

## Germany as it was Anciently.

BY ALEXANDER OTT.

History in all its reach and comprehension, is the epitome of the intellectual, moral and physical capabilities and improvements of mankind.

The noblest inheritance which a nation can possess is intellectual and moral eminence originating in a knowledge of correct principles. Such a people is not in danger of being classed with the vulgar multitude of nations, which occupying no place in the museum of mental excellence, as soon as they have performed their part of conquest or defeat on the arena of the world, pass away from our view and sink forever into oblivion, and their days of glory and victory have not been celebrated by the pen of a Livy, Tacitus, Robertson, Irving, etc.

The history of Germany in all its various phases and niceties, its geographical, political, social, military, literary and religious relations, is of so complicated a nature, that only few foreigners have a correct knowledge of it.

According to some eminent philologists the name of Germany is said to be derived from two words, the first of which signifies either war or a sword, and the second denotes a man; together they form a compound word, meaning bravery, as does the word Frank.

Tacitus, the historian, who lived about 100 years after Christ, informs us in his work *de Germania*, that the ancient Germany was very extensive, as it comprised not merely Germany Proper, but also Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Livonia and Prussia. The latter country is often erroneously considered by foreigners as being outside of Germany or as being entirely strange to the Teutonic race; such is not the case as Prussia is an important part of Germany, in which the German tongue is spoken. The inhabitants of these countries were called Teutones from the name of one of their deities, hence the common appellation of Teutonic applied to all the German family, from which is also derived the word Teutschland or Deutschland.

The present Germany which with its well cultivated fields of cereals and fruit trees, with its parks and meadows, looks more like a beautiful garden, in which art and nature are harmoniously blended, was in the days of Julius Cæsar who lived about 44 years before Christ, and Tacitus, a cold, dreary, marshy, woody region abounding in wild beasts, such as buffalos or ur, bears, wolves, lynxes, foxes, etc. The immense woods which at that period covered the country, were called the Hercynian forest, which is said to have been nine days' journey in length, and six in breadth. Noble remnants of the separate names such as the Thuringian, the Black Forest, etc., still stud the travelers' road and impart to the landscape a very picturesque character. The different governments employ now quite a large number of people of various degrees of rank and education for the purpose of preserving and improving these forests.

The ancient Germans were of a huge and noble form, had red hair and blue eyes; their chest was wide and strong; their skin white; they could better endure cold and hunger than heat and thirst. They were superstitious but faithful and brave in their disposition, considering independence and liberty as the greatest earthly blessings.

They were entire strangers to the luxuries and even common comforts of life, their principal subsistence being derived from the chase and fishing. War, hunting and occasional drinking formed their main occupation.

The Romans and Gauls describe their bodies as so powerful and gigantic, that they could not gaze at them without fear, their usual height being seven feet. Whereas in this so-called enlightened age only the Patagonians in South America, the Poles, Russians and the inhabitants of the Presidency of Bengal in the East Indies claim in the minority the maximum height of six feet, without possessing that strength and elasticity of body so peculiar to the ancient Germans. While it is a fact established from the military records of the most civilized (?) nations, that physical impotency or debility is on the increase.

The parents of the ancient Germans accustomed their children from the most tender age to the rigid, cold climate and the hardships they would have to endure at a later period by bathing new-born infants in cold water, which practice was continued during their whole lives as the strengthening renovator by both boys and girls, men and women. Their dress consisted in a broad short mantle fastened by a girdle, or the skins of wild animals. And so hardened were they that even during the winter season a portion of the body remained uncovered.

According to Claudius Ptolemæus,\* Strabo\* and Pomponius Mela,\* the Germans lived in widely scattered huts in the midst of which the larger dwellings of the chiefs were situated. Towns were not built as the nomadic inhabitants compared them to prisons.

These huts resembled to a certain extent our log houses, with the difference that the sides were filled with plaited withy, forming thus a firm wall by the addition of straw and linen. The roof was always a thatched one. Their dwellings were generally near a grove or spring. The cultivation of the soil, herding and other domestic occupations were left to the women and slaves. Although they preferred earning the necessities of life by war rather than by hard labor, having bold, intrepid leaders such as Arivovistus and Arminius of the Cherusci,† one of the most celebrated

Germanic tribes of ancient times, they possessed a sublime patriotism, fidelity, chastity and other noble qualities and capabilities in a much higher degree than the enlightened Romans, Greeks and Arabians of that epoch.

Marriage being considered as the main source of domestic and social happiness, only young men of known chastity and temperance, in the full energy of youth, and at a time when their physical and moral nature had gained their equilibrium, were permitted to take a wife from among the blooming maidens of the country. Polygamy was practiced among the nobles of the land as a holy privilege bestowed upon them by Nerthus, the nourishing mother earth, whom they worshipped as their most beneficent deity.

