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To the Hon. Charles S. _____

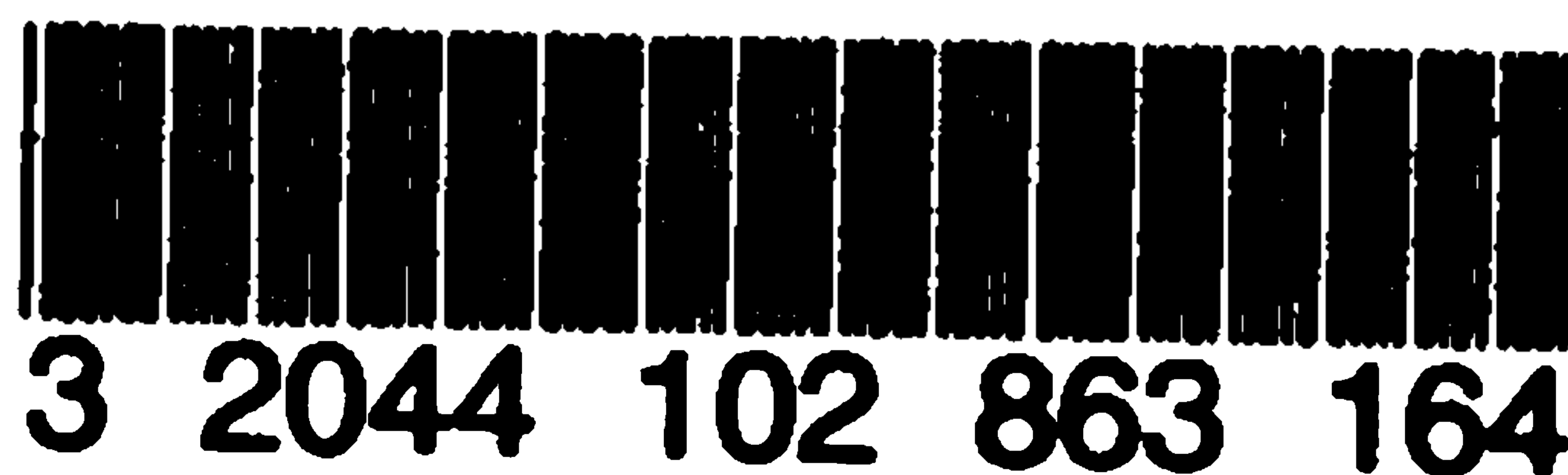
Most Respectfully

by his humble servant,
the Author

F. L. O. Bahrig.

Philadelphia
S. W. cor. of Ninth & Callow.
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November 14th,
1864.



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THE GERMAN STUDENT'S
FIRST BOOK

OR,

A GENERAL INTRODUCTION
TO ALL GERMAN GRAMMARS
AND ELEMENTARY WORKS.

BY

F. L. O. Røhrig.

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P R E L I M I N A R Y.

Our object in these pages is not to make a learned, but a **useful and essentially practical** book, which may prove profitable in the hands of *every one*, even the illiterate and, so to speak, uneducated person. Care has, therefore, been taken in this little work to leave out all scientific expressions and grammatical digressions which do more harm than good, in elementary treatises of the kind.*)

We have throughout this little book, employed such plain and simple language that the least cultivated mind will be able to use with advantage the instructions preparatory to the study of the German language, which it was our desire here to impart. But even the students in Academies and Seminaries, who wish to give some attention to German, may find this sort of practical instructions, not entirely beneath their capacities. For, if the method of study which is adopted in these few pages, is not a learned one, it is at least founded on a scientific basis. It proceeds from the fact that the German is nearly related to the English, so much so, that it might almost be said, that the whole English language (at least in its purely Germanic or Anglo-saxon part,) is contained in the German; resembling somewhat the waters of a large stream which although swollen to a considerable size by various tributary rivers, may be said to be contained in its fountain.—The greater, if not the greatest, part of the German words may, therefore, still be found in the English language. But they may frequently have become, in the run of time, so changed and modified,

*) Those of our readers who are conversant with the usual mode of instruction in languages, and the logical order which prevails in Grammars generally, will perhaps think it strange, at first sight, to find that order entirely neglected, and things brought together, which seem not to have any connection with each other. To this we only say that our main desire is, here to lay down some *general rules*, from which many others will easily be derived *as necessary consequences from principles*, for instance, as if in a similar work for the English language, we would say [to give here only one example out of many others] that the letter “y” is a final letter, and that, with but a few exceptions, whenever a word at the end of which it stands, takes an increase of one or more syllables, the “y” has to be written as an “i”. And on that occasion we would mention all the various cases of grammatical changes where that general rule is applied, not taking into consideration their belonging to the nouns [such as copy, copies, &c.] or the adjectives [as beauty, beautiful, and also pretty, prettier, prettiest], or the numerals [as for instance: twenty, twentieth], or the verbs [as I cry, he cries] and so forth.

that they appear often as if disguised and not at all discernible to the common observer. Our intention, therefore, is to give to the beginners of the German language, before they enter into the details and minutiae of the Grammar, a small but sufficient number of rules; by the judicious application of which, they will soon become able to make of every German word a corresponding English word.*)

The transformation of German words into corresponding English words, is done by comparing all the parts of which a German word is composed with those of an English word that appears related to it. Thus, syllables are to be compared in such words one by one, and in these syllables all the *letters*; letters, (vowels and consonants) being the most elementary parts of which all words consist, and, therefore, the most important in a thorough and minute comparison.

With these few preliminary remarks, we now recommend the following pages to the careful perusal of the student who wishes to acquire a sound and respectable knowledge of German in the shortest possible time. And, if the simplicity of the style, the plainness of the exposition, the newness and evidence of the facts presented, the time-saving and labor-saving method, the smallness of the book and its low price, cause this little work to be considered and used, as *a General Introduction and preparatory Study TO ALL GERMAN GRAMMARS*, and thus be introduced as the learner's first text-book in the Schools of this Country; and if it should become, in every respect, a popular and practically useful book, in the hands of the masses of our American people who wish to mingle with the daily increasing German population, then we shall think that we have not labored in vain.

*) These rules have their last reason in the Science of Language and comparative Philology, a new science which originated in Germany and has hitherto, been cultivated almost exclusively by German Scholars. The English and French begin daily more and more to appreciate the valuable results of that intensely interesting study, and some of the celebrated standard works of such men as *Wm. Humboldt* (the deceased brother of Alexander), *Bopp*, *Pott*, &c. have already been translated by the neighboring nations of Germany into their respective native tongues. This Science of Language is by no means an imaginary, or as some self-made Etymologists may suppose, an arbitrary, uncertain and merely conjectural science; but, in its last analysis, it rests on the respectable foundation of the Physiology of the human voice and the laws of Acoustics. Even in this Country an effort is already perceptible of bestowing some attention on this new science; and distinguished classical Scholars on *this* Continent begin to hold it in a very high estimation, as is evident from numerous passages in their works.

Many persons seem to consider the types which they find in German books and which are different from the English letters as one of the most discouraging difficulties that meets them at the very outset. But we are happy to tell them all, that they know these letters already, since they are the very same Gothic characters which we so frequently see at the head of Newspapers, on Book-titles, Music pieces, on Shop signs, &c. They have only been reduced to a smaller scale and adapted to the convenience of the printer. Another, rather encouraging fact it may be worth while to mention here: a considerable deal of the literary productions of the Germans, several Newspapers of Germany, editions of the German classics, scientific works and others, are printed in Roman types, that is, in the same letters as the English. We, therefore, make use in the following pages of the English letters only, as they are so frequently employed in German print. In this way we avoid the appearance of accumulating difficulties, and the little practice which the beginner needs in the above-mentioned Gothic types, will be very suitably deferred until he continues his studies in the Exercise-books and Grammars. Thus, all that refers to the German letters, their forms in print and writing, their names and their pronunciation, it is not our object here to consider. The latter may be found in every German Grammar; and, as we suppose that such (especially those very practical and progressive elementary books of **Woodbury**) are in the hands of all who, as beginners, make use of our little book, we proceed immediately to the rules relating to the *transformation of German words into corresponding English words*.

RULE 1st.—VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u, y) are the most easily changed in words of kindred languages, so much so, that the *difference of a vowel* in a German and its corresponding English word, need never prevent us from recognizing their identity.—Not *what* vowel, but *where* the vowel stands; in other words the *place* of the vowel, alone is of importance for this purpose. Hence, we have in German, for instance, the word “**und**” (with “u”) and in English the same word “**and**” (with “a”); other examples of the same kind are the German “**nase**” (with “a”), which has for its corresponding word in English “**nose**” (with “o”), then also

the German "*lang*" and the English "*long*"; the German "*blau*" (with the vowels *a*, *u*), English, "*blue*" (with *u*, *e*); the German "*Freund*" (with the vowels *e*, *u*), English, "*friend*" (with the vowels *i*, *e*); &c. &c.

When a German word is given and we wish to find the word corresponding to it in English, we have, first of all, to look out for a word of the same or at least a similar meaning; then we try to keep the vowels as similar as possible before we endeavor to change them. We thus, for instance, begin with trying to keep in the English words the *same* vowels as in the German. But if we do not arrive in this manner, at any corresponding English word, then we substitute *similarly sounding* vowels, and only, at last, put vowels *altogether different*.

