

# OUR GERMANS.

## Their Great Love for the Fatherland Illustrated.

### Extent and Influence of the German and German-American Press.

### The Story of the Mails, and What They Carry Between the Two Countries.

### The Relations of German-Americans to the Old Country.

Every German loves his mother country, and it is well that he does. "A good son makes always a good husband." Because a man has a tender chord in a nook of his heart, which is touched when the sound of mother strikes his ear, because he remembers lovingly her who gave him birth, no matter how far he may be separated from her, is no reason why he should not love his wife—his adopted country—still better and with more devotion. It is true, no sooner has a German emigrant arrived in this country than he becomes homesick, and, in the words of Hans Breitmann:

Ach Vaterland! wie bist du weit;  
Ach Zeit! wie bist du lang.  
(O Fatherland! thou art so far  
O Time! thou art so long.)

He counts days, hours, and minutes, until, by hard labor and frugal living he has saved enough to return to his native country with the full determination to spend the rest of his life in ease; yet very rarely does he remain more than a year or so. Having once tasted the sweets of a free, Republican country, he soon becomes aware of the fact that he cannot love his mother country, with its old feudal and aristocratic institutions and ideas, as well as he can this land of freedom and of advanced ideas. He therefore again shakes the dust of his native country from his feet, and returns to become one of our best and most patriotic citizens, still retaining his love for the old country, but forever healed from his homesickness. He still keeps up his intercourse with his friends and relations, and from this intercourse this country derives considerable revenue and benefits.

NO LESS THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS was received in this city last year, by Germans living here, from their friends in Germany. Of this sum about \$400,000 was received through the firm of H. Claussenius & Co. The firm of Henry Greenebaum also transacts a very large amount of foreign-exchange business, and, by its large and excellent connections with all the principal cities in Germany, is particularly sought for, for letters of credit, by German tourists. But, besides, there are many other German banking houses in this city that transact a very large amount of foreign-exchange business, the most prominent of which are the International Bank, Germania Bank, W. Eschenburg, G. Snyder, Leopold Meyer, O. L. Niehoff & Co., Wassmansdorf & Heine, Emil Josaphat, Ernst J. Knobelendorf, Felsenthal & Kozminski, Horner & Levy, H. Enders, and Lazarus Silvermann,—each one of these houses doing a large and lucrative business in this particular branch.

But the large intercourse between Germans in this and the old country is best shown by the large amount of German business transacted

IN THE POST-OFFICE OF THIS CITY. The international money-order system between this country and Germany went into operation on the 1st of last October; and, though it is not yet generally known that orders can be sent in that manner, yet, from the time that the system went into operation until the 1st of January, 1873, no less than 511 money-orders, amounting to \$9,973.50, were issued in the Chicago Post-Office, and 184 orders, amounting to \$4,789.25, were received and paid out. It is expected that the orders issued and paid out during this quarter will be more than double the amount above stated. The number of registered letters mailed to Germany from this Post-Office during the quarter ending Jan. 1, 1873, amounted to 2,326, most of which contained money, in various amounts. The common German letters sent from this city during the same space of time reached the enormous figure of 203,200; and, of newspapers, 48,303 were sent. Common German letters received during the last quarter were 65,332, and newspapers 16,546. Besides this, a large number of German newspapers and periodicals are received through the agencies of Ernst Steiger and E. Zinkel, in New York, which are not enumerated in the above statement.

#### OF THE GERMAN LITERARY PAPERS AND PERIODICALS

mosty taken and read in this city, the Leipzig *Gartenlaube* takes the lead. This is an illustrated literary paper, of rare excellence, and is by many considered the best in the world. It appears every two weeks, in large pamphlet form; and its publisher, Mr. E. Keil, of Leipzig, Saxony, one of the most public-spirited and liberal men in Germany, employs none but the very best of talent. Its tone is highly moral and exceedingly liberal, and some of the very best German literary productions have first made their appearance in its columns; among others, the excellent novels of E. Marlett, whose "Gold Elsie," "Countess Gisela," "The Mooreland Princess," and others, have all been translated into English, and are widely read and greatly admired by Americans; as also that most excellent novel, "At the Altar," by E. Werner. The illustrations in this paper are usually of great artistic merit, and its portraits correct likenesses. Something over 2,000 copies of this paper are circulated in this city. Many Americans, understanding the German language, subscribe for it.

Similar in style and in point of excellence is *Ueber Land und Meer*, published and edited by that excellent writer, Friedrich Gerstaecker, of Stuttgart, Wurtemberg. Some 1,500 copies of it are taken in this city.

The *Illustrirte Welt* is also similar to the first-described, but somewhat inferior in point of excellence. It has also a circulation of about 1,500 copies in this city.

The *Allgemeine Familienzeitung*, another illustrated literary paper, has a circulation of about 1,000 copies in this city.

