

(For the Deseret News.)

Modern Germany.....V.

BY ALEXANDER OTT.

In the history of human intellect, literature, the potent offspring of mortal genius, occupies a prominent position, as it is generally a clear, precise, appropriate and agreeable medium of conveying in written or printed language the beauty and intrinsic value of thoughts as they have been transferred from the brain on paper.

It is, especially in Germany, where the intellectual existence of the nation partakes much of a poetic nature, that authors rise who, with the greatest felicity clothe the lofty outpourings of genius with an artistic truth, like a painter, who seizing the pallet, brushes and begins to paint with rapidity, conveying on canvass the impressions he has received, till like magic, a lovely landscape grows beneath his skillful touches.

There are certainly among all nations, authors who either portray graphically and with thrilling pathos, scenes of life and nature, or who in sweetly warbled strains fill the reader with a reverie and pensive sensation that seem to steal away existence in a lonely hour. I refer here especially to Lord Byron, Thomas Moore, Walter Scott, James Fenimore Cooper, Victor Hugo, Alexander Dumas, etc. who all with the fire of genius, the novelty of manners, the bizarre ornaments of their muses make their works highly attractive to those who are capable of relishing the sublime and beautiful, although arrayed in an unusual costume.

But in Germany, where the Mercurial wings of intellect are often liable of being clipt by the censor's ruthless hand, the poet's mind instead of being a closely compressed and variously colored image of the age, is confined to the suggestions realized while contemplating the grand works of Jehovah, where the singing billow, the sleeping lake and the beauties of the season smile in nature's peaceful forms. Yes, one of Germany's celebrated poets became so weary of the constant annoyance by the police, that he visited South America where, during some of his twilight walks, amid the scent and glow of night-blowing flowers, the soft whisper of waving palms, and warbling of nightingales, while watching in the gloom of primeval forests the innumerable fire-flies, or glow-worms and gazing on mighty rivers with the unclouded breadth of a tropical moon sleeping on their surface, his muse was inspired with poetic pictures of the highest order.

The period during which in Germany the most beautiful flowers sprang up in the belletristic fields of poetry and prose, is generally termed historically the *aetas aurea* (golden age). Wieland, (born 1733, died 1813) was the first who made his appearance on the brilliant arena of literary contests, both by original compositions and the splendid translations of Shakspeare's works, by which he did so much for the development of national literature. Soon another star rose, the genial Herder, (born 1744, died 1803), who by his philosophical, theological and aesthetic writings proved to be a man of great profundity of thought and positive knowledge. His whole attention was devoted to the development of everything noble and beautiful, in order to humanize his nation. Under these happy auspices a new era dawned upon the Teutonic race, shedding abroad a radiance of intellectual culture, by which the mind became emancipated from former lethargy and ignorance. Schiller, (born 1759, died 1805), and Goethe, (born 1749, died 1832), now rose and adorned the German Parnassus with a wreath of the most beautiful productions, both in prose and poetry.

Of the really classical dramas of Schiller, I mention here the *Robbers*, which was composed by the author at a very early age, *Fiesco*, *Don Carlos*, *Maria Stuart*, *Wallenstein*, etc. His poetry is mostly of a lyric character, imitating sometimes with great success the metre of the Greek tragedian Sophocles. Many of his poetic productions are distichs, consisting of a hexameter and pentameter with dactyles and spondees. Of Goethe's productions, — *Werther*, *Goetz von Berlichingen*, *Iphigenia*, *Egmont*, *Torquato Tasso*, *Faust*, etc. are well worth mentioning, on account of the beauty of diction, the splendid scenes and the variety of ideas that glow with the brightness of his wisdom, showing him to be intellectual, brilliant, witty and appreciative of everything good and noble, although his works have been criticised by some with greatly biased feelings and bitter animosity.

As for philosophical studies, Kant, Fichte, Schelling, etc., have gained laurels of glory. They are men of a well-balanced mind, who did not like the French engage in vague, dreamy speculations of absurd theories, but their sole object was the improvement of the moral and mental faculties. Schelling, one of the most eminent professors at the university of Berlin, published a work on the philosophy of revelation, stating in a clear and concise language the necessity of receiving revelations; the poor man was however soon stopped, and his work suppressed by the censor as being diametrically opposed to the religious views of the government.