Often *one* vowel stands in German, while two or more have to be put in English; for instance: in German "*fand*" (only with *one* vowel, "*a*"); the same word in English: "*found*" (with the *two* vowels: "*o*, *u*") &c. Also the opposite takes place, thus: in German "*reich*" (with the *two* vowels "*e*, *i*"), the same word in English "*rich*" (only with *one* vowel, "*i*"), &c.

Often also we have to add in the English word a mute "*e*" at the end, where the German has no such addition. For instance: in German, "*wein*." (With the *same* vowels "*e*, *i*" we cannot form any English word of a like or similar meaning; we, therefore next proceed to the substituting of *similarly sounding* vowels, which end we attain here by the one vowel "*i*." But this would lead us to the word "*win*" or "*to win*", where the "*i*" has *not* a similar sound to the German "*ei*." To arrive at this result, we have to lengthen the English "*i*," which is done by the addition of a mute "*e*" to the word, thus: "*wine*.")

RULE 2nd.—As to the **CONSONANTS** of corresponding words in German and English, they may be sometimes *alike*, and, in other instances *different*. But by this we mean to say that they are changed only according to *certain laws*; they are still *similar* and *related*. The great law according to which consonants, in kindred languages, interchange, is: that *those which are pronounced by the same organs of the human voice, are most frequently interchanged*. Thus are the lip-letters (labials) which are: *w*, *v*, *b*, *p*, *f*, *m*. Examples of such interchanges are: the word "*father*" which in Latin begins with *p* (a lip letter), in English with *f* (another lip letter), in German with *v* (again another lip letter), &c.

In the same way the throat-letters (gutturals) *h*, *g*, *gh*, *c*, *k*, and the German *ch*, &c., and their attenuated and modified forms (palatics): consonantic *y*, German *j*, &c., are all easily interchangeable

with each other. Examples are: the German word "*licht*" (with *c*), which is in English "*light*" (with *g*); the German "*garn*" (with *g*) is the English "*yarn*" (with *y*), &c. &c.

Then also the *d*-sounds (linguals): *d*, its harder form *t*, its aspirated and lisped form *th* interchange with each other. Also the *s*-sounds (sibilants) are interchangeable in kindred tongues, viz: *s*, *z*, *sh*, *j*, the German *sch*, &c. At the same time, a frequent exchange or permutation exists between the *t*- and *s*-sounds. Examples of both cases are: the german word "*hart*" (with *t*) is in English "*hard*" (with *d*); the german "*besser*" (with *ss*) is in English "*better*" (with *tt*), &c.

When we consider a german word, in order to find its corresponding word in English, we have to compare especially the CONSONANTS in the words which, in kindred tongues like German and English, we suppose to be related. We have to treat the consonants as the most important part of the words, and compare them with regard to the organ by which they are uttered. Thus, two letters will be related to each other, when, for instance both are lip-letters, or when both are throat-letters, or both belong to the *t*- or *s*-sounds, &c. &c. For, the sameness of origin, or in other words, the sameness of the organ of voice with which they are uttered, is the very thing which determined their interchange and makes us recognize their primitive identity, and hence the identity of the *words* in which they stand.

We enter now upon some further particulars connected with these transformations of German words into English, and present some practical hints bearing on the application of our rules.

German verbs may be changed into English verbs, especially in their most simple and indeterminate form, the infinitive mood, when we keep in mind the following few and easy rules: viz.

The original termination of the English infinitive was "*en*," as we still see by some traces left in the English of the present day, such as the verbs: to fasten, to hasten, to lighten, to frighten, to listen, to hearken, to liken, to blacken, &c.—Now, in German the infinitive mood of verbs ends either in "*en*" or simply "*n*." As this termination does not generally exist in the English infinitives, which have no other characteristic sign by which they are known, than the little syllable "*to*" placed before the word, we simply change when transforming German verbs into English verbs, the termination "*en*" or "*n*" into that little prefixed syllable "*to*." For instance:

{ in German: binden	Germ. finden	Germ. singen	Germ. bringen
{ in English: to bind	Engl. to find	Engl. to sing	Engl. to bring

{ Germ. senden	Germ. spenden	Germ. winden	} and many others.
{ Engl. to send	Engl. to spend	Engl. to wind	

As a DOUBLE consonant in German has no other meaning than to render the preceeding syllable short, we have when we meet such cases in the transformation of German words into English, to reduce the double consonant to a simple one.

Thus, for instance:

In German: <i>kommen</i>	} k and c being almost identical letters, belonging both to one and the same organ of voice.
In English: <i>to com e</i>	

We also observe that the letter “*h*” in the middle of German words, serves in most cases, only to lengthen the preceeding vowel. We have in English something analogous to this silent “*h*,” in the proper name “*Jo*h*n*” for instance. But as it does, not otherwise, exist in English, we have, of course, to take it out, when we want to transform such German words into English. Thus, for instance: in German the verb: “*se*h*en*” becomes “*to see*” after dropping the “*h*,” and changing the termination “*n*” into the prefixed syllable “*to*”.

Other examples of such transformations of German into English verbs, but with the interchange of consonants, are the following:

In German: <i>brechen</i>	Germ. <i>helfen</i>	Germ. <i>hoffen</i>	Germ. <i>trinken</i>
In English: <i>to break</i>	Engl. <i>to help</i>	Engl. <i>to hope</i>	Engl. <i>to drink</i>
In German: <i>geben</i>	Germ. <i>leben</i>	Germ. <i>haben</i>	Germ. <i>denken</i>
In English: <i>to give</i>	Engl. <i>to live</i>	Engl. <i>to have</i>	Engl. <i>to think</i>
In German: <i>reichen</i>	Germ. <i>bleichen</i>	Germ. <i>treiben</i>	Germ. <i>suchen</i>
In English: <i>to reach</i>	Engl. <i>to bleach</i>	Engl. <i>to drive</i>	Engl. <i>to seek</i>
In German: <i>reiben</i>	Germ. <i>sagen</i>	Germ. <i>hören</i>	Germ. <i>stehen</i>
In English: <i>to rub</i>	Engl. <i>to say</i>	Engl. <i>to hear</i>	Engl. <i>to stay</i>

In German: *gehen*.
In English: *to go*. | But the German “*leuchten*” is “*to lighten*”; Germ. “*horchen*” is in English “*hear*”, &c. &c.

Now we would mention the transformation of the PAST PARTICIPLE of German verbs into its corresponding English form. The past participle in these two languages is of great importance from its frequent occurrence, as the compound past-tenses of the active voice, as well as the whole passive voice of the German and English verbs are formed of it. Its termination in German is very similar to that in English, viz: “*t*” and “*et*” (the English *ed*); also “*n*”; just as we have in English *spent*, *brought*, *loved* (with *d* for *t*), *written*, &c.—But in German it has, moreover, a syllable at the beginning, namely “*ge*.” As this does not exist in English, we have to drop it when transforming German words of this kind into corresponding English words. We here give some examples: The German “*gesehen*” is in English “*seen*”; the German “*gestohlen*” is “*stolen*”; “*gebrochen*” is “*broken*”, “*gelernt*” is “*learnt*”; “*gebracht*” is “*brought*”; “*getrieben*” is “*driven*”; &c. &c.

We proceed to some other rules.

1s.—Where the German language begins words with “*w*”, the

English has in several instances "**wh**", thus: in German **was**, Engl. **what**; germ. **wenn**, engl. **when**; germ. **weiss**, engl. **white**; germ. **weile**, engl. **while**; germ. **weinen**, which in English has become "to **whine**," &c.

2d.—Where the Germans use "**chs**," we find in English "**x**."—Thus: Germ. **wachs**, Engl. **wax**; germ. **Ochs**, engl. **ox**; germ. **fuchs**, engl. **fox**; germ. **büchse**, engl. **box**, &c.

3d.—Where the German, which is a harsher language, has the letter "**t**," the English has generally the softer consonant "**d**." Thus: Germ. **wort**, Engl. **word**; germ. **hart**, engl. **hard**; germ. **garten**, engl. **garden**; germ. **gut**, engl. **good**; germ. **blut**, engl. **blood**; germ. **laut**, engl. **loud**; germ. **bett**, engl. **bed**; germ. **hatte**, engl. **had**; germ. **saut**, engl. **seed**; germ. **breit**, engl. **broad**; germ. **weit**, engl. **wide**; germ. **seite**, engl. **side**, &c. &c.

4th.—The German "**th**" is altogether different from the Engl. "**th**"; it is only a somewhat aspirated "**t**," and is frequently not distinguished by the ear from the common "**t**." Therefore it is to be treated like simple "**t**"; and in most instances we have to put **d** in the place of the German "**th**", just as we did for "**t**." Examples are: German **thuer**, English **dear**; germ. **roth**, engl. **red**; germ. **ruth-e**, engl. **rod**; germ. **fluth**, engl. **flood**; germ. **thun**, engl. **to do**; germ. **that**, engl. **did**; &c.

5th.—Having thus seen that the German "**t**" (and also "**th**") is rendered in English by "**d**", we now ask, how is the German letter "**d**" transformed in English? We answer: Usually the German "**d**" becomes in English "**th**." Examples are: german **dank**, engl. **thank**; germ. **drei**, engl. **three**; germ. **dieb**, engl. **thief** (*b* and *f* are interchangeable with each other, as both are lip-letters); germ. **denn**, engl. **then**; germ. **dies**, engl. **this**; germ. **dick**, engl. **thick**; germ. **dünn**, engl. **thin**; germ. **ding**, engl. **thing**; germ. **dein**, engl. **thine**; germ. **du**, engl. **thou**; germ. **denken**, engl. **to think**; germ. **distel**, engl. **thistle**; germ. **bruder**, engl. **brother**; germ. **dorn**, engl. **thorn**; germ. **durst**, engl. **thirst**; germ. **beide**, engl. **both**; germ. **scheide**, engl. **sheath**; germ. **süd**, engl. **south**; germ. **nord**, engl. **north**; germ. **herd**, engl. **hearth**, &c. &c.

