

Modern Germany.....III.

The intellect, the immortal Promethean spark, is often infringed upon by narrow and contracted, cast-iron rules and regulations of despotic governments. It is true your mental exertions are permitted to energize themselves in thought and speech, and may display themselves as embodied in written or printed language, but they must cast no reflections on government institutions or measures that might give the least umbrage to the authorities of the country.

Liberty of conscience is merely a farce, as it does not exist in reality. As for religion you may believe what you please, but do not give utterance to your feelings if they are disagreeable to the present regime.

Catholicism and Protestantism being the prevailing religious forms, the Prussian and German law says in clear and concise terms:

"That he who propagates or assists in propagating any other doctrine or principle than those of the country makes himself liable to states prison, of from three to twelve years, with hard labor, according to circumstances." The delinquent loses at the same time all civic rights, such as prospect of employment in any military or civil capacity, loss of property by confiscations, etc. Thus outlawed and reduced to poverty, the victim of iron despotism is forced to leave the fatherland for a more humane country.

A few Methodists and Baptists have established themselves in Hamburg, Wurtemberg and Saxony. The persecutions of those sects are well known, and but for the interference of Queen Victoria and Sir Robert Peel, they would have been broken up altogether, and even now they are merely tolerated as long as they do not make any further proselytes, as the law terms it.

There is, with the exception of England and Russia, no country where rank is of so much importance as in Germany. So-called society has many gradations or classes—the aristocracy and commoners, the military and civilians, those of independent fortune, the employees of the government and the working or laboring classes, such as mechanics, etc. The lowest degree of nobility, or that next to a commoner, is designated by the preposition *von* in German and *van* in Dutch or Hollandish, next to that come the barons or baronets, then the counts or margraves, then the dukes and princes. The government bestows sometimes upon commoners, in order to reward them for their services, the rank of nobility.

This distinction of rank or caste, as you may term it, among some of the leading nations of the earth, is so very peculiar, has existed so long and has had so much influence upon the state and character of the people in times past, and still has, that a few remarks relative to it may be interesting to the reader.

The history of several ancient nations mentions that the inhabitants were divided into different classes according to their occupations. In Egypt the people are said to have been divided into four classes, namely, the priests, the military class, the artificers and the husbandmen. The Colchians and the Iberians were divided into four classes, whose rank and office were hereditary and unchangeable. In Persia, Iamshed divided all the people into four classes. The Institutes of Menno, some of the sacred writings of the Hindoos, state:

"That the human race might be multiplied, Brahma, the creator of the universe, caused the Brahmins to proceed from his mouth, the kshatryas from his arms, the vaishyas from his thighs, and the shudras, the lowest rank, from his feet."

Thus we find that some of the most remarkable social features of would-be civilized nations are based on ignorance and superstition.

The associations of a person are generally confined to his own rank; thus commoners associate with commoners, mechanics with mechanics, etc. Only wealth, great talents, or high connections will introduce a commoner into aristocratic society, but if once established in it, he is generally esteemed.

Inferiors, except in the army, always appear bear-headed in the presence of their superiors. The relationship between a servant and his master or mistress is a very marked one, inasmuch as the former is always treated as a servant. The so-called serfdom or bond service is abolished since 1812, and exists only partly in Russia, although the Emperor Alexander II is endeavoring to suppress that cruel institution.

There are many laws and regulations, the effects of which are both of a beneficial and detrimental nature, although they are intended to establish order, punctuality and prosperity among the people. In Hamburg, for instance, no poor person can get married, unless he give a security of \$500 or procure a good bail* for two years. Commissioned military officers are forbidden to marry, unless they or their intended wives can prove, at any of the royal courts of justice, to have a property of at least \$6000. This law is rigidly enforced in order to prevent the increase of paupers, but at the same time it leads frequently guilty parties to the crime of infanticide.

No laboring man can work unless he have a permit from the commissary of police of his district. No mechanic can commence a business unless he has proven his ability before a committee of so-called sworn government umpires. Thus a journeyman tailor or shoemaker, in order to be a master of his trade and as such gain his livelihood, has to pass an examination before a committee of tailors and shoemakers. In fact, no person can engage in any business unless he have a permit from the police. This, of course, prevents quick-

ery and roguery to a great extent, as he who has once failed, cannot recommence his business unless he has satisfied his creditors. Hence many morally-compromised individuals run away to America to avoid the arms of justice of their native country.