A matrimonial alliance was formed upon love and virtue, and was generally preceded by the bridal gift of the husband, consisting in a team of oxen, arms and a shield. The wife was thus reminded by these sacred symbols that she had to share the dangers, hardships and trials of her consort, and that she had to remain faithful to him both in prosperity and adversity. And this holy boon of an opening marriage she was bound to transfer uncontaminated to her children and grandchildren; thus this gift was the mystic consecration and guardian deity of hymeneal felicity. Difficulties or infringements of marriage seldom occurred, as the perpetrators of such a crime were generally expelled from the tribe they lived in.

The dress and food of the ancient Germans were simple and agreeable to the human system. Hoops, paint, Maccassar oil and other so-called cosmetics had *mirabile dictu* not yet made their baneful appearance to infringe upon nature's rights. The female adornment consisted in their long yellow hair, in the fresh color of their pure skin and in their linen robes, spun and woven by their own hands, ornamented with a purple band as a girdle.

Their food was meat and milk. Their favorite beverage was made from barley and oats. They also drank mead prepared from honey and water. The vine was first cultivated by them on the river Rhine where it had been introduced by the Romans.

The government of the ancient Germans was theocratic, as the priests ruled the communities and gave counsel to the kings, princes, dukes and counts. The people met at general assemblies similar to the Greek *agora*,|| where by all the male members of a certain age the affairs of the country relative to peace and war or any internal improvements or measures were coolly considered and discussed. Their approval of a proposition on such occasions was expressed by striking their weapons on their shields, and their disapprobation by hollow murmurs.

Like the Parsees† in the East Indies, they worshipped the sun, moon, fire and earth, but like the Greeks, Romans, Hindoos, etc., they believed in a plurality of gods controlling the affairs of the universe. And they considered it the duty of the priests to ascertain the will and mind of those deities. They believed in a future existence, where the brave are rewarded by feasts, where they narrate their former exploits, and, do not blush gentle reader, drink beer from immense horns or from the skulls of their enemies.

\* Strabo, Pomponius Mela lived about 43; Claudius Ptolemæus 140 after Christ. They were three Roman geographers of great celebrity, and are often quoted in classical literature as important and correct authorities.

† Arminius or Herman, the Cheruscian, in a great battle fought in the ninth year before Christ destroyed the Roman legions of Quintillus Varus and thus saved Germany from foreign oppression.

‡ The princes or principes of a district, were the foremost and first being elected like the counts or Gräfs from among the oldest and most experienced of a community. The dukes held the same position as the princes. The leader of a tribe was called a king.

§ The *agora* from the Greek *ha agora*, an assembly of the people, were held in Athens and other places of Hellas or Greece, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. It was in these morning-meetings that the Athenian populace whose perception of the beauties of style had been strengthened by the musical and literary contests at the public festivals, were addressed by Pericles, Alcibiades, Lysias, Demosthenes, Phocion, Lycurgus and other renowned Athenian orators and statesmen.

¶ The Parsees are the followers of Zoroaster, who had the same system of religion as that of the ancient Persians, in the times of Cyrus and Xerxes. They come from Persia, from whence they fled to Gujerat.

REMARKABLE LAKES. — On the top of a ridge of mountains in Portugal, called Estralla, are two lakes of great extent and depth, especially one of them, which is said to be unfathomable. What is chiefly remarkable in them is, that they are calm when the sea is so, and rough when that is stormy. It is, therefore, probable that they have a subterranean communication with the ocean; and this seems to be confirmed by the pieces of ships they throw up, though almost forty miles distant from the sea. There is another extraordinary lake in this country, which, before a storm, is said to make a frightful rumbling noise, that may be heard at a distance of several miles. And we are also told of a pool or fountain, called "Fervencias," about twenty-four miles from Coimbra, that absorbs not only wood, but the lightest bodies thrown into it, such as a cork, straw, feathers, &c., which sink to the bottom and are never seen more. To these we may add a remarkable spring near Estremos, which petrifies wood, or rather encrusts it with a case of stone; but the most remarkable circumstance is, that in summer it throws up water enough to turn several mills, and in winter is perfectly dry. — [Smith's Wonders.

—A horse mackerel about ten feet long, and weighing about one thousand pounds, has been on exhibition in Bath, Me.