6th.—Where the German has "**sch**," it has in English to be changed into "**sh**." For instance: in German **scheinen**, English to **shine**; germ. **scharf**, engl. **sharp**; germ. **schiff**, engl. **ship**.

In a few instances the German "**sch**" is in English a simple "**s**" (without the "**ch**") as in the germ. **schlafen**, engl. to **sleep**; germ. **schwimmen**, engl. to **swim**.—Sometimes, though but very seldom, the german "**sch**" disappears entirely, as in the german **schmelzen**, engl. "to melt."

7th.—The German “**ch**” becomes usually “**gh**” in English, as: Germ. *licht*, Engl. *light*; Germ. *sicht*, Engl. *sight*; Germ. *dicht*, Engl. *tight*. The vowel which in German stands before the “**ch**” becomes in English most frequently “**i**” and also “**ou**”, as for instance: Germ. *recht*, Engl. *right*; in German the substantive *macht*, Engl. *might*; Germ. *nacht*, Engl. *night*, &c.; then also with the diphthong “**ou**” in English: the German *suchte*, English *sought*; Germ. *brachte*, Engl. *brought*; Germ. *dachte*, English *thought*, &c. &c.

[As there is no rule without exceptions, we have to mention that the German “**ch**” interchanges also now and then with other guttural letters, as in the German *buch*, which is in English *book* (with *k*), &c.]

8th.—The German “**g**” becomes frequently “**y**” in English; as for instance: Germ. *weg*, Engl. *way*; Germ. *tag*, Engl. *day*; Germ. *garn*, Engl. *yarn*; Germ. *gestern*, Engl. *yester*; Germ. *mag*, Engl. *may*; &c.

9th.—The German termination “**en**” in words that are not verbs, becomes sometimes “**om**” in English; examples are: Germ. *selten*, Engl. *seldom*; Germ. *besen*, Engl. *besom* (now an obsolete word); Germ. *busen*, Engl. *bosom*; Germ. *boden*, Engl. *bottom*; Germ. *faden*, which sometimes has the meaning of the Engl. *fa hom*; &c.

10th.—A guttural letter, especially “**g**”, and now and then “**ch**” and “**k**”, preceded by “**r**” or “**l**” in German words, become sometimes “**ow**”, while the preceding “**r**” (or *l*) is doubled. Examples: Germ. *talg*, Engl. *tallow*; Germ. *mark*, Engl. *marrow*; Germ. *borgen*, Engl. *to borrow*; Germ. *sorge*, which has frequently the meaning of the Engl. *sorrow*; Germ. *morgen*, which often stands for the Engl. *to morrow*; Germ. *furchen*, Engl. *furrow*; Germ. *folgen*, Engl. *to follow*, &c.

11th.—We often see that the German words have preserved certain consonants, while they have disappeared in the corresponding English word. Thus, for instance, the letter “**l**.” Germ. *als*, Engl. *as*; germ. *wald*, engl. *wood*; germ. *solch*, engl. *such*; germ. *welch*, engl. *which*; &c.—The letter “**n**” also often disappears in English when it is still to be found in German: for instance, Germ. *uns*, Engl. *us*; germ. *sanft*, engl. *soft*; germ. *mund*, engl. *mouth*; germ. *ander*, engl. *other*; germ. *wunsch*, engl. *wish*; germ. *fünf*, engl. *five*; &c.—Also guttural letters frequently are lost in English while they exist in German: as, german *Ich*, engl. *I*; germ. *Glück*, engl. *luck*; germ. *nagel*, engl. *nail*; germ. *hagel*, engl. *hail*; germ. *segel*, engl. *sail*; germ. *regen*, engl. *rain*, &c.*) Also

*) The disappearing of the guttural letters, such as *c*, *g*, &c., also frequently takes place in other languages; compare for instance the Latin: “*tu facis*” with

the termination of the German adjectives which is “-lich”, Engl. “-ly”; and “-ig”, Engl. “-y”; as for instance, germ. “freundlich”, engl. “friendly”; germ. “heilig”, engl. “holy”; &c.

Indeed, on the principles here laid down, we may also compare the terminations of German words with those of English words. Thus, we see the german “-niss” (nisz), engl. “-ness”; the germ. “-ung”, engl. “-ing”; germ. “-schaft”, engl. “-ship”;^{*)} germ. “-thum”, engl. “-dom”; germ. “-heit” (and “-keit”), engl. “-hood” (and “-head.”) A few examples will make this clear, as: germ. “endung”, engl. “ending”; germ. “freundschaft”, engl. “friendship”; german “gottheit”, engl. “godhead”; &c.

But these terminations do not always exactly correspond in both languages, and we frequently see one of them used in German, while we meet in Engl. with an altogether different one; for instance, germ. “freundlichheit”, engl. “friendliness”; germ. “trunkenheit”, english “drunkenness”; germ. “weisheit”, engl. “wisdom”; germ. “wildheit”, engl. “wildness”; germ. “brüderschaft”, engl. “brotherhood”; germ. “christenheit”, engl. “christendom”; while the German word “Christenthum” is rendered in English by “Christianity.”

The German prefixes are sometimes similar to those in English; thus: “miss” (misz) is the English “mis-”, for instance: german “miszlegen”, engl. “to mislay”, &c. (It expresses a wrong, an error or mistake.) Another prefixe is “be.” It is frequent in German and in English, we meet it in words like: *become*, *behold*, *bedim*, *belong*, *bedew*, *bedrop*, *befool*, *bespeak*, &c., and also in preposition and adverbs, such as *behind*, *below*, *beneath*, *beyond*, *besides*, *betimes*, &c. Now, in comparing the two languages, we meet with verbs like the following: germ. *befallen*, engl. to *be*fall; germ. *befreunden*, engl. to *be*friend; germ. *beschmieren*, engl. to *be*smear; germ. *bedenken*, engl. to *be*think; germ. *belügen*, engl. to *be*lie; &c.—The German prefix “ge” is not found in English; sometimes it is expressed by “be” or prepositions in compound verbs; as germ. “glauben”, (for *ge*-lauben) engl. to *be*-lieve; &c.—The German prefix “ver” corresponds, in

the French: “tu fais”; the Latin: “ille facit” with the French: “il fait”; the Latin: “magis” and the French: “mais”; and hence the Latin “magister” with the French “maistre” and “maitre”, Engl. “master”, which connects with the Germ. “Meister”, “meist” (English, “most”) and leads us back to the Greek superlative “megist-os”, &c.—Then again compare the Latin *hodie* for *hoodie*, &c.; the Latin *regina* with the French *reine*; the Latin *regula* with the English *rule*; the Latin *secure* with the Engl. *sure*; the Latin *fragilis* and the Engl. *fragile* with the Engl. *frail*; &c.

^{*)} When comparing the German termination *schaft* with the corresponding English termination *ship*, we see that the German has *t* at the end, which is dropped in English. There are indeed several instances of the disappearing of the letter *t*, when final; thus: German *sacht*, Engl. *sap*; Germ. *hüfte*, Engl. *hip*; Germ. *selbst*, Engl. *self*, &c.

many instances, to the Engl. "**for**"; as in the German verb *vergeben*, Engl. to *forgive*; germ. *vergessen*, engl. to *forget*; germ. *verbieten*, engl. to *forbid*; germ. *verloren*, which often is used in the same sense as the English *forlorn*.

Words in the process of being transformed from one language to another, sometimes get a modified meaning and undergo a change in their signification, which either becomes widened, more comprehensive and general than it was before, or, narrowed, limited and more especial. Thus, the same word in kindred tongues may frequently present this aspect; in the one it may refer to the *genus*, in the other to the *species*, &c., and *vice versa*. Examples: In German "*kneif*" (a *wretched* knife) refers to the **species**, while the same word in Swedish and English (*knife*) refers to the **genus**. The same word in French, only somewhat differently written, "*canif*" (for *cnif*) means a *pen-knife*. It refers to the *species*, as it is *not every* kind of knife, but only *a knife for certain purposes*, viz: of mending pens. — Other instances are the following: Latin "*corpus*", a body (*genus*); Engl. "*corpse*", a dead body (*species*); French "*complexion*", constitution of the body; Engl. "*complexion*", color of the face or skin, — temperament; French "*large*" means only "*broad*", referring only to surface. It has therefore a more *special*, less comprehensive and narrower meaning than the *English* word "*large*", which refers to size in all its dimensions, and has the widest, most comprehensive and general meaning. So also in French "*recette*" (for "*recept*") means the money taken in, the result from the business transaction, the income of the day; in German "*recept*" means a recipe, a physician's prescription; in Engl. "*receipt*" means a writing acknowledging that something has been *received*. Now, applying these principles more particularly to German and English, — we have in English "*small*" which means "*little*" and refers to littleness in *all* its dimensions (*genus*), germ. "*schmall*" means only "*narrow*", and thus refers only to littleness as a surface, and has a more *special*, less comprehensive meaning; it has become narrowed, restrained, limited. Thus we see in the two German synonymous words *rennen* and *laufen*. They both mean "*to walk fast*." In Engl., the germ. verb *rennen* is "*to run*" and has kept this meaning. As to *laufen*, it had in old Saxon (where it is *hleapen*) the same signification. But in Engl. "*to leap*", which is the very same word, is to spring, to bound, to jump, and has thus a more *special* and restrained sense. — Again we have in

- { German the verb "*wachsen*" — to grow, in the more *general* sense.
- { English "*to wax*", with a more limited meaning, a *species* of growing.