The *Dahlein*, and *Das Pouch fuer Alle*, are papers of the same style and make-up, but inferior to those mentioned above, and about 500 copies of each are taken in this city.

Five hundred copies of the *Berlin Bazar* are taken by as many ladies in this city. This journal of fashion is similar in style and make-up to *Frank Leslie's Ladies Magazine*, but far superior in point of excellence; it is, in fact, since the Empress Augusta has taken Eugenie's place as Queen of Fashion, the official organ of the whole fashionable world.

The *Fliegende Blatter* is also largely circulated in this city. This is a pamphlet of wit and humor, issued monthly. It does not meddle in politics, and resembles somewhat the conical paper known as *Yankee Notions*.

The *Kladderhatsch*, of which about 150 copies are taken in this city, is a humorous, satirical, political paper, of the same sort as the *London Punch* and the *Paris Charivari*. "It appears daily, except on week-days," and its editors are now, and have been for many years, Dr. Thome, Dr. Rosenthal, and David Kalish, each one of them a literary star of the first magnitude, and all unrivaled as humorists and wits. It is the most liberal paper in Germany, and fearlessly chastises corruption and fraud, even if the perpetrators should hold the highest rank and position. It is unflinching in its opposition to aristocracy and orthodoxy. It is a paper of the people, and is usually let alone by those in power, they knowing its influence over the people.

#### ITS ARTIST IS MR. SCHOLZ.

one of the most celebrated caricaturists in the world,—a man who wields the crayon with far more skill and judgment than does Mr. Thomas Nast, of *Harper's Weekly*. Some of Scholz's caricatures are beyond comparison, and his portraits are always correct and life-like. He never becomes vulgar or coarse, but always holds himself within the limits of decency and propriety. Most of American caricaturists are under the false impression that to make a good caricature they have to make the head twice its normal size, and the body as diminutive as possible. Mr. Scholz always makes his portraits life-like, only using the slightest caricature to make it a caricature. His best caricature is that of Napoleon, and he only slightly bends and enlarges his nose. He caricatures Bismarck by pro-

miscuously putting the three identical hairs in his bald forehead, thus making this wily and renowned German statesman look extremely stern and ridiculous.

Many of Nast's best cartoons ARE COPIED FROM THE KLADDERADATSCH. Here is one instance: During the last campaign, a very elaborate cartoon appeared in *Harper's Weekly*. It represented our martyred Lincoln lying dead on the ground. On one side of the body stood Horace Greeley, and on the other a fire-eating Rebel, shaking hands, amid the most friendly expressions, over the dead body, the Rebel, at the same time, hiding behind his back a huge Derringer, and a paper with the word "Revenge." Under it was the motto, "Let us shake hands across the bloody chasm." Just previous to the publication of that cartoon, there appeared in the *Kladderadatsch* a cartoon representing France lying bleeding on the ground. On one side of it stood Bismarck, and on the other Thiers, heartily shaking hands with each other, and Thiers, with the sweetest of mien, assuring Bismarck of his good will and his peaceful intentions towards Germany, at the same time clenching his fist behind his back, and the word "Revenge" protruding from his coat-tail pocket. If Thomas Nast did not take the idea for his celebrated cartoon from the *Kladderadatsch*, then it was certainly one of the most mysterious coincidences on record. But many other cartoons have appeared in the *Kladderadatsch* which Thomas Nast has adapted to American affairs, and taken all the credit to himself.

The *Generballe* is a weekly paper for artisans and mechanics, and has a circulation of about 150 copies in this city.

The *Leipzig Illustrirte Zeitung* has a circulation of about 100 copies in this city, and is similar to *Harper's Weekly* and the *London Illustrated News*.

Besides the papers mentioned above, almost every other German literary and other periodical publication has more or less readers in this city.

#### OF THE GERMAN DAILY PRESS

having the most circulation in this city, the *Koelnische Zeitung* (Cologne *Gazette*) takes the lead. This paper is undoubtedly the best and most profitable of all the daily papers in Germany. Its advertising patronage is simply immense, and its subscription list is not surpassed by any other paper in the world. It has two issues each day, and publishes as many supplements as are required by the amount of news and advertisements on hand. The commercial reports of this paper are compiled with great care, and contain market reports from almost every quarter of the globe.

