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*We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.*

**NOTES OF THE WEEK.**

Lord Roberts arrived at Funchal on Christmas Day and was received with all honours by the Portuguese authorities, and with great enthusiasm by the British community. The Anglo-Portuguese alliance still remains undisclosed, so far as any knowledge of its terms goes; and if Lord Roberts knows any more about it than did the rest of the world when we referred to it some weeks ago, nobody is the wiser for his speech at Funchal. Lord Roberts however did not fail to dwell on the fact that this new alliance, whatever may be its significance, at the end of the century inevitably recalls that more important alliance which at the beginning of the century involved the fighting of British and Portuguese side by side against the armies of Napoleon in the Peninsula. Lord Roberts' memory is hardly accurate when he says that the territories of Portugal and England have never been side by side until, by the conquest of the Transvaal, Komati-poort became the ground where Portuguese and English could meet as neighbours. The substance of what he means is quite plain; but it does happen that the so-called territories of the Transvaal were in fact part of the British Empire—as has been all along maintained.

The outlook in South Africa is not devoid of anxiety, though Lord Kitchener is grasping the situation with characteristic energy, and his despatches are couched in terms of confidence. His latest proclamation offering terms to those who surrender voluntarily might have beneficial results, if it were permitted to reach the men whom it affects. Meanwhile Cape Colony has been invaded by two columns in the East and West respectively. The latter, after occupying Britstown, cut the railway south of De Aar. Britstown was subsequently occupied by Colonel Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry, upon which the Boers retired northwards towards Prieska. There are, however, rumours of a mishap to some Yeomanry in this neighbourhood. A special column—to be utilised wherever its services may be most needed—is in course of organisation, and Lord Kitchener has been south to see personally how matters are shaping themselves. In his opinion the

Boer movement in the Cape has been checked, and the assistance which the raiders have received has been insignificant.

De Wet has taken up a position near Leuwkop where according to the latest advices he is being attacked by General Knox. The pursuit of the enterprising Boer leader hardly partakes of the character of military operations, and against him the ordinary military expedients seem to be of no avail. Possibly the proper person to put on his track would be an experienced master of foxhounds, and one for choice who had hunted his own hounds. The Boers in the Magaliesberg district have been attacked by the combined forces of Generals French and Clements, and as the result of two successful engagements, the valleys south of the Magaliesberg range have been cleared. From Vlakkfontein comes a report from General Wynne of successful operations in that neighbourhood. In addition to the mounted infantry reinforcements, two more cavalry regiments are under orders for South Africa. An extra supply of horses has been provided for, and the formation of the Colonial Police force has been expedited.

From Lord Cromer's address to the sheikhs and notables of the Soudan we glean that the country is rapidly settling down, but that greater assistance than Egypt is able to provide is necessary to secure the maximum of prosperity. Private enterprise is lacking. The explanation, if we correctly interpret Lord Cromer's remarks, is that confidence in the security forthcoming is also lacking. But the combined assurance of British and Egyptian credit should be sufficient for the most timorous of capitalists. Private enterprise has never been wanting in Egypt proper since it was made clear that the British occupation was not likely to be precipitately terminated. Lord Cromer certainly does not suggest that there is any question as to the continuance of the Anglo-Egyptian control at Khartoum. On the contrary he referred to the steps in contemplation which are calculated to make it at once permanent and more immediately beneficial. The problem of private enterprise resolves itself into a question of guarantee. Cannot that guarantee be given? One of the difficulties with which Lord Cromer has to contend in the Soudan is the supply of British officials as supervisors. The nucleus of a Soudan Civil Service on the lines of the Indian Civil Service has already been started, but that the number of candidates should not be excessive is hardly surprising. With India, Egypt, and

we had not yet arrived at that distinct organisation of the fleet into three squadrons of the red, white and blue, which, beginning about thirty years later, lasted until comparatively recently in the different grades of Admiral, there was the subdivision into four squadrons first effected during the fight with the Armada. Each had its Admiral and Vice-Admiral though the latter might be only a captain. It was an office not a rank. For instance Raleigh, Rear-Admiral of the Fleet and in command of the fourth squadron, had Captain Robert Crosse for Vice-Admiral. Each squadron had its own convoy of victuallers and transports and thus could be detached from the main body if desired.