Then again: { Germ. "*reiten*"—to go on horseback (a *special* meaning.)
 { Engl. "*to ride*"—refers to the *genus*, — signifying to be carried in a vehicle, &c.—moving in a more *general* sense, to take a ride in a carriage, in a boat as well as on horseback, &c.

{ In German "*hund*"—is *every* dog and refers therefore to the whole race or *genus* of dogs.

{ In English "*hound*"—is only a *species* of dogs, namely dogs for hunting.

{ The German word "*thier*"—means animal generally (*genus*), be it a horse, a bird, a bug or an oyster.

{ In Engl. "*deer*"—denotes only a particular animal (*species*).

{ Germ. "*bilden*"—to form, to shape (*genus*).

{ Engl. "*to build*"—to construct (*species*).

{ Germ. "*fleisch*"—means flesh and meat, and therefore, refers to the *genus*.

{ Engl. "*flesh*"—has given up the meaning of meat and becomes more limited and special.

{ Germ. "*vogel*"—bird generally (*genus*).

{ Engl. "*fowl*"—formerly every bird; now it often denotes only a particular kind of birds.

{ Germ. "*brief*"—every letter, short or long.

{ Engl. "*brief*"—a succinct writing

{ Germ. "*siech*"—infirm, laden with chronic disease.

{ Engl. "*sick*"—afflicted with any disease whether chronic or acute.

{ Germ. "*weib*"—woman generally, either married or unmarried. (Only in poetry, now and then, used for *wife*.)

{ Engl. "*wife*"—a married woman.

In a similar relation to each other stand the German *wall* and the English *wall*; the German *raum* and the English *room*; the German *zimmer* and the Engl. *timber*; the German *knabe* and the English *knave*; and a great number of other words in the two languages.

Here we present some Exercises on all the preceding rules. Give the meaning in English of the following German words and point out the *modifications* of the primary meaning whenever such exist; as you can easily do with the help of a German and English Dictionary. It will be advisable for the student to endeavor to transform every word in these Exercises, merely from the knowledge he has acquired from the preceding rules, without looking into the Dictionary or at the re-

marks on the bottom of the page which are intended as a help for difficult words. But all such help is allowed, and even recommended, *after* the learner *has* effected the transformation of a word.

EXERCISES.

Wort. Wunder. Wurm. Wind. Besser. Ochs. Schiff. Ring. Bruder. Name. Nase. Hammer. Wolf. Rose. Winter. Sommer. Werth. Werk. Frost. Jung. Joch. Warm. Kalt. Bitter. Finger. Hand. Arm. Butter. Wasser. Wachs. Wachsen. Wunde. Waschen. Busch. Spinnen. Wein. Fein. Wink. Blind. Harm. Land. Willkommen. Stall. Bedecken. Hunger. Winden. Binden. Singen. Warnen. Wild. Still. Gebrochen. Weise. Wetter. Wachen. Spenden. Kommen. Gestohlen. Sinken. Mild. Scheinen. Springen. Wagen. Gold. Golden. Silber. Kupfer. Flachs. So. West. Fasten. Sehen. Bringen. Borgen. Folgen. Weinen. Weich. Brust. Nadel. Brustnadel. Schuh. Handschuh. Mehr. Meist. Meister. Noth. Glas. Gras. Haben. Alt. Ende. Hast. Bier. Helfen. Sack. Gut. Blut. Sohn. Leben. Geben. Tochter. Lernen. Hart. Brod. Bett. Backen. Haar. Bart. Nagel. Fusz. Bad. Baden. Fisch. Fischen. Schlaf. Schlafen. Freund. Freundlich. Unfreundlich. Befreunden. Feind. Feindlich. Befeinden. Fallen. Befallen. Beginnen. Garten, Blume, Blau, Roth, Rauben, Beraubt, Bewahren, Bedenken, Feld, Brechen, Braun, Lang, Breit, Schmall, Hoch, Dick, Kalb, Halb, Buchbin- der, Schuhmacher, Sattler, Fleischer, Koch, Klang, Speer, Nacht, Tag, Klar, Klappen, Frisch, Faul, Erde, Mann, Bevor, Ding, Hacken, Helfer, Ge- holfen, Ebbe, See, Leicht, Licht, Leuchten, Geist, Eis, Bein, Stein, Ein, Allein, Knöchel, Gäst, Henne, Schaben *), Schwein, Hufnagel, Machen, Segel, Hügel, Siegel, Regen, Schnee, Haut, Laden, Lahm, Markt, Lampe, Strom, Raum, Apfel, Stuhl, Macht, Recht, Schlau, Maus, Ratte, Streuen, Milch, Mel- ken, Gemolken, Buttermilch, Taub, Thal, Theil, Tief, Taufen,¹ Traum, Traurig, Unter, Und, Uns,

*) "*To shave*" is the kindred English word, although the German verb "*schaben*" is not used in just the same sense.

1. The German word "*taufen*" means only *to baptize*. Its corresponding



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Dies, Nächst, Vier, Ofen, Kohle, Schaufel, Sieb, Brauer, Stiefmutter, Stiefsohn, Galle, Zunge, Schulter, Rippe, Knie, Leber, Lippe, Mark, Blindheit, Salbe, Bleichen, Reichen, Sturm, Aal, Bohne, Leiter,¹⁵ Sauer, Feuer, Theuer, Becher,¹⁶ Birke, Ulme, Nessel, Finke, Taube, Affe, Biber, Gesicht, Gewicht; Gesund;¹⁷ Bergen;¹⁸ Betrügen;¹⁹ Fühlen; Dreschen; Bieten; Wiegen; Verbieten; Stecken; Tragen;²⁰ Triefen; Schelten; Schwellen; Schlingen; Schieben; Reiten; Reiben; Saugen; Liegen;²¹ Gewinnen;²² Gleiten; Greifen; Halten; Hangen; Heben; Hauen;²³ Gehen; Falten; Fechten; Frieren;²⁴ Gefroren.²⁴

A KEY TO THE PRECEDING EXERCISES.

Word. Wonder. Worm. Wind. Better. Ox. Ship. Ring. Brother. Name. Nose. Hammer. Wolf. Rose. Winter. Summer. Worth. Work. Frost. Young. Yoke. Warm. Cold. Bitter. Finger. Hand. Arm. Butter. Water. Wax. To wax. (to grow.) Wound (a sore.) To wash. Bush. To spin. Wine. Fine. Wink. Blind. Harm. Land. Welcome. Stall. To bedeck (to cover.) Hunger. To wind. To bind. To sing. To warn. Wild. Still. Broken. Wise. Weather. To wake. To spend. To come. Stolen. To sink. Mild. To shine. To spring. Waggon. Gold. Golden. Silver. Copper. Flax. So. West. To fast. To see. To bring. To borrow. To follow. To whine (in German to weep). Weak (soft). Breast. Needle (also: pin). Breastpin. Shoe. Handshoe (glove). More. Most. Master. Need. Glass. Grass. To have. Old. End. Hast. Beer. To help. Sack.

leader as well as *ladder*, according to its gender. 16, *Beaker*, cup to drink in. 17, *Ge-sund* is the English word "*sound*". It means healthy either applied to body or mind. 18, *To h'de*.—Its corresponding English word is *to bury*. But this latter refers to the species, while the German word denotes the genus. 19, *To deceive*. It has a *general* sense, while its corresponding English word "*to betray*" is only a species of deceiving. 20, *To bear, to carry*. Its English form is *to drag* which means moving like the former, but by pulling [the Latin *traho*.] 21, *To lie*. The *g* disappears here as it did in *Regen*, Engl. *rain*; *Segel*, Engl. *sail*; *Nagel*, Engl. *nail*; *Huegel*, Engl. *hill*; *Siegel*, Engl. *Seal*, etc. etc. 22, *To win*. The prefix *ge* does not exclusively belong to the past participles; but it serves also to form a certain class of compound verbs which can be learnt from German Grammars. 23, *To hew*. It means in German to beat and has a more comprehensive meaning than the corresponding English word. 24, *To freeze*.—*Frozen*. The letter *z*, and especially *s*, interchange sometimes with *r*. Thus, for instance, Germ. *Ich war*, Engl. *I was*; Germ. *hase*, Engl. *hare*; Germ. *eisen*, Engl. *iron*, etc. This interchange is of a frequent occurrence in the various languages, especially in Latin and Greek.