Realizing the important aim of a sound knowledge of the classical languages, especially the Latin and Greek, men like Hayne, Wolf, Hermann, Vosse, etc., excelled as philologists by bringing the literary treasures of the ancient Greeks and Romans to light, and presenting the works of a Cicero, Horace, Plato, Isocrates, etc. etc. in splendid translations to the view of the present age.

As so-called humorists and satirists, Jean Paul Friederick Richter, (born 1763, died

1825), Kippel, (born 1741, died 1796), Thunemmel, (born 1738, died 1817, etc. are well known. Their works are full of Attic salt, and remind one forcibly of Horace's satyres and Charles Dickens's *Picwick* papers.

The lyric and epic romance is originating in the peculiar cast of the German mind, that became inspired by nature's beautiful scenery, and the magnificent ruins of ancient castles, the eloquent mementoes of baronical and chivalric pomp, when the herald's trumpet clang summoned the knights to achievement. All these delightful imaginings left a plastic impression on the public mind, and were productive of many of those beautiful, hisorical and graphical accounts that have found admirers both in Europe and America.

Like the Romans and Greeks who peopled every brook, every grove and in fact every place with dryads, satyrs and a variety of nymphs and minor deities, the Germans have peopled almost every mountain and valley with fairies and goblins that influence much the destiny of the children of men, and reward or punish them, according to their merits or demerits. These ideas which found their personification and realization in the creations of imagination, gave rise to the many pretty fairy tales of Musaeus, Grimm, etc.

As lexicographers, I mention here, *William and Jacob Grimm, Lachmann, Lasberg, etc.

The history of literature has been treated on especially by Gervinus, Menzel, Heinsius, etc. In reference to the study of oriental languages, particularly the Sanscrit, Adelung, Bopp, etc., have gained their literary reputation; and there are thousands according to the testimony of Mr. H. H. Wilson, professor of Sanscrit in Oxford university, in Germany, who are familiar with oriental tongues and the mythology thereof.

Bernstein and others have made the most profound researches in the fields of Arabic literature, and have furnished correct translations of some of its principal works, for instance, of Averroes of Cordova, the great commentator of Aristotle; he died in 1198. The encyclopedia of Al-Farabi, of Transoxiana, who died in 950. Like, the late cardinal Mezzofanti of Rome, and the still living Bowring, whose interesting travels in China and other parts of India, the intelligent reader will recollect the Arabian author Al-Farabi spoke 70 languages and wrote upon every human science.

The great object of the poetical art being to perpetuate and adorn, the lyric bards especially, have in lovely lays, painted the charms of nature with the exquisite pencil of genius. Embodying thus the boldest flights of an artistic imagination in beautiful metaphors, the incense of their sweet lyre embalms their works, and their ideas like odoriferous flowers, borne to the skies in clouds of soft perfume, flourish and bloom forever. Hence the sphere of influence which great authors occupy, extends with the progress of ages, and their names shine brighter and broader as they grow older.

I might mention many other names, suffice it to say, that there are excellent works on every branch of human knowledge, all striving more or less to counteract intellectually the pernicious influence of despotic governments.

An essential part of German education is music, the history of which is replete with names of the highest genius. That the Germans, Bohemians and Italians as nations have peculiar musical talents, is correct. It does not come within the province of this sketch to give the psychological and physiological reasons for this interesting phenomenon, but I will merely say that the Teutonic and Italic races have produced the greatest masters in the world.

To sing a sleepy, dismal, unmusical tune would be for an intelligent German as great a punishment as if he were sentenced to a regular attendance of a Methodist prayer meeting.

For the promotion of the noble art and science of music, there are societies established all over the country. Rich and poor, high and low worship at Orpheus' shrine and beguile the evenings with the performance of classical compositions. Of the great masters, I mention here Sebastian Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Gluck, Weber, Meyerbeer, Spohr and Adam. Their compositions are known to the inhabitants of the eastern and western hemisphere.

In conclusion I will say, that a momentum has been acquired in the development of the German nation, which in due time will combat, conquer and demolish the phalanx of military and despotic power.

*William Grimm, late professor at the University of Berlin, died in the spring of this year.

†Sanskrit, is the sacred language of ancient Hindu literature. It has not been vernacular in any part of India for some centuries past, but continues to be understood by the learned Brahmins as the Latin is in Europe and America. It is a language of wonderful structure, more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either.