As far as can be determined the squadrons sailed in line, that is one behind the other in groups, not in line of single ships as afterwards became the custom, partly owing to the advantage of keeping every broadside clear, and somewhat no doubt to the ease with which experience demonstrated that a fireship could be avoided by ships in line. They opened out, a gap was formed, and the once dreaded weapon passed harmlessly through. On arrival at Cadiz the fault perpetrated at Lisbon of effecting a landing too far off was not repeated. The fleet entered the harbour and the army disembarked inside. After an ineffectual resistance our forces occupied the place. Could such occupation have been permanent—as in the case of Gibraltar over one hundred years later—a real blow would have been struck at Spain, but circumstances made this impossible. After a few days the expedition re-embarked and returned to England.

Looking back now we see how right Drake was in putting Lisbon as the objective, for what Essex accomplished at Cadiz did not materially weaken Philip's maritime power. He had profited by the lesson of 1588 and materially increased his navy. To encourage shipbuilding he gave a bounty of four ducats a ton for every vessel above 300 tons and six ducats over 600 tons. By such means he assembled another fleet more formidable than the last, and only his insisting on its sailing at too late a season saved us from another attack which might not have been so easily frustrated. A gale at the beginning of its cruise effected the same destruction as the elements produced on the disorganised remnants of the Armada. Nor was this the last attempt, for in 1599 England again had to mobilise her fleet to meet another threatened attempt on the part of the now dying monarch. Nothing but the interposition of the Dutch led to the Spanish force being diverted from its original destination. The failure of our maritime expeditions at this period to break the sea power of Spain, afterwards shattered by the Dutch, Mr. Corbett ascribes mainly to the want of an efficient army to support the fleet. The limitation of sea power resting on naval force alone he considers the lesson taught by the history of this period. He doubts whether we have yet learnt it. That is very likely true, though from that time up to now an efficient land force has always proved essential to complete the work of naval supremacy. Recent operations in South Africa and China are but additions to a long list of wars demonstrating that the principal mission of a British army is to fight abroad; not to meet a most improbable invasion at home. Failure to recognise this accounts for some of the defects which our military system exhibited in the Crimean and later expeditions, while others may be traced to inadequate training. The evil effect of a dual command had much to answer for the failure of Drake and Norreys' attempt on Lisbon, for it frustrated several well-devised schemes in later years.

Though Mr. Corbett says "We speak glibly of 'sea power' and forget that its true value lies in its influence on the operations of armies" we must also remember that at the present time it has a function of even greater importance, that of securing the food supply of these islands. In former wars interruption of commerce impoverished merchants and deprived the wealthy of luxuries. To-day it would chiefly affect the masses and cause widespread privation. Sea and land power combined built up the Empire, but the most powerful army in the world would not save us from a disaster greater than ever befell Philip II., if at any

future time we should have to contend with such a maritime coalition as in the past so severely tried the resources of this country, and should attempt the task with doubtful naval supremacy.

#### A HISTORY OF MODERN GERMAN LITERATURE.

"Die deutsche Literatur des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts." Von Richard M. Meyer. Berlin: Georg Bondi. 1900.

"Mehr Goethe." Von Rudolf Huch. Leipzig: Meyer. Ende 1899.

"Goethe." Von Richard M. Meyer. Berlin: E. Hofmann.

NEARLY a thousand pages of large octavo, handsomely got up, treating of nearly 800 writers. Among the 800 the cultivated English reader, who is not a specialist in literary history, is more or less familiar with four great poets: Goethe, Schiller, Heine, Uhland. A more select circle may add a dozen more names, or even a score: among them Theodor Körner, Freiligrath, Chamisso, Scheffel, Freytag, Ebers, Hoffmann. Then from among the philosophers proper, Hegel, rather scantily treated in this bulky book, Schopenhauer, sufficiently familiar, and Nietzsche who has recently become known, the scientist Haeckel, the historians Niebuhr, Ranke, Mommsen, Moltke, Treitschke. Of the vast remainder a good many more names are here introduced, and some may perhaps be retained by the general reader who is only a lover of literature. Still, a very large proportion, say 500 out of the 800, will not occupy any space in that reader's memory; they will scarcely, even in their own country, have any fame more enduring than the decade in which they made their appearance. Meanwhile the book before us which contains amplest proof of great industry, will serve as a storehouse containing both gold and dross, and as a useful book of reference.