Good. Blood. Son. To live. To give. Daughter. To learn.
 Hard. Bread. Bed. To bake. Hair. Beard. Nail. Foot. Bath.
 To bathe. Fish. To fish. Sleep. To sleep. Friend. Friendly.
 Unfriendly. To befriend. Fiend (*enemy*). Fiendly (*hostile*).
 To befiend. To fall. To befall. To begin. Garden. Bloom (flower).
 Blue. Red. To rob. Bereaft. To beware. To bethink. Field.
 To break. Brown. Long. Broad. Small (in German only *narrow*).
 High. Thick. Calf. Half. Bookbinder. Shoemaker. Saddler.
 Flesher (that is: *butcher*). Cook. Clang (*sound generally*). Spear.
 Night. Day. Clear. To clap. Fresh. Foul. Earth. Man. Be-
 fore. Thing. To hack. Helper. Holpen. Ebb. Sea. Light
 (*not heavy; also easy*). Light. To lighten. Ghost. Ice. Bone.
 Stone. One. Alone (*all-one*). Knuckle. Guest. Hen. To shave.
 Swine. Nail for fastening the horse-shoe. To make. Sail. Hill. Seal.
 Rain. Snow. Hide (*skin generally*). Lame. Market. Lamp. Stream.
 Room (*space*). Apple. Stool (*chair*). Might (*power*). Right.
 Sly. Mouse. Rat. To strew. Milk. To milk. Molken. But-
 termilk. Deaf. Dale. Deal. Deep. To dive (in German only *to*
baptize). Dream. Dreary. Under. And. Us. Soft. As. To
 burn. Board. Through. Meagre. Mine (*my*). Thine (*thy*). I.
 Luck (*also happiness*). Like. To liken. Here. To thank. To
 think. Thought. Brought. Also (means in German *thus, therefore*).
 Then. When. That (*also the*). What. Seen. To on-come (*to*
come on, to arrive). Therein. Thereout. Apricot. Honey. Oak.
 Hound (*Dog generally*). Harmless. Hundred. Thousand. Seven.
 Eight. Up. Upright. Idle. To err. Angel. Kettle. Fetter.
 Thistle. To fail. Out. To out-find (*to find out*). To out-thrash
 (*to thrash out*). To be-handle (*to handle, to treat*). Both. To laugh
 Landscape. Loud. To by-come (*to get at*). Free-willing (*voluntary*).
 Muscle. Fruit. Mood. Moodwilling (*petulant*). Yarn. Sharp.
 East. South. North. Wont. Week. Year. Fowl (*bird generally*).
 To slumber. Swan. To melt. Molten. To swim. Swum. To
 praise. Raven. Fatherland. Rank. Tin. Tinder. School. Sworn.
 Swallow. Tallow. Uncle. Ear. Many (*the multitude, the large*
quantity). Pearl. Oyster. Mien. To mark (*to notice, to remem-*
ber). Path. Pepper. To pipe. Plant. Plum. To pluck.
 Pound. Neighbor. New. New-year. Open. Oft, often. To shape
 (*to create, to labor*). Oil. Rich. To steal. To starve (*to die, ge-*
nerally). Ripe. Rice. Righty (*correct, right*). Toll. Sugar. Ground.
 Holt (*wood*). Wood (*forest*). Such. Thief. To run. Foresight.
 Folk. To weave. Web. To awaken. Tame (in German: *zähm*). Corn.
 Wheat. Steal. To set. Heat. Wit. To sweat. Fever. Linden-tree.
 Sunday. Friday. Monday. To full-end (*to accomplish*). Ending

(*termination*). Side. Instead. Crown. Feather. Mother. Lark. Nightingale. Goldsmith. Lamb. Comb. To tread. To shear. Soul. By. To. For (the *preposition* for). Thorn. Three. This. Next. Four. Oven (*stove* generally). Coal. Shovel. Sieve. Brewer. Step-mother. Step-son. Gall. Tongue. Shoulder. Rib. Knee. Liver. Lip. Marrow. Blindness. Salve. To bleach. To reach. Storm. Eel. Bean. Leader. Sour. Fire. Dear. Beaker (*cup*). Birch. Elm. Nettle. Finch. Dove. Ape. Beaver. Sight (also *face*). Weight. Sound (*healthy*). To bury (to *hide*). To betray (to *cheat*). To feel. To thrash. To bid (to *offer*). To weigh. To forbid. To stick. To drag (in German *to carry*). To drip. To scold. To swell. To sling. To shove. To ride (in German only referring to horse-back). To rub. To suck. To lie down. To win. To glide. To gripe (to *seize*). To hold. To hang. To heave (to *lift*). To hew. To go. To fold. To fight. To freeze. Froozen.

As already observed, it is not our object to produce here a German Grammar, but merely to present a *practical Introduction to all the Grammars of that language*; intended to give the learner a thorough and substantial start, and enable the pupil to read German works, by this new and easy method, in the shortest possible time, and thus especially to meet the wants and desires of such as are **engaged in trade and practical business-pursuits**. We, therefore, select here for the benefit of our readers, only a few Grammatical items that are *indispensable* to the understanding of German sentences, and we shall endeavor to present them in the simplest and plainest form they admit of.

RULE 1.—We remark that it is customary in German to commence every substantive and every word that stands in the place of a substantive with a *capital* letter.

RULE 2.—The pronoun “**Ich**” (I) is *not* written with a capital letter as it is in English.

RULE 3.—The pronouns “**Du**” (thou) and “**Sie**” (you) when used in addressing persons, are written with a *capital* letter by a kind of courtesy.

RULE 4.—The vowels **a**, **o**, **u** assume a *double* form in German.
 { First form : a, o, u.*)
 { Second form : ä, ö, ü, [that is: the same vowels with two superposed dots, which modify their pronunciation, as well as the pronunciation of a following “g” or “ch”, where such occurs. See German Grammars for the particulars.]

*) For the benefit of the **SCHOLAR** into whose hands these pages may possibly fall, we wish to state here, by the way and in passing, that these two kinds

These vowels take the second form (those with the two dots over) in most instances.

1st., in *the plural*. Examples: Väter, (father), Väter (fathers); Garten (garden), Gärten (gardens); Vogel (bird), Vögel (birds); Tochter (daughter), Töchter (daughters); Mutter (mother), Mütter (mothers); Bruder (brother), Brüder (brothers); &c. Sometimes with an additional termination, as, for example: Hand (hand), Hände (hands); &c. There are however, also cases, where the *first* form of *a, o, u* remains *unaltered* in the plural.

2d.—The *second* form occurs in a great number of verbs, in the *subjunctive* mood of the *imperfect* tense. For instance:

Ich hätte, &c. [I had, &c.] Ich hätte [I *might* have].

“ dachte, &c. [I thought, &c.] Ich dächte [I *might* think].

“ konnte [I could]. Ich könnte [I *might* be able].

“ mochte [I was disposed]. Ich möchte [I *might* be disposed].

“ durfte [I dared]. Ich dürfte [I *might* dare].

“ wurde [I became]. Ich würde [I *might* become]; &c. &c.

3d.—It appears in verbs which impel to an action,*) as:

dorren [to *get* dry], but dörren [to *make* dry];

dampfen [to steam], but dämpfen [to steam, in a causative sense];

of vowel-sounds, viz: *a, o, u*, and *ä, ö, ü* [the latter the Germans call the “*Umlaut*”] are, in their last analysis, reducible to one of the most curious and important laws of human language; namely, the universal antagonism which exists between the two classes of vowel-sounds [taken in the *continental* pronunciation of Europe, of course] *a, o, u* and *e, i* of which latter *ä, ö, ü* are merely a further modification or development. This vowel antagonism seems to have more particularly prevailed in the ancient and comparatively primitive languages, and is still more or less preserved in its purity, in the so called Tartar languages and in part also, in the Finnish tongues. It prevails especially in Hungarian, in Turkish, in Mongolian, and to some extent in Mantshoo, Finlandic and the numerous tongues of the wide-spread Finnish tribes. Where this antagonism exists unimpaired, we find two distinct kinds of words, those with *a, o, u, y*, the other with *e, i*; often even opposed or correlative to each other in their meanings. Thus in Mantshoo “ama” (father), “eme” (mother), &c. &c.; in Turkish “olmak” (to become, to be), “ölmek” (to perish, to die), &c.; “durmak” (to remain); “dürmek” (to move on); somewhat similarly we have in English “to stop” and “to stop”. Vestiges in Greek are “makros” (long) and “mikros” (small, short); “Ares”, God of war or discord, “Eris”, Goddess of discord, &c.; in Latin “calid-us” (warm) and “gelid-us” (cold), &c. In English tip and top, gloom and gleam, to rouse and to rise, to lay and to lie, may come under this head. [We would refer the reader to the writings on Tartar and Finnish languages of Schott, J. J. Schmidt, Gabelentz, Xylander, Kellgren, Castren, Duboux, &c. &c.] Even in our modern languages, such as French, Italian, &c., the difference of those two vowel-classes, still appears in part, in the peculiar influence they exert on the pronunciation of the guttural letters *c* and *g*; as Cato, Cicero, garnir, gener, &c. &c.

*) Also in English a change of the vowel is sometimes the only thing which gives to the verb a meaning of causation; as *to rise* and *to rouse*; *to sit* and *to set*; *to lie* and *to lay*, &c.

erkälten [to *get* cold], but erkälten [to *make* cold];
 erwärmen [to *get* warm], but erwärmen [to *make* warm, to cause
 to become warm]

and many others.

4th.—In the formation of diminutives. In this case the characteristic termination **chen** (or *lein*) has to be added.—For instance, Vater [father], Väter-chen [little father, also affectionately said for “dear father”]; Bruder [brother], Brüder-chen [little brother, also for “dear brother”]; in the same way: Tochter [daughter], Töchter-chen [“dear or little daughter”]; &c.

5th.—In the comparison of adjectives: then the characteristic terminations **er** for the Comparative and **est** (or *st* after an *e*) for the Superlative, are added. Examples: hart [hard], härter, härtest; stark [strong], stärker, stärkest; kalt [cold], kälter, kältest [coldest]; roth [red], röther, röthest, &c. &c.