Next in point of excellence and circulation comes the *Weser Zeitung*, of Bremen. This paper seems to be the best informed on American affairs, it having correspondents in all the larger cities in this country, and is, therefore, exceedingly well patronized among Americans sojourning in Germany. It also contains the best shipping news of any paper in Germany. But, besides these, there are many other very excellent papers published in Germany, which are widely read in this country. Germans refer with much pride to such daily papers as the *Freie Neue Presse*, of Vienna; the *Roersenhalle*, of Hamburg; the *Angsbuurger Allgemeine Zeitung*; the *Frankfurter Journal*; the *Schwabische Mercur*; the *North Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* and the *Berlin Tribune*. All these papers are very ably edited, and they are usually well informed on American affairs. But, while the German literary and other periodical papers are far superior to those published in this country, it cannot be denied that their daily press

#### CAN IN NO WAY BE COMPARED

with our leading American daily papers. Excellent as some of their daily papers are,—as, for example, the *Cologne Gazette*, the *Weser Zeitung*, the *Vienna Free Press*, and a few others,—and although they have most able correspondents in all parts of the world, yet they depend too much upon those correspondents, and lack that spirit of liberality, enterprise, and energy which characterizes the American press, and for which it is justly celebrated all over the world. In only one point, as has been stated above, do German newspapers excel, namely: in having excellent correspondents, men of brilliant attainments, who know how to write very elaborate and eloquently-worded reports. In all other respects, they cannot be compared with leading American papers. Their market, shipping, and commercial reports, though excellently compiled in a few of their leading papers, lack the fullness of detail and completeness with which these reports are made in American papers.

Altogether, their local department is very deficient, though their local reporters are well educated, and couch their reports in elegant language. Yet all their reports are wanting in detail, because these reporters have not that indomitable Yankee spirit which overcomes the severest obstacles and dangers in order to "scoop" a contemporary paper of a simple item. Nor are they as liberal as the American papers in the use of the telegraph, their dispatches being very short, noticing the most important events with only a few lines, and rarely using the Atlantic cable as a gatherer of news. They almost entirely rely upon the information sent to them through the mails by their correspondents.

#### THE GERMAN NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN THIS COUNTRY

are in almost every respect much inferior to the American press, their news usually having appeared in some American paper a day or two previous. The men at the head of the papers are usually men of considerable talent, but numerically they are very weak. The *Staats Zeitung*, in this city, which has a circulation of about 12,000 copies, and which sends about 1,000 copies to Europe every week, is considered one of the best and largest German daily papers published in this country; but it has only two editorial writers, Herman Raster and Wilhelm Rapp, and a reportorial staff of three or four men. A German paper like the *Staats Zeitung*, however, has expenses which an American paper has not. Through that everlasting devotion to his native land that slumbers in the breast of every German, these papers are compelled to furnish their readers with a large amount of German news. For this reason, and to do justice to their readers, the *Staats Zeitung* employs some of the ablest literary men in Germany as correspondents. In Berlin, for example, it has Johannes Bloch, better known as Johann Wohlgenuth, and Friedrich Kapp, formerly a citizen and lawyer of New York City, but now a member of the German Parliament. In Leipzig, it has Mueller von der Werra; in Danzig, Dr. Wernick; and equally celebrated writers in all the large cities of Europe. This paper has also a large exchange list; and, while its American news is rather deficient as compared with the news furnished by American daily papers, yet its European news is of great excellence and merit, and is not equalled by any paper in this country, excepting perhaps the *New York Staats Zeitung* and the *St. Louis Westliche Post*.

The *Chicago Union*, another German daily paper, published in this city, and whose editorial staff consists of Gen. Herman Lieb and Hans Herting, with only one or two reporters, is still more deficient in its American news than its contemporary, the *Staats Zeitung*, but also furnishes its readers very excellent German correspondence, and has also a good German exchange list.

One of the best mediums for German news published in this country is the *Nachrichten aus Deutschland und der Schweiz* (Information from Germany and Switzerland). This paper is published every week by Ernst Steiger, in New York. It is about the same size as *The Chicago Tribune*, and is filled entirely with news from Germany and Switzerland. Although it is only two or three years old, yet it boasts of the largest circulation of any German weekly paper published in this country, which again proves the preference of Germans for news from Fatherland.

But there is still another medium which assists still more than the newspapers to keep up friendly relations between the Germans here and those in the Old Country, namely,

#### OUR IMPORTERS.

very few people are aware of the large business connections some of our prominent German fellow-citizens have with their brethren in Germany. The many elegant and curiously-concocted toys exhibited in the palatial establishments of some of our leading houses in this line are all imported from Germany, and large sums of money are constantly leaving this country to pay for the same. Large amounts of elegant china and glass ware have their origin in Germany, and exquisite musical instruments are manufactured in the same country. A multitude of Chicago German business firms could be mentioned who import almost all their goods from Fatherland, and visit there almost every year for the purpose of making their purchases.

From the above facts and statements, it will be seen that what appears to the casual outward observer a laxity of devotion in Germans for this their adopted country, becomes the very cement that fastens and holds them to it, making them love it with the devotion and constancy with which a man loves his wife, but still retaining that love for his mother country in his breast which every good son feels for his mother,—always glad to hear from her, eagerly expecting her letters, and rejoicing that she is doing well. But with his wedded wife he stays, shares with her joys and sorrows, ever defending her from all her enemies and all dangers, even at the risk of his life and his fortune. So did the Germans defend their wedded country, when it was in danger from its enemies, in 1861.

while they only rejoiced when the sons of their mother country marched victoriously through France.