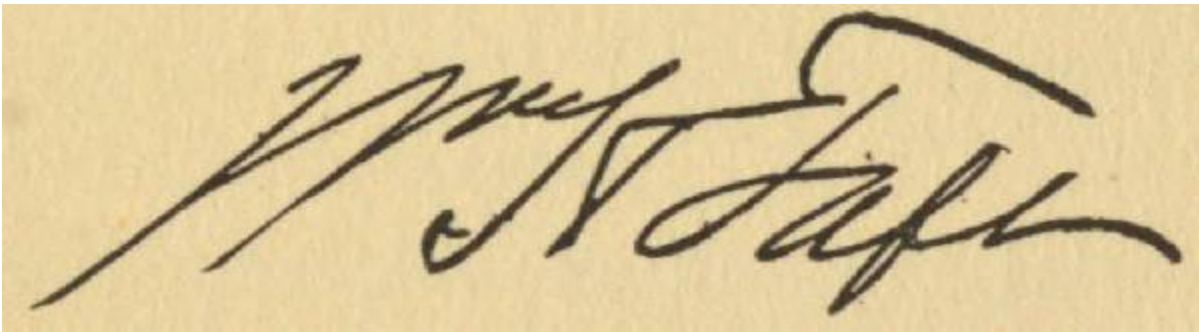
Mrs. David H. Wright,

Philadelphia, Pa.

DEAR MRS. WRIGHT:

I appreciate and thank you for your courtesy in dedicating to me, as President of the American Red Cross, this recent translation of Henri Dunant's "Un Souvenir de Solferino."

Whoever calls attention of the people to the sufferings and misery caused by war so that men realizing its results become loath to undertake it, performs a public service.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "W. H. Taft".

William Howard Taft  
*President American Red Cross.*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

*So far as is known, this book of such far-reaching influence has never before been translated or published in English.*

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PREFACE

*Henri Dunant, the famous author of "A Souvenir of Solferino," was born in Geneva in 1828.*

*The instruction and philanthropic principles received by him in his youth, together with his natural energy and power of organization, were a good foundation for the unfolding of the ideas and inclinations which led to his fertile acts.*

*In 1859 occurred the event which definitely impelled him to a course of action which did not discontinue during his whole life. A course of action for the mitigation of the sufferings caused by war, or from a broader point of view, for the commencement of the reign of peace.*

*This event was the battle of Solferino, when he first organized, in Castiglione, corps of volunteers to search for and nurse the wounded.*

*Having thus started the idea of a permanent organization of these voluntary bands of compassionate workers, and also of an international treaty agreement in regard to the wounded, he presented himself to Marshal MacMahon and afterwards to Napoleon III, who became interested in the project of Dunant and immediately ordered his army no longer to make prisoners of the physicians and nurses of the enemy.*

*Soon Dunant organized an Aid Committee in Geneva, and shortly afterwards he published his "Souvenir of Solferino," which was enthusiastically received and greatly applauded.*

*He met, however, opposition and obstacles, principally from the French Minister of War.*

*The philanthropic ideas of this book were received with interest by many European sovereigns with whom Dunant had intercourse, either by correspondence or by*

*conversation; he always propagated persistently his ideas in regard to the organization of a national permanent committee for the wounded, his International Treaty, and the neutralization of those injured in war (he developed in separate works his ideas which were outlined only in the "Souvenir").*

*The Geneva Society of Public Utility created a commission for the purpose of studying the question. Meanwhile Dunant had the opportunity to speak with the King of Saxony, and to persuade representatives of some other countries to take up the question with their respective sovereigns.*

*Dunant interested the governments so much in his project that various nations sent delegates to the International Conference, which was held in Geneva, in 1863, when it was decided to establish a National Committee, and when the desire was expressed that the neutralization of the physicians, nurses and injured should be provided by treaty, and for the adoption of a distinctive and uniform international emblem and flag for the hospital corps, and the unanimous thanks of this Conference were extended to Dunant.*

*To consider this subject, a diplomatic International Congress was held in 1864, at Geneva, by invitation of the Swiss Federate Counsel. The treaty there drafted accepted the projects of Dunant and the formation of Volunteer Aid Societies, later called Red Cross Societies, was recommended by the Convention to the signatory powers.*

*In the further development of the ideas of Dunant The Hague Conference, in 1899, extended the provisions of the*