6th.—In the derivation of words from each other. Examples: warm [the adjective warm] and wärme [the substantive warmth]; hart and the substantive härte [hardness]; kalt and kälte [the substantive]. The same occurs when an adjective is formed from a substantive; as: tag [day]; täglich [daily]; nacht [night], nächtlich [nightly] &c. Also when another adjective is derived from an adjective as in words denoting colors; for instance: roth [red], röthlich [reddish]; schwarz [black, swart], schwärzlich [blackish]. Also, when a verb is derived from a substantive or adjective, as: traum [dream], träumen [to dream]; raum [room, space], räumen [to make room]; scharf [sharp], schärfen [to sharpen]; &c.

RULE 5.—Vowels change according to certain laws, in the German irregular verbs. We here only mention a change of the kind which is particularly important because of its frequent occurrence. Namely, German irregular verbs with *e* in the radical syllable of the infinitive mood, take frequently *ï* in the 2nd and 3d persons singular of the present tense, and also in the second person singular of the Imperative. Such verbs take *œ* in the Imperfect tense in all persons throughout. Examples: Infinitive: “werden”, Present tense 1st pers. “werde”, but 2nd pers. “wirst”, 3d pers. “wird”, Imperf. “ward.”—Infin. werfen, werben, sterben, geben, nehmen, treffen, &c. — 2nd and 3d pers. sing. Pres. wirfst, wirft; wirbst, wirbt; stirbst, stirbt; gibst, gibst; nimmst, nimmt; triffst, trifft, &c. Imperative: wirf, wirb, stirb, gib (and gieb), nimm, tritt, &c.—Imperfect tense, with *œ*: warf, warb, starb, gab, nahm, traf, &c. (For more particulars, however desirable and interesting they may be, we have to refer the reader to the German Grammars.)

RULE 6.—The German language has three genders, the masculine, feminine and neuter. Thence the article "**the**" in German has a threefold form.

Der means "**the**", *masc.*, for instance: **der** Vater, the father.
 { — — also "**of** the", (*fem.*) — **der** Mutter } **of** the mother.
 { — — — "**to** the", (*fem.*) } **to** the mother.
 — — — "**of** the", (*plur.*) for all genders:

{ der Väter, **of** the fathers,
 { der Mütter, **of** the mothers,
 &c.

{ **die** means "**the**", *femin.*, as **die** Mutter, the mother.
 { — — also "**the**", *plur.* for all three genders; as: die Väter,
 the fathers; die Mütter, the mothers.

das means "**the**" neuter, as: **das** Haus, the house; **das** Kind, the child, etc.

des means "**of** the", in the singular of *masc.* and neuter.

dem means "**to** the" in the sing. of *masc.* and neuter.

den denotes **the** in the masculine, when the object of an action, or when standing in the accusative sing. as: "whom have you seen?"

Answ. "**the** father"; in German "*den* Vater."

— means also **to the** in the *plural* of all the three genders.

All pronominal adjectives as *dieser* (this), *jener* (that), *welcher* (which), *solcher* (such), and all other adjectives of the German language take the same terminations as the Article "**der**." Thus, there is nothing new to be learned on that score. We only have to state that in the nominative case of the singular, they take the terminations **er** (*masc.*), **e** (*fem.*), **es** (*neut.*), while the Article has "*er*", "*ie*", "*as*" [in "*der*", "*die*", "*das*"], and in the plural they take **e** merely, where the Article takes "*ie*" [in "*die*"]. The words *ein* [a, an], *mein* [mine and my], *dein* [thine and thy], *sein* [his], *kein* [no] when standing before a substantive, have the same terminations as the Article and the adjectives, with the only exception that, when the subject of the sentence [or in grammatical language expressed: "*when in the nominative singular*"] the masculine and neuter gender remain without a termination. Examples: *des* [*of* the, *masc.*], *dieses* [*of* this], *jenes* [*of* that], *welches* [*of* which], *solches* [*of* such], *gutes* [*of* good], *hartes* [*of* hard]; *dem* [*to* the, *masc.*], *diesem* [*to* this], *jenem* [*to* that], *welchem* [*to* which], *solchem* [*to* such], *gutem* [*to* good], *hartem* [*to* hard], *einem* [*to* a], *keinem* [*to* no], *meinem* [*to* my], *deinem* [*to* thy], *seinem* [*to* his]; *die* [*the*, in plural, for the three genders], *diese* [*these*], *jene* [*those*],

welche [which], **solche** [such], **gute** [good], in plural, **meine** [my, plur.], &c. &c.

Only when *not* preceded by the Article “**der**”, “**die**”, “**das**”, &c., or any other word which stands in the place of the Article and has its terminations—the adjectives take the terminations of the Article; but *when the article stands before the adjective*, then the latter does *not* take those terminations, but a weak euphonic ending, namely “**e**” when it is the subject of the sentence [the nominative], or the object [accusat.] of femin. and neuter genders, and “**en**” in all the other cases of the singular and plural number. Examples: *der gute Vater* [the good father]; *ein guter Vater* [a good father; **gut** takes “**er**”, because *ein* is one of those words which in the nomin. sing. masc. and neuter, take no termination]; *guter Vater* [good father]; *dem guten Vater* [to the good father]; *der guten Mutter* [to the good mother]; *einem guten Vater* [to a good father]; *gute Väter* [good fathers], but *die guten Väter* [the good fathers]; *guter Väter* [of good fathers], but *der guten Väter* [of the good fathers]; &c.—As a mere attribute, that is, when connected with the auxiliary verb “**to be**”, the adjective remains *unaltered*. Examples: *mein Freund ist gut* [my friend is good]; *der Stahl ist hart* [the steel is hard]; *der gute Stahl ist hart* [the good steel is hard]; *die alte Mutter meines guten Vaters ist freundlich* [the old mother of my good father is friendly]; &c.—The Comparison of adjectives is nearly the same as in English; for instance: Germ. *weise*, Engl. *wise*. Comparative Germ. *weiser*, Engl. *wiser*; Superlative Germ. *weisest*, Engl. *wisest*. Some adjectives are irregular in their Comparison, as for instance: *gut*, *besser*, *best* [good, better, best]; “*viel*” [much] has in the Comparative and Superlative *mehr*, *meist* [more, most]; &c. The English “**than**” after a comparison, is in German expressed by “**als**” [as], for instance: “*er ist besser als ich*” [he is better *than* I].—Pronouns of frequent occurrence are: *ich* [I], *du* [thou], *er* [he], *sie* [she & her], *es* [it], *wir* [we], *ihr* [you], *sie* [they]. The German word “**you**” for not more than one person, as a term of civility, is “**Sie**” [they], but always written with a capital letter, which distinguishes it from *sie* [they] &c. *Mir* [to me], *dir* [to thee], *ihm* [to him and to it], *ihr* [to her], *mich* [me], *dich* [thee], *sich* [himself, and one self generally], *ihn* [him], *uns* [to us and us], *euch* [to you and you].—The auxiliary verbs are **haben** [to have], *ich habe* [I have], *du hast* [thou hast], *er hat* [he has], *sie hat* [she has], *es hat* [it has], *wir haben* [we have], *ihr habet* [you have], *sie haben* [they have], and also *Sie haben*, as a term of politeness *you have*, said to one person.—*Ich hatte* [I had], *ich habe gehabt* [I have had], *ich werde haben* [I shall



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[hand], plural: *die Hände* [the hands], *der Hände* [of the hands], *den Händen* [to the hands], &c.,—and they take commonly “*en*” or “*n*” in the plural, when they consist of more syllables than one, as: *Seite* [side], plural: *die Seiten* [the sides], *der Seiten* [of the sides], *den Seiten* [to the sides]; as there is already “*n*” at the end, no other “*n*” can be added to the Dative plural], &c.—This rule is subjected to several exceptions as “*Flur*”, plur. “*die Fluren*” (instead of “*die Flure*”), but details of the kind would be out of place here. We, therefore, refer the reader to the Grammar.—Masculines and Neuters take in the Genitive singular (or after the Article *des*) the termination “*es*” or “*s*”; and in the Dative (that is: after the Article *dem*) frequently “*e*” is added to the word. Examples: *der Vater* (the father), *des Vaters*, (of the father); *der Mann* (the man), *des Mannes* (of the man), *dem Manne* (to the man); *das Land*, *des Landes*, *dem Lande*, &c.—Masculines and Neuters take “*er*” in the plural. Examples: *die Männer* (the men), *die Länder* (the lands), &c. Masculines already ending in “*r*”, remain unaltered except the frequent dotting of the root-vowel when *a*, *o*, *u*. For instance: *die Väter* (the fathers), *die Brüder* (the brothers). Masculines take also often “*e*” in the plural, as: *der Stein* (the stone), plur. *die Steine* (the stones), &c., so that we may say in a general way, that the German plural is formed by the terminations *er*, *e* and *en*, as we have seen in *Männer*, *Steine*, *Hände*, *Seiten*, &c. &c.

We give here some of the most common German prepositions and conjunctions that may be of some practical help to the first beginner:

Aus (out), *mit* (with), *nebst* (together with), *zu* (to, towards), *nach* (to, towards, indicating a motion towards, when speaking of places, while *zu* is used when speaking of persons), *während* (during), *durch* (through), *für* (for), *an* (on), *über* (over, above), *unter* (under), *hinter* (behind), *vor* (before), *von* (from), *zwischen* (between), *neben* (near), *ohne* (without), *wegen* (because), *bei* (by, near, with), *seit* (since).—Conjunctions: *und* (and), *oder* (or), *aber* (but), *wenn* (if), *wann* (when), *denn* (for, conjunction, while the preposition *for* is *für*), *dann* (then), *dass* (that), *auch* (also), *doch* (yet), *weil* (because), *darum* and *daher* (therefore), *wie* (how, as), *wo* (where), *nur* (only), *da* (since, because).