The annexation of Savoy to France is fully accomplished, and no doubt the new Emperor will be quite as popular as ever King Victor was. Napoleon has done a prudent thing in visiting the province, giving away money, and setting the people at work. If their taxes are diminished while their employment and public improvements are increased—which will certainly be Napoleon's policy—they will become deeply attached to him. They live on the French side of the Alps, speak the French language, and naturally belong to that kingdom.

Order and the Means by which it can be obtained in the School Room.

BY AN EXPERIENCED PRECEPTRESS.

It is somewhere written that Order is heaven's first law, and I will say that it should be the first law of every school room, even as it is the theme of my first reading before the Deseret School Teachers' Association.

I have not chosen this subject deeming myself competent to treat it with ability commensurate with its weight, but because it is of paramount importance to those entrusted with the high and holy labor of teaching the sons and daughters of the Prophets, Apostles, Priests, etc. of the 'last days.'

Indeed the very importance of the subject fairly intimidates my pen at the threshold of my engagement; but I will endeavor to be consistent and confine myself to those things, which, in my humble estimation, are essential to the establishment of good order in any school.

A place for every thing and every thing in its place, a time for every thing and every thing in its time are mottoes that should be adopted in every department of life, and certainly in every school room.

There are three parties concerned in every school: the parents, the teachers and the pupils; and in order to success, these parties must co-operate.

I will take, as a starting point, punctual attendance; by which I do not mean alone that the pupils shall, every one, be present every day, but I mean that they should all be present at the time appointed.

In this the family regulations at home are largely concerned. If the hour for rising, praying, eating, etc., varies from six to nine o'clock in the morning, how can the children be punctually in the school room at any stated moment of time?

And again, how can the teacher regularly enter the school room full of peace, patience and self-possession, if there be no appointed time for the domestic and devotional duties of the morning?

Who can be refreshed without sleep; nourished without food; or enjoy the Spirit of the Lord without prayer? And all these things require time. I have never yet learned to perform this part of my duty without rising at an early hour; neither do I believe good order in the various details of a useful life can be attained independent of early rising.

In proof of this position, I might quote many noted authors, as well as both ancient and modern revelations; but I rather design to give deductions from my own experience than the maxims of others.

Now, we will take it for granted the duties of the morning have been attended to by each of the parties named, and the children have come out of abodes of peace and good order and made their appearance at the school room door at the appointed hour. For illustration, we will say the morning is stormy and their feet are muddy; now can they be expected to clean their feet, if there be not a scraper and mat at the door for their convenience, and can their taste for neatness and good order be cultivated without due regard to cleanliness?

One of the most learned women I have known in my life was scrupulously clean, but it would have been a marvel to find anything clean about her house or her person! Again, I have known persons to be thoroughly clean without seeming to understand the first principle of order! And while I would, of the two, prefer the latter; in this connection, I would think it dangerous to separate these two grand principles so essential in a pure life.

But to return: I think I hear the boys say, "never mind cleaning your feet, our tracks will never be seen on this muddy floor! Or if the case be otherwise: 'look out boys! wipe your feet clean, for every step will be seen on this clean floor!'"

Another thing: they must come in quietly. And here I would say, if the teacher would maintain quietness, she must be quiet herself. I would not say quietly, quietly, boys (in a loud tone), but advance towards them and say, quietly, quietly, boys; gently, gently, girls; walk round this way and hang your bonnets on these pins, and you, boys, hang your hats there near the door. Now, if there be no convenient place provided, will not the boys throw their hats under the benches and the girls fling their bonnets two or three on a nail not large enough to contain one? and the result will be hats and bonnets in a shape anything but creditable to their owners or the school they may attend.

We will now suppose they are all seated in order. What next? Shall we say—get your books and study your lessons? No, hold on! the roll must be called and credit given for two meritorious things that have been done, namely—coming in time and coming tidy, and I will add another good mark to each one that recites a passage of Scripture. Scripture recited in this way often suggests to my mind words of encouragement or reproof that may be needed at the time.

We are now ready to pray: "all you little boys and girls, cover your eyes with your hands, and then you will see nothing to divert your minds from the petitions being offered."

This prayer, in my way of thinking, should be short—no need to stretch our minds to the ends of the earth, or run over the whole creation in this prayer, but the things immediately wanted in the school should be petitioned for—is any one sick? is any one tempted? is any one discouraged?—let their case be particularly named.