There was no lack of German histories of German literature. There is at least one such English book the competence of whose author may be fathomed by the fact that, in speaking of Goethe's "Hermann und Dorothea," he translates the word *überheimisch* by "from the upper Rhine," which is about equal to confounding a chairman with a charwoman. Of the German authors in this field we may name in the first rank Gerwinus, then Wilhelm Scherer. Both, however, stop at Goethe's death. Such also was the case with pious Vilmar's book, very popular in England thirty years ago, and adapted for the English reader by F. Metcalfe, and with Koberstein. Still nearer to our days are we brought, by Julian Schmidt who reaches to 1868. His performance is of a peculiar character in that, largely resting on letters and other biographical matter, it sometimes pleases, sometimes irritates by almost dissolving the subject into so many accounts of the personal lives of the writers. Finally Gottschall wrote the literary history of the first half of the present century. And now the whole century is given to us in the present work. It is hardly necessary to insist on the utter artificiality of this reckoning by centuries. But the habit is there, and we have an enterprising publishing firm which has resolved to place before us, in about a dozen solid volumes, "the Nineteenth Century in the Development of Germany." On the first of these we reported in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 1 July, 1899: "Currents of Thought and Social Life" by Th. Ziegler, Rector of Strasburg University. For the present work the firm is to be congratulated on having secured Dr. — now Professor — Richard Meyer in Berlin, already favourably known for a substantial Life of Goethe (1895).

But in distributing his matter, he has, it appears to us, intensified the evil of reckoning by centuries; he brings up his army in battalions which are decades. It is evident that the overlapping must be tenfold, too; and the characterisation of each decade hazardous. Let us follow, however, the author, *tant bien que mal*. The

century opens with Goethe, "nel mezzo del cammin di sua vita" (1749-1832), and with the closing years of Schiller's life; beside them, the Romantic School and the brothers Grimm press forward. The second decade reached about 1812 a great elevation of poetic sentiment, and sank before its end into melancholy depression. The third is one of literary as of political languor, interrupted however by the appearance of Goethe's "Helena," "the most precious statue that ever left Goethe's studio," says Heine. A fresh life enters with the echoes of the French Revolution of 1830; Heine, Boerne, Young Germany created the stir of a new life, similar to that which was marked in the epoch of "Storm and Stress" by young Goethe, his "Goetz" and his "Werther." The period of 1840 to 1850, still ascending saw the political Lyriism, of which Herwegh and Freiligrath were the chief champions, and the earnest, however mistaken, attempts at a reconstitution of the national life—saw also defeat succeeding revolutionary endeavour. The next decade was again one of depression and discouragement, in which people sick at heart found a desperate comfort in clothing their misery in philosophical systems: Schopenhauer's pessimism came in time to relieve Hegel. In the next two decades, 1860 to 1880, the political movement recovered, and whilst it was accompanied and gently encouraged by the Epigones of the Classic period, Geibel, Heise, Freytag, literature turned into new paths under the banners of realism and naturalism. Haeckel and many others followed on the traces of Darwin, the theme of heredity began to be gravely treated, under Ibsen's influence, whilst on another field Wagner asserted himself. The decade of 1880 to 1890 continued and intensified these movements; our author thinks it may be called a period of nervousity; important new writers arise, Hauptmann, Sudermann, grave problems are approached; Wagner is victorious all along the line. The influence of women in literature increased and is increasing. The concluding decade appears to our author as one of concentration. But impressionism and symbolism were added to other currents. The *joie de vivre* asserted itself. Nietzsche relieved Schopenhauer. The tendency for which the name *die Moderne* had been invented began to meet with more opposition. And if Dr. Meyer says that Geibel and his friends erred by showing the reader only a selection of what was beautiful in the world, he might have added that a more recent school seem to delight in painting the Repulsive only. A new eclecticism, however, is now perceptible, and "the woman who did" does not hold the stage exclusively.