These may be committed to memory with advantage.

The construction of the German sentences is sometimes nearly the same as in English, especially in short and colloquial phrases. But in more expanded sentences and elaborate style, the German offers a peculiar kind of inversion; the verb remains often suspended until

the end of the sentence, and the whole structure becomes frequently similar to the Latin. — Moreover, where other modern languages, especially the French and the English, coordinate their clauses, the German *subordinates* them to each other, as far as that can possibly be done. This renders the German style often considerably involved, and gives to the sentence an aspect as if it consisted of a number of parentheses, one into the other encased, by means of relative pronouns or relative conjunctions, and the whole inclosed by the subject and the principal verb of the sentence. An example imitated in English will make this at once clear; for instance, as if we were to say: “The friend [who (since he us left has) not written has and us forgotten to have seems] has to-day [after he two months absent been has] safely and [as he promised had] with his brother [whom he so much loves] here again arrived,”—which means: “The friend who has not written, and seems to have forgotten us, since he left us, has arrived again here to-day, safely, and, as he had promised, with his brother whom he loves so much.”

A few practical Exercises in German types will conclude these pages; and the pupil will then be enabled, either to enter with an increased advantage upon the study of the details and minutiae of the German Grammar and make himself scholarly acquainted with the Literature of the Germans or, if he is engaged in business, and wishes to know German merely for *practical* purposes, he will now be enabled to improve his knowledge without any difficulty by the daily use of that language in his intercourse with our German population.

EXERCISES.

A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h
A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h
I i J j K k L l M m N n O o P p
I i J j K k L l M m N n O o P p
Q q R r S s T t U u V v W w X x
Q q R r S s T t U u V v W w X x
Y y Z z Æ æ Œ œ UE ue

Was ist das? Was hast du? Gieb mir mein Buch. Bring uns ein Glass Wasser und frisches Brod. Komm her, Freund. Sieh hier, Vater. Hast du meine Mutter in diesem Hause gesehen? Ich wünsche Wein zu trinken. Ist mein Bruder älter als ich?

In meines Vaters Hause. Komm in meiner Mutter Garten. Dies ist meines ältesten Bruders Feld. Was ist dein Name? Lernen Sie Deutsch oder English? Was lernen die Schüler in dieser Schule? Sind Sie wohl? Haben Sie gut geschlafen? Morgen ist Montag. Ich habe Gold, und du hast Silber. Er hat Brod. Was hat der Buchbinder? Der Schumacher hat das Leder. Der Schmidt und der Sattler kommen. Ich höre was er sagt. Was hast du gelernt? Der Müller trinkt Wasser. Er hat das Gold. Ich habe es. Wer singt? Wie alt sind Sie? Der Stahl ist hart, das Gold ist gelb und das Silber ist weiss. Es ist warmes Wetter. Er hat Butter und Brod.

The same in German types.

Was ist das? Was hast du? Gieb mir mein Buch. Bring uns ein Glas Wasser und frisches Brod. Komm her, Freund. Sieh hier, Vater. Hast du meine Mutter in diesem Hause gesehen? Ich wünsche Wein zu trinken. Ist mein Bruder älter als ich? In meines Vaters Hause. Komm in meiner Mutter Garten. Dies ist meines ältesten Bruders Feld. Was ist dein Name? Lernen Sie Deutsch oder Englisch? Was lernen die Schüler in dieser Schule? Sind Sie wohl? Haben Sie gut geschlafen? Morgen ist Montag. Ich habe Gold, und du hast Silber. Er hat Brod. Was hat der Buchbinder? Der Schuhmacher hat das Leder. Der Schmidt und der Sattler kommen. Ich höre was er sagt. Was hast du gelernt? Der Müller trinkt Wasser. Er hat das Gold. Ich habe es. Wer singt? Wie alt (how old) sind Sie? Der Stahl ist hart, das Gold ist gelb und das Silber ist weiss. Es ist warmes Wetter. Er hat Butter und Brod.

In the Remark at the close of the following few Exercises, the student will, in some difficult cases, find the identical or related English word or some indication of the root, printed in Italics, while the modified and present meaning will be given in ordinary print.

New-York, den 10ten Februar 1858.

Nach¹ Sicht zahlen² Sie gegen³ diesen meinen Prima-Wechsel³ an die Verordnung⁴ des Herrn A. Mueller die Summe von vier tausend drei hundert Dollars, Werth⁵ empfangen,⁶ und stellen⁷ ihn auf⁸ die Rechnung⁹ laut¹⁰ Bericht.¹¹

The same in German types.

New-York, den 10ten Februar 1858.

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— Herr A. Mueller beliebe¹² Herrn Franz Schmidt, oder dem Inhaber¹³ dieses, sechs hundert Dollars auszuzahlen¹⁴ und mich für die gleiche¹⁵ Summe zu¹⁶ belasten.¹⁷

The same in German types.

— Herr A. Müller beliebe¹² Herrn Franz Schmidt, oder dem Inhaber¹³ dieses, sechs hundert Dollars auszuzahlen¹⁴ und mich für die gleiche¹⁵ Summe zu¹⁶ belasten.¹⁷

— Für empfangenen Werth verspreche¹⁸ ich, Herrn B. Mayer, oder dessen Ordre, in drei Monaten¹⁹ die Summe von Neunzig²⁰ Dollars zu zahlen.

The same in German types.

— Für empfangenen Werth verspreche¹⁸ ich, Herrn B. Mayer, oder dessen Ordre, in drei Monaten¹⁹ die Summe von Neunzig²⁰ Dollars zu zahlen.

— Ich verspreche, an Herrn H. Schultze, oder dessen Order, die Summe von Zwei tausend acht²⁰ hundert sechs und achtzig Dollars nebst Interessen auf jederzeitiges²¹ Verlangen²² zu bezahlen. Werth baar²³ empfangen.

The same in German types.

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— Ich bekenne,²⁴ von Herrn August Stockmann die Summe von fünfzig Dollars, an Geld, als Zinsen²⁵ für die Summe von Ein Tausend Dollars Kapital, die er mir schuldet,²⁶ fällig²⁷ am²⁸ dritten²⁹ März dieses Jahres, empfangen zu haben.

The same in German types.

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— Herr und Madame Werner bitten³⁰ Herrn Krause, ihnen³¹ die Freundschaft zu erweisen,³² nächsten Freitag um 4 Uhr³³ bei ihnen zu Mittag³⁴ zu essen.³⁵

The same in German types.

— Herr und Madame Werner bitten³⁰ Herrn Krause, ihnen³¹ die Freundschaft zu erweisen,³² nächsten Freitag, um 4 Uhr³³ bei ihnen zu Mittag³⁴ zu essen.³⁵

— Wie viel kostet dies?³⁶ Es kostet zwei, drei, (vier, fünf, sechs, sieben, acht, neun, zehn, elf, zwölf, dreizehn, vierzehn) Dollars. Das ist zu viel. Das ist zu theuer. Kaufen Sie es, es ist sehr gut und billig. Nein, nicht heute; ich werde morgen wieder kommen. Wie befinden Sie Sich? Guten Morgen; guten Tag; guten Abend; gute Nacht, werther Freund. Leben Sie recht wohl. Ich danke Ihnen.³⁶

The same in German types.

— Wie viel kostet dies?³⁶ Es kostet zwei, drei, (vier, fünf, sechs, sieben, acht, neun, zehn, elf, zwölf, dreizehn, vierzehn) Dollars. Das ist zu viel. Das ist zu theuer. Kaufen Sie es, es ist sehr gut und billig. Nein, nicht heute; ich werde morgen wieder kommen. Wie befinden Sie Sich? Guten Morgen; guten Tag; guten Abend; gute Nacht, werther Freund. Leben Sie recht wohl. Ich danke Ihnen.³⁶

CONCLUSION.

The German language *in its general features and outlines* has now been brought before the eyes of our readers. For the practical purposes of the every day and common business life the preceding Instructions will prove wholly sufficient.—But the student has thereby also been enabled, now to enter successfully into the deeper recesses of that beautiful and interesting language, to peruse the various German Grammars and Elementary works (to which this little book is but an Introduction) in a short time, with great advantage and in an easy and pleasant manner, and to make himself, without any further hesitation, acquainted with all the gems and great master-pieces of

1, After, at. 2, Same origin as the English *tale*, which relates to number, counting, account, &c.—The German *sahlen* and its compounds *bezahlen*, *auszahlen*, mean “to pay.” 3, *Against*, here not to be translated.—*Wechsel* is bill of Exchange. *Prima-Wechsel*, first of Exchange. 4, Order. 5, *Worth*, here *value*. 6, *empfangen*, received. 7, to stay, to place. 8, *up*, *upon*, here: to. 9, *reckoning*, here: account. 10, *loud*, here: according to. 11, *be-right*, here advise. 12, “*lief*,” will please. 13, *In-having*, *inholder*, that is bearer. 14, “*out to tale*”,—to pay. 15, like, same. 16, to. 17, *charge*. 18, *Forspeak*, to promise. 19, months. 20, ninety. Eight. 21, every time, or any time [an adjective in German]. 22, *Longing*, desiring,—here demand. 23, *bare*; here: in ready money, cash. 24, *ken*,—make known, declare. 25, Interests. 26, owes. 27, *fall*, *falling*, here: due. 28, on the [a contraction for *an dem*]. 29, Third. 30, bid, here request. 31, to them. 32, to show, to do. 33, *hour*, o'clock. 34, Midday, noon, here: dinner. 35, to eat. 36, How much costs this? It costs two, three, (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) Dollars. That is too much. That is too dear. Keep, that is: buy it, it is very good and cheap. No, not to day; “I shall to-morrow again come” (literally.) “How find you yourself,” that is: how are you? Good morning; good day; good evening; good night, worthy friend. “Live ye right well,” (that is: farewell). I thank to you (you).

the German Literature Exercises in Translating, Writing and Speaking may hereafter be combined and carried on simultaneously with great advantage. We draw these pages to a close, and conclude with a short expose of the *usefulness* of German and especially the necessity **for Americans** of studying the German language.