## First Prayer in Congress.

In Thatcher's *Military Journal*, under date of December, 1777, is found a note containing the identical "First Prayer in Congress," made by the Rev. Jacob Duche, a gentleman of great eloquence. Here it is, an historical curiosity:

"O Lord, our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth, and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the kingdoms, empires and governments; look down in mercy we beseech thee on these American States, who have fled to thee from the rod of the oppressor, and thrown themselves on thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on thee; to thee they have appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to thee do they now look up for that countenance and support which thou alone canst give; take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in counsel, and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their cause; and if they still persist in their sanguinary purposes, O let the voice of thine own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle! Be thou present, O God of Wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation that the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored; and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish among thy people. Preserve the health of their bodies and the vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as thou seest expedient for them in this world, and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Savior: Amen."

DICKENS' DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT FIRE IN LONDON OF 1666.—Dickens give the following description of the great London fire, which occurred upon a windy night, September 3, 1666:

It broke out at a baker's shop near London Bridge, on the spot on which the monument now stands as a remembrance of those raging flames. It spread and spread, and burnt and burnt for three days. The nights were lighter than the days; in the day time there was an immense cloud of smoke, and in the night time there was a great tower of fire mounting up into the sky, which lighted the whole country landscape for ten miles round.

Showers of hot ashes rose into the air and fell on distant places; flying sparks carried the conflagration to great distances, and kindled it in twenty new spots at a time; church steeples fell down with tremendous crashes; houses crumbled into cinders by the hundred and the thousand. The summer had been intensely hot and dry, the streets were very narrow, and the houses mostly built of wood and plaster.

Nothing could stop the tremendous fire but the want of houses to burn; nor did it stop until the whole way from the Tower to Temple Bar was a desert, composed of the ashes of thirteen thousand houses and eighty-nine churches.

This was a terrible visitation at the time, and occasioned great loss and suffering to the two hundred thousand burnt-out people, who were obliged to lie in the fields under the open night sky, or in hastily made huts of mud and straw, while the lanes and roads were rendered impassable by carts, which had been broken down as they tried to save their goods. But the fire was a great blessing to the city afterward, for it arose from its ruins very much improved — built more regularly, more cleanly and carefully, and therefore much more healthily.

—An English clergyman at Halloway, England, has been detected in preaching the sermons of Rev. Dr. Bushnell, of Hartford, from the published volumes in this country.

The best Remedy for Rheumatism—Hall's Sarsaparilla, Yellow Dock and Iodide of Potass. 8-6m

## Save your Paper Bags.

The inhabitants of Utah are requested to gather up and save their worn out wagon covers, and every description of cotton and linen rags for paper making, and deliver them, from time to time, to the Bishops of the several Wards, or the "News" and "Mountaineer" Offices or their agents, for which, when clean, they will be allowed five cents a pound. The rags can be sufficiently cleaned in pure water, without soap.

It is expected that, in a few months, all who wish can receive paper in exchange for rags.

9-11 EDWARD HUNTER, Presiding Bishop.

Hall's Sarsaparilla Yellow Dock and Iodide of Potass is prepared from the finest red Jamaica Sarsaparilla and English Iodide of Potass—admirable as a restorative and purifier of the blood, it cleanses the system of all morbid and impure matter—removes pimples, boils and eruptions from the skin—cures rheumatism and pains of all kinds—All who can afford should use it, as it tends to give them strength and prolong life. Sold by Druggists generally, at \$1.00 per bottle.

R. HALL & CO., Proprietors, Wholesale Druggists, 143 and 145 8-6m. Clay street San Francisco.

## General Notices.

## WANTED.

TWO or three young men, competent teamsters, to engage in building operations. Enquire at this office or of F. D. RICHARDS, 14th Ward. 16-11

## NEW CITY STRAY FOUND.

THE Public are hereby notified that the City Council of Great Salt Lake City has recently erected a CITY STRAY FOUND, on the Public Square of the Eighth Bishop's Ward, and has also appointed SOLON FOSTER the keeper thereof. 24-11

## ESTRAY.

CAME to my farm on Big Cottonwood, near Howard's, about the 28th July, one bay MARE MULE, branded q B on left hip, Spanish brand on left hip and shoulder, ten or twelve years old. The owner is requested to prove property, pay charges and take her away. 24-11 R. WIMMER.

## 17th WARD TURNING SHOP.

SPINNING WHEELS, CLOCK REELS, &c. On the corner west of Temple Block, North Temple Street the undersigned have established a water power TURNING Lathe, and are now ready to supply customers. 25-3 JNO. L. SMITH & Co.

## ESTRAYED.

I have in my possession a dark red MOOLEY HEIFER, branded A on left shoulder. The owner can have it by proving property and paying charges. SOLON FOSTER. 25-2 City Pound Keeper, 8th Ward.