The police forms a very essential part of German governments. They are generally brave, strong, intelligent men taken from the army. The sergeants, without being scholars, are required to be good penmen, so as to manage their official correspondence and keep simple accounts.

Commissaries of police are always of a university education, have a good knowledge of jurisprudence, and often understand four or five foreign languages. Their salary frequently depends upon their talents and knowledge, and ranges from \$300 to \$2000.

Every city and town is divided into wards or districts, where the commissary of police has his office, and he in connection with a number of sergeants and gens d'armes have to know everybody's business, and by their secret agents are informed of everything that is going on by night and by day. Hence the police are everywhere and generally where you don't expect them. The head of police is the director or president, with a number of counselors and secretaries.

The army being the true support of the German governments, the greatest care is taken to have the military always in a highly efficient state. Every male person, except invalids, from the age of 18 or 20 to 50, is subject to military duty. The young recruit serves five years in the line, three years of which he is in active service, and two years he is at home on, as it is termed, uncertain furlough. At the age of 24 or 25 he enters the militia, who, of course, are as efficient as the line, and are called in every year for four week's practice. Thus the prince regent of Prussia alone has an excellent army of 500,000 men ready to take the field in a fortnight.

The entire German army being organized on the Prussian system, I will particularize the latter.

Although every male subject of Prussia, whether rich or poor, high or low, is subject to military service, the reader need not suppose that thieves or other notoriously dishonest individuals are put in the ranks of the regular, royal regiments; those worthy persons form so-called companies of correction and are garrisoned in fortresses, to work in the trenches, assist in repairing the fortifications, mount the guard, etc., being all the time under the surveillance of the regular troops.

Every private, no matter how poor, has a chance to rise from the ranks and become an officer, providing his talents, education, bravery and honesty qualify him for such a position. For the further instruction of the soldiers, there are regimental schools, where the men during the winter season are taught gratis composition, history, geography, mathematics and the theory of tactics.

Officers have to pass a very close examination previous to their being promoted. Artillery and engineer officers have to be very expert in mathematics, including surveying, mechanics and the different branches of a good education. Swimming and other gymnastic exercises are likewise taught in the army, and the men are taken by companies in the river to learn by degrees to manœuvre, if necessary, with their full accoutrement across a stream.

The Prussian Army is divided into 9 corps d'armees, each of about 40—53000. An army has 2 divisions, each division 2 infantry and 2 cavalry brigades, each brigade has 2 regiments, an infantry regiment has 3 battalions of 1000 men, each battalion 4 companies at 250 men; a cavalry regiment has 4 squadrons at 200 horsemen. Attached to an army are 2 battalions of riflemen, each 1000 men. A complete brigade of artillery, consisting of 3 six-pounder batteries horse artillery, where the gunners are all on horseback, 6 six-pounder batteries foot artillery, where the gunners walk behind the gun carriage, 3 twelve pounder batteries foot artillery and 8 siege companies with an ordinance train. A battery has 8 guns, each drawn by 6 or 8 horses, a traveling forge, and 4 ammunition carts. Each gun carriage has 3 or 4 four drivers, 6 or 8 gunners, 2 bombardiers and 1 sergeant, with reserve wheels, spokes, axle-trees, picks, shovels and the requisite tools for immediately repairing any damage.

A pontoon train consists of 4 companies of pioneers, miners and sappers, with a complete apparatus for throwing a bridge in 30 or 40 minutes' time across a river. As for the medical department there are a regular physician, a surgeon and a druggist with a medicine chest, containing bandages, lint and all the necessary instruments for immediate operations, attached to each company and follow the troops right in the engagements. A large number of ambulances or flying hospitals for the accommodation of the sick and wounded is generally right behind the battle-line.

The staff of the commanding general of an army consists of the most talented and accomplished officers of every arm, who in connection with the commander-in-chief draw up the plan of a campaign or battle.

Places of a strategic importance, as for instance, the frontier towns of an empire, are generally well fortified with bomb-proof walls, moats with draw-bridges, towers, casemates, *chevaux-de-frise*, block houses, redoubts, mines and a girdle of detached or outside fortifications. Within a distance of 5 miles from such a military place, no railroads are established, and only wooden houses are allowed to be erected with the condition to have them pull-

ed down and removed as soon as the order is given by the commander of the place, thus, in case of a siege, the cannons of the forts have a free range and the enemy's troops cannot easily establish themselves. Some of the principal places of this kind are Magdeberg, Landau, Neisse, etc. The fortifications of each of these towns cost, in the average, about \$10,000,000.