Every one who, for the first time, enters upon the study of any science or language, is usually inclined to ask the question "WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?" "What advantages does its acquisition afford to me?" Our object here is to answer this question in regard to the German language. Is it important **for an American** to know GERMAN? IS IT USEFUL?

First of all, the people of the United States, being a people *essentially practical*, would ask of what *practical* use is the German language to us in our commercial intercourse and our social relations in this Country?—We would answer that Germans are widely scattered through America, that we meet them everywhere, North and South, East und West, in all the States and Territories of our Union, as well as in the Canadas. GERMANS are even now counted *by Millions* and still uninterruptedly arriving and thus forming a very essential part of our great American Nation. They are, moreover, as a people, honest, reliable, faithful, industrious, intelligent and frequently very well educated; they are generally frugal, sober, orderly, steady and quiet, sociable, friendly and polite. Many of them belong to the most respectable farmers of our Country, and others are counted among the very princes of the commercial world and the greatest and wealthiest business-men of our large Cities.

For MERCHANTS the knowledge of the German language can scarcely ever be over-rated. In Commercial Correspondence as well as in his verbal transactions in the Ware-house and the Store, the Merchant has great need of it. It may be said that he may employ those that know German, and act through their agency in all business concerns; but is it not evident, that his transactions with Germans will be more reliable and satisfactory to him, and his business better done, if he himself, possesses a more or less extensive practical knowledge of their language? Then he can also, avail himself of German News-papers and, so far as the German public is concerned, learn many things of great interest and value to him, *which other Papers do not contain*.

For the CLERK, the BOOK-KEEPER as well as the SALESMAN, a knowledge of the German language becomes daily more and more a necessity, a sure means of making their situation more useful and profitable and *increasing their salaries*.

For the **LAWYER** also a knowledge of the German language is very desirable. For without any knowledge of the German tongue, so far, at least, as will enable him to have intercourse with the applicants of that nation, it would be in vain for him to expect to increase the number of his clients from the German part of our population. And, besides his intercourse with German clients, would not the knowledge of the German language be found very necessary when his duties should lead him, as may be frequently the case, to examine German witnesses, and, he should be called upon to make use of legal and other documents written in German!—

For **PHYSICIANS, MINISTERS, TEACHERS** a knowledge of German is important in all our States, where so great a proportion of the people are Germans.

As to **FARMERS and CITIZENS** generally, if they understand German, they have a powerful help in transacting and extending their business.

German colonies are not only here, in North America, but they are on the increase all over the world. We find German colonies in South America, Australia, the Crimea, and beyond the Caucasus; and it is said that the Germans are pre-eminently the *emigrating* Nation.

But this is not all that can be said in regard to the practical usefulness of the German language. We have to add, that it is not only wherever Germans are found, that the German is spoken, but also, that this language has become a kind of adoptive or second native tongue of a great variety of people in diverse countries. And in this sense, it may suitably be asserted that the German language is, indeed, one of the most widely spread and far-extending languages of the globe. Thus, German is spoken in *Hungaria*, in a part of *Northern Italy*, in *Switzerland*, in *France* (those parts of France called *Alsace* and *Lorain*) and in *Poland*. It is also generally understood in *Danemark*, *Norway* and *Sweden*, and almost throughout the whole extent of the *Russian Empire*. In the Baltic provinces of Russia, German is spoken by the inhabitants in their usual intercourse; and some of them, it is said, are scarcely acquainted with the Russian language. Among the nobility and the higher classes generally in Russia, German (together with French) is spoken in their families and their social life, while the Russian seems to be almost entirely neglected by them and abandoned to the lower people. The scientific and learned publications that issue from the Imperial Academies and Universities of St. Petersburg, Moskou, Casan, &c., are frequently in German!

Then again, there are other reasons besides the mere practical usefulness which should induce people to study German. Thus, to the



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Church. Occasional glimpses of a purer light we meet, it is true, during the dark ages, in Spain, in France and other Countries; but Huss was a German, and Jerome of Prague was a German! LUTHER who freed us from the yoke of Rome, was a German! So was Melancthon! and also Calvin and Zwingli were of German blood! and German was their native tongue!

The general Literature of the Germans is universally acknowledged as being alone, worth the labor spent in acquiring a knowledge of the language. We need but to direct the attention to the works of Schiller, Goethe, Wieland, Lessing, Klopstock and the like. And what shall we say when we come to speak of the literature in the special branches wherein the Germans seem to rank like giants in the intellectual world of men! Thus, to mention *only a very few universally revered names* in every one of those departments of learning and science, we say that in *Philosophy*, Germany boasts of the names of Kant, Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, &c.; — in *History*, of Heeren, Muller, Niebuhr, Rotteck, Leo, Henne, Mommsen, Bunsen and many others; — in *Antiquities and Mythology*, of Lepsius, Bruggsch, Krause, Creutzer, Stuhr, Schwenck, &c.; — in *classical Studies*, of Scheller, Zumpt, Schultz, Hermann, Wagner, Freund, Stallbaum, Weise, Sintenis, Doederlein, Nitzsch, Westermann, Buttmann, Matthiae, Rost, Thiersch, Bernhardt, and a great many others; — in *Oriental Philology*, of Klaproth, Rosenmuller, Habicht, Ewald, J. J. Schmidt, Gabelentz, Boethlingk, Fleischer, Flugel, Freitag, Hammer-Purgstall, Vullers, Endlicher, Pfizmaier, Petermann, Schlegel, Ruékert, &c. &c.; — in the *Science of Language*, [philosophical and comparative Philology], of Wm. Humboldt, Bopp, Pott, Schott, Grimm, Becker, Rapp, Benfey, &c. &c.; — in *Biblical Exegesis*, of Gesenius, Tuch, De Wette, Winer, Olshausen, &c. &c.; — in *Theology and Church History*, of Gieseler, Neander, Tholuck, Hengstenberg, &c.; — in *Natural Sciences*, of A. Humboldt, Meckel, (the Anatomist), Muller (the Physiologist), Blumenbach, Gall, Spurtzheim, Oken, Esenbeck, Schubert, Kamptz, Berghaus, Werner, Sprengel, Liebig, &c. &c.; — in *Laws* (especially their historical and philosophical foundation) besides Muhlenbruch, Wangerow, Gluck, Savigny, Thibaut, Mittermaier, Mackeldey, etc., — there exists in German a great number of inestimable works on Jurisprudence as all erudite Lawyers are well aware; — in *Medicine*, there has been issued, especially since Hufeland, an uninterrupted Chain of medical works of the highest value. The speciality of *Eye-Surgery* and *Ophthalmic Medicine*, has ever since been a favorite with the Germans *who have always been foremost in this department among all nations*. The Medical Literature of the Germans is *extremely abundant* in all that refers to the *Art of the Oculist*. — In *Surgery*, we meet with the illustrious and world-renowned names of Dieffenbach, Walther, Blasius, Jungken, Graefe, Langenbeck, Himly, Dzondy, Chelius, Ruete, Rosas, Jaeger, Sichel, Kuchler, etc. etc. — In *Music*, every one is familiar with the names of Czerny, Kalkbrenner, Herz, Pleyel, Hunten, Schulhoff, Baumbach, Oesten, Beyer, Gottschalk, Thalberg, Liszt, and other living Artists and Composers, who are GERMANS, but, besides, there exists a considerable number of excellent works on musical Erudition and on the Science, History and Philosophy [especially Metaphysics and Aesthetics] of Music. Also those that are devoted to the *fine Arts, Sculpture* and *Painting*, will find in the writings of Lessing, Winkelmann and others, enough that will abundantly reward them for the pains taken to make themselves acquainted with the German language. We might continue almost indefinitely with these enumerations, but the limits of these pages would preclude the possibility of telling all the great names of great men that Germany has produced.

To the LADY of culture and elegant leisure who gives the preference to *French*, as the supposed language of fashionable conversation and polite intercourse throughout the world, we wish only to say that on the Continent of Europe, *English* has already superseded French, and seems really destined to become, before long, (if it has not already) the universal and inter-national language; and that in *Paris*, the very focus of the world's civilization and refinement, the young ladies of the highest, most fashionable and influential families boast of their English; but, moreover, we have to state that throughout France as well as England, the refined and best educated ladies count it now as one of their most valuable acquisitions and most brilliant accomplishments to have learned to converse in German,* which in the circles of high and elegant life in Paris and London has become the standing habit of the day.

*) It is quite a common thing for every rich and distinguished family in England as well as in France, to have a German master attached to their house to instruct their children, boys as well as girls, in the German language in its whole extent. To this the French families add generally an English governess who imparts to them the English language from the most tender age.