## TAKE WARNING!

I hereby warn all persons against purchasing without consulting me, a NOTE or DUE BILL for the amount of one hundred and seven dollars and 65 cents, given by me to John Bell, payable in trade on or before the first of January 1861. Attention to this may save trouble. 25-3 SAMUEL MULLINER, American Fork.

## WOOL AND ROLLS.

ALL Persons who brought their Wool by the middle of May, call and get your rolls. All persons coming from a distance with their wool can return with their rolls, as we are able to do good work and to the amount of 450lbs a day. E. R. YOUNG, Sugar House Carding Mill. 14-11

## STOLEN OR STRAYED

ON Thursday last, from my farm at Battle Creek, one grey MARE, six years old, branded XII on the left thigh, and a heart on the left shoulder, and D H WELLS on both fore hoofs. Any person giving such information as will lead to her recovery will be amply rewarded. 25-11 DANIEL H. WELLS.

## STRAYED.

ABOUT March last, a red COW, with a white face, white on the belly and back, about 5 1-2 years old, branded C C on the left hip, and DINWOODY, 7th Ward, on the horns, the points of which are broken off. Whoever will bring the cow (or give such information as will lead to its recovery) to H. Dinwoody, 7th Ward, of this city, shall be liberally rewarded. 24-11

## STRAYED OR STOLEN.

FROM near Ogden City, on the 20th of July last, a dark clay blank colored HORSE, six years old, branded with a heart on left shoulder and E g on left thigh. Also, a dark iron gray MARE, 4 years old, branded G on left shoulder. Any person delivering either or both of said animals, or any information of the same, shall be liberally rewarded by JOHN HOLLAND, Ogden City.

## NOTICE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, 25th April, 1860. ALL Parties who were appointed to offices by the Territorial Legislature of 1859-60, and those who have neglected to apply for their commissions, are hereby notified, that I will, on and after the first day of June next, proceed to make new appointments, under the supposition that the parties appointed have declined acceptance. 9-11 ALFRED CUMMING, Governor of Utah Territory.

## NOTICE

IS hereby given, that the inhabitants of West Jordan Ward intend to apply to the County Court for Great Salt Lake county, at September Session, for the extension of the county road from Jordan Mills into Bingham Canyon. All who have any objections or know of any cause why said road should not be surveyed are notified to appear and give their reasons. A. GARDENER, D. R. ALLEN, R. J. CUTLER. 25-3

## STRAYED OR STOLEN.

ON Thursday, the 14th of June, from Providence, Cache Valley, a grey MARE and COLT. The mare's left hip is down; she is branded C R on right shoulder, Spanish brand on left thigh. Colt, chestnut color, white strip down back; one hind leg white. Also, a black Canadian HORSE, lame in left foot. Whoever will deliver said animals, or give information of their whereabouts, to C. H. REMMELL, at Providence, Cache Valley, will be rewarded for their trouble. 17-11

## LIST OF ESTRAY CATTLE.

CAME into my herd during the year 1859, supposed to belong to the brethren in the north settlements, the following: One three year old STEER, roan brindle, neck white, belly and down the face white brand on left hip. One two year old HEIFER, red, white belly, white in the flank, star in the forehead, slit in left ear. One two year old HEIFER, red, white belly, hind legs and bush of tail, white down the face, right crop and slit left. One three year old STEER, red, white belly, little white tip on rump, hole in right ear, hole torn out. One three or four year old COW, light red brindle, crop off each ear, branded M P on left hip. One two year old BULL, brindle roan, no marks or brands. One two year old BULL, spotted red and white, white belly and legs, white down the face, branded I D on left hip.

The owners are requested to come and prove property, pay charges and take them away. GEORGE W. HANCOCK, Payson herd ground. PAYSON CITY, Aug. 17, 1860. 25-3

## WM. S. GODBE

KEEPS constantly on hand a choice Selection of DRUGS, MEDICINES and CHEMICALS of the best quality.

A full assortment of the Graefenburg Family Remedies, the extraordinary efficacy of which has been so abundantly tested in this Territory.

A great variety of Patent Medicines, Fancy Soaps, Oils, Perfumeries, Combs, Brushes, &c., &c. Indigo, Extract Logwood, Madder and other Dye Stuff.

Nipple Glasses, Breast Pipes, Nursing Bottles, Syringes, Trusses, Shoulder Braces and Female Abdominal Supporters of the best styles.

Fresh Bled cultivated Hops. Prescriptions carefully filled. All kinds of grain taken in payment.

## BREWERY.

We can now offer the Public an article of ALE AND BEER, that will compare favorably with any in the world. WM. S. GODBE, 511 One door south of Drug Store, East Temple Street.