The military budget of the kingdom of Prussia, in time of peace, is annually \$27,000,000, in time of war, \$60,000,000, absorbing thus constantly half, and during the time of a mobilization of the army, the whole of the yearly revenues of the empire.

The total number of the German military forces is 1,200,000, out of which the army of confederation consisting of 300,000 is formed, to which Austria contributes 94,000, Russia 79,000; Bavaria, 35,000, Wurtemberg, 14,000, Hanover, 13,000, Saxony, (the kingdom) 12,000, Baden, 1,000, Hesse-Darmstadt, 6,000, Hesse-Cassel, 5,400, and thus in proportion to the other members.

*A good bail is according to German law, a person whose financial abilities have been favorably established from the police records, where the particulars of every individual are faithfully entered.

†The sale of commissions, so prevalent in the English army, does not exist in Germany.

‡The yearly financial budget is \$60,000,000.

Pews in Churches.

In Anglo-Saxon and some Norman churches of very early date, a stone bench was made to project within the wall, running round the whole interior except the east end. In 1319 they are represented as sitting on the ground or standing. About this time the people introduced low, rude, three-legged stools promiscuously over the church. Wooden seats were introduced soon after the Norman conquest. In 1287, a decree was issued in regard to the wrangling for seats, so common, that none should call any seat in the church his own, except noblemen and patrons, each entering and holding the one he first entered.

As we approach the Reformation, from 1530 to 1540, seats were more appropriated, the entrance being guarded by cross bars, and the initial letters engraved on them. Immediately after the Reformation, the pew system prevailed, as we learn from a complaint the poor Commons addressed to Henry VIII, in 1546, in reference to his decree that a Bible should be in every church, at liberty for all to read, because they feared it might be taken into the *quyre* or some *pue*. In 1603, galleries were introduced.

As early as 1611, pews were arranged to afford comfort, by being baized or cushioned; while the sides around were so high as to hide those within, (a device of the Puritans to avoid been seen by the officers who reported those who did not stand when the name of Jesus was mentioned). The services were often greatly protracted, so that many would fall asleep. Hence Swift's pithy allusion:

"A bedstead of the antique mode,
Compact of timber many a load,
Such as our ancestors did use,
Was metamorphosed into pews;
Which still their ancient nature keep,
By lodging folks disposed to sleep."

With the reign of Charles I, the reasons for the heightening the sides disappeared; and from the civil war they declined gradually to their present height.

DEPRIVED OF THE GOSPEL BY FOXES.—There was a novel, but not so bad an argument, says the *San Francisco Advocate*, which the mountain member urged in the Kentucky Legislature. A few years ago a bill proposing a premium for fox scalps was under discussion. It had been somewhat roughly handled in debate by members from more populous regions, where foxes were scarce, and Mr. L—, from one of the mountain counties, rose to reply. "And are we Mr. Speaker—we of the mountain regions—not only to witness the annual destruction of our crops, but actually to be deprived of the consolation of religion?" This woke the House up, and set it agape for an explanation. He continued: "You know, Mr. Speaker, that we live in a rough country; that your fancy churches—your Presbyterians and Episcopalians—never send preachers among us. We depend for the Gospel upon the circuit-riders of the Methodist church; and, sir, everybody knows that they cannot be induced to travel where there are no chickens, and that chickens cannot be raised where foxes abound!" The argument was unanswerable, and the bill became a law.

A BLOWING WELL.—Near Maiden, on the Kanawha river, in the spring of 1844, in boring a salt well, at the depth of 1,000 feet, the augur struck the reservoir of gas. The stream of gas that rose to the upper surface was so powerful as to shoot the whole boring apparatus, consisting of one thousand feet of poles and a sinker weighing 500 pounds, into the air like an arrow. The stream of gas is three inches in diameter, and has been blowing up with unabated force, day and night, for sixteen years.

COULD NOT PLAY A RETREAT.—Among the prisoners taken captive at the battle of Waterloo, there was an Highland piper. Napoleon, struck with his mountain-dress and sinewy limbs, asked him to play on his instrument, which is said to play delightfully in the glens and mountains of Scotland. "Play a pibroch," said Napoleon; and the Highlander played it. "Play a march." It was done. "Play a retreat." "Na, na!" said the Highlander, "I never learned to play a retreat."

Scalping.