Are books and other things wanted for the convenience of the school? Let us go to the treasury of the Lord, for he will withhold

no good thing from his children. I have known the family of a man of God to be sadly in want of books, slates, paper, etc., when one of the little boys was called on to pray at the opening of the school. His words ran about as follows: "And now, Father, you know we are sadly in need of books, slates and paper, and have no way to get them; therefore, we ask in the name of Jesus that you will open the way so that we may obtain them, and we will be very thankful." Two hours had not elapsed when these very articles were laid down before them, and great was the gratitude of those children.

I have heard it objected that all these ceremonies require too much time, but it seems to me that 'tis by such means their hearts are cultivated, and rendered susceptible to the spirit of the Lord and highly sensitive to every holy and true principle. And this much being gained, there will be no difficulty in establishing order for the balance of the day.

The school is now open and the pupils are ready for the programme of exercises on hand and here we must leave them for the present in hopes to resume the subject on some future occasion.

The Uncertainty of Doctors.

Oliver W. Holmes, in a lecture upon physicians, gives the following accounts of some mistakes which have been made in medicine:

"Sooner or later everybody is tripped up in forming a diagnosis. I saw Velpeau tie one of the carotid arteries for a supposed aneurism, which was only a little harmless tumor, and killed his patient. Mr. Dease, of Dublin, was more fortunate in a case he boldly declared an abscess, while others thought it an aneurism. He thrust a lance into it and proved himself right. Soon after he made a similar diagnosis. He thrust in his lancet as before, and out gushed his patient's blood and his life with it. The next morning Mr. Dease found him dead floating in his blood. He had divided the femoral artery. I have doomed people and seen others doom them, over and over again on the strength of physical signs, and they have lived in the most contumacious scientifically unjustifiable manner as long as they lived, and some are living still. I see two men in the street very often, who were both as good as dead in the opinion of all who saw them in their extremity. People will insist on living sometimes though manifestly moribund. In Dr. Elder's Life of Kane you will find a story of this sort told by Dr. Kane himself. The captain of a ship was dying of scurvy, but the crew mutinied, and he gave up dying for the present to take care of them. An old lady in this city, near her end, got a little vexed at a proposed change in her will; made up her mind not to die just then; ordered a coach; was driven twenty miles to the house of a relative, and lived for four years longer. Cotton Mather tells some good stories which he picked up in his experience, or out of his books, showing the unstable equilibrium of prognosis. Simon Stone was shot in nine places, and as he lay for dead the Indians made two hacks with a hatchet to cut his head off. He got well, however, and was a lusty fellow in Cotton Mather's time. Jabez Musgrave was shot with a bullet that went in his ear and came out of his eye on the other side. Jabez got well, however, and lived many years. Per contra, Col. Rossiter, cracking a plum stone with his teeth, broke a tooth, and lost his life. We have seen physicians dying, like Spigelus, from a scratch; and a man who had a crowbar shot through his head is alive and well. These extreme cases are warnings. But you never can be too cautious in your prognosis, in view of the great uncertainty of the course of any disease not long watched and the many unexpected turns it may take."

—In Greenwood Cemetery there have been interred since September 5th, 1840, when the first body was placed in the ground in that place, up to June 9th, 1860, seventy-six thousand, seven hundred and ninety-seven persons.

—Mr. Aaron Eaton, of Southampton, Mass., aged 92 years, the oldest person in that town, it is said, was in the field mowing this year, and did what would be a fair day's work for half the hired men.

—The French papers have published the programme of the great Paris Art Exhibition, to be held in 1861. The Exhibition is to take place from the 1st of May to the 1st of July, and artists of all nations—painters, sculptors, architects, engravers—are admitted. No artist, however, is allowed to exhibit more than four works. The objects for exhibition must be sent between the 20th of March and 1st of April, 1861. Besides a great medal of 4,000fr., smaller medals of 1,500fr., 500fr., and 250fr. will be awarded. Painting alone is to be honored with 21 medals.

—An official return shows that in Spain there are now 100 miles of railway open for traffic, 250 in course of erection, and 250 conceded.

—A German paper says that there are thirty-seven Hungarian officers serving under Garibaldi, one-half of whom went expressly from Hungary to Italy, the remainder having been emigrants.

—One thousand men are employed in the United States in the manufacture of sewing-machine needles, and the profits on them amount to nearly \$300,000 a year. Since the introduction of the sewing machine the sale of spool-cotton has increased to the extent of more than a million and a half annually.