The operation of scalping, which consists in taking off the hair of a vanquished enemy, furnishes the Indian warriors with another mark of distinction. They always carry with them either a knife especially adapted for scalping, or some other sharp instrument, made of obsidian, flint or a shell. The victor makes with one of these instruments a deep incision all round the skull of the victim, and tears off the skin with the hair; it is this tuft of hair attached to the skin which is called the scalp. Its diameter is about three inches, sometimes less.

Before the scalp is carried in triumph, its skin must be dry, and it must have been consecrated by the 'scalp dance.' This dance is a consecration attesting that the scalp is the reward of an act of courage and valour.

When the Indians have scalped an enemy, and are not pressed for time, they generally take off the rest of the skin of the head, which they use to make a fringe to ornament their garments.

Severe laws, enforced under pain of dishonor, regulate the operation of scalping. It is only permitted to scalp warriors of a hostile tribe. There is no example of an Indian having taken the scalp of a man of his own tribe, or of one belonging to a nation in alliance with his own, and whom he may have killed in a quarrel or a fit of anger. It is also forbidden to scalp an enemy before he is dead. Those Indians who have preserved in all their purity the traditions and customs of their ancestors never infringe this rule. Some, however, who have probably been corrupted by the neighborhood of the Whites, have sometimes scalped their enemies while they still breathed.

If we are to believe certain distinguished authors, the operation of scalping is of very ancient origin. The Scythians scalped by first making a circular incision at the height of the ears, then, taking hold of the hair, they tore off the skin by shaking the head. Like the Indians, the Scythians cleaned this skin and hung it to their horses' bridles.

It appears also that the 'decalvare' of the ancient Germans is nothing other than the operation of the scalp, mentioned in the law of the Visigoths—*Capillos et cutem detrahere*. According to the annals of Flude, the Franks still scalped about the year 879, and the Anglo-Saxons also.—[Seven Years' Residence in the Great Desert of North America. By the Abbe Em. Domenech.]

Firearm Improvements.

The London Times gives a detailed account of an improved breech loading cannon, which is capable of discharging, with ease, twenty rounds per minute. This improvement is effected by a beautifully contrived lever, placed on the side of the breech, which, by one simple movement raises the cock of the gun, and opens the breech; the reverse movement entirely closing the breech, cutting the cartridge used, priming the nipple, and firing the gun all instantaneously—the effect of which is, that the cannon may be discharged as rapidly as the charges can be inserted in the breech, as two simple movements are all that is necessary to prepare the gun for being fired, and actually discharging it.

An improvement has also been made in the balls used for this description of firearm. This improvement consists in the manner of coating the balls, as the present lead and tin coating with which balls have usually been coated leaves a deposit in the gun which necessitates that the bore should be cleaned out after every few rounds have been fired, and requires sponging after about every dozen rounds, and sometimes more frequently. To obviate this, a chemical composition has been invented, which is applied to the spherical balls, and which answers its purpose so effectively that not the slightest fouling of the gun can be detected—the breach, in consequence of the current of air admitted each time of loading, remaining as cool as at the commencement, while no expansion is perceptible. It is also stated that, by using this method, a dozen balls can be coated for the expense now incurred in coating one on the old principle.

GARIBALDI.—The "History of the Cacciatori of the Alps," in preparation by Francis Corrano, the colonel of the corps, contains the following portrait of the hero of Sicily "Giuseppi Garibaldi is of medium stature, with large square shoulders, herculean limbs, and long reddish hair and beard, inclining to gray. His step is slow and majestic, his gait something like that of a seaman, and his countenance and conversation are also suggestive of the mariner; he wears a waistcoat buttoned up to the throat, a wide-brimmed hat and wide trousers. The noise of a city annoys and disturbs him. He likes the hill-tops, covered with high trees, and enjoys the view of the distant horizon and the wide sea. He has a straight nose, and the expression of his face is both lively and amiable. His conversation is unpretending, but it rises to eloquence when he talks of Italy and liberty."

SUBSTITUTE FOR A SPEECH.—One of Han's sons, Otto, appeared as ambassador at the Court of Louis XIV, and had to make a Swedish speech at his reception before the Most Christian King. Otto was a famous dandy and warrior, but he forgot the speech, and what do you think he did? Far from being disconcerted, he recited a portion of the Swedish Catechism to His Most Christian Majesty and his Court, not one of whom understood his lingo, with the exception of his own suite, who had to keep their gravity as best they might.