We have little space for detail. Let us say, however, that Richard Meyer is especially attractive when he enters on the full characterisation of some leading personage, such as Gottfried Keller, Grillparzer, Fontane. Here sympathy leads him a pleasant way, on which he lingers. At other times personal sympathy seems somewhat to cloud his judgment, e.g. as to Helene von Böhlau, whom another recent author, Rudolph Huch, in "Mehr Goethe" treats with a severity which many will approve. Our author has his antipathies too. He objects to Carl Bleibtreu, who has partly to thank his pronounced self-assertion for the short shrift he receives. In other cases, such as that of the poet Gottfried Kinkel, still personally remembered by many in London where he lived for long years, he does but scant justice. Many others "von den Neuesten," like the young baccalaureus in Goethe's second "Faust," he treats, as he approaches our present days, with more importance than they deserve. In some cases silence would be justified, or a three-line epitaph like that he gives to Werner would be amply sufficient: that writer lived at the beginning of the century and Carlyle thought it then incumbent to devote fifty-two closely printed pages to him ("Essays," vol. i.). Others again have their claims overlooked, like Eduard Engel, Joseph Löwenberg, Bulthaupt. Hermann Friedrichs, too, with his four volumes of lyrics and drama might have been mentioned. Two recent writers whose native speech is English are noteworthy: John Henry Mackay of Greenock deserved a more friendly notice, and Houston Stewart Chamberlain, whose book on the "Grundlagen des Neunzehnten Jahrhunderts" we noticed in the SATURDAY REVIEW of May 6, 1899, is not

mentioned at all, though he has rapidly risen into the higher ranks of German literature.

#### A LEGAL LEVIATHAN.

"The English Reports." Edited by A. Wood Renton. Volume I. Edinburgh: Green; London: Stevens and Sons, Limited. 1901. 21s.

THIS is the first volume of a series which has been looked forward to by the legal profession with considerable interest, and has given rise to a good deal of speculation as to its probable success. It is not strange that some doubt should have been expressed, as the undertaking is perhaps the biggest thing of the kind that has ever been attempted. Messrs. Green and Sons as the publishers of the Encyclopædia of Scots Law and Messrs. Sweet and Maxwell as the publishers of the Encyclopædia of English Law had ventured boldly on great undertakings: but so far as concerns size none can hope to do anything greater than this present proposed series of Reports in 150 volumes of all the standard reports in the English Courts prior to 1866, when the present series of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting known as the Law Reports began. From this volume we may gather what the whole number of 150 volumes will be like when twelve years from now, calculating with the ordinary sanguine expectations of the projector of book series, the whole publication will be complete. The purchaser will obtain 150 volumes, each of about 1,600 pages; and as there are some 1,080 words on each page, the printed matter consists of nearly two hundred and sixty millions of words! Except the Statutes or Hansard we doubt whether the libraries of the Inns of Court has any publication that made anything like this appalling quantity of printed matter. An estimate may be formed by the intending subscriber of the amount of library space he will need, by accepting the estimate of the publisher that the eleven volumes forming the section devoted to the reproduction of all the House of Lords cases from 1677 will occupy a space of 2 feet 2 inches; so that the whole series would take up a shelf space of about 30 feet, and be therefore less than that of the "Law Reports" up to date. This seems a very considerable encroachment on the shelf room of an ordinary private law library; but then if all the reports to be reproduced were brought together in the various forms in which they now exist the room required would be nearly five times that of the reprint, and they would look besides a very miscellaneous lot. But even more important to the lawyer, who wants to be able to lay his hands on any reports in any of the old reporters, is the fact that it is almost impossible to meet in the market with such a set; and if it were found, it would be worth over one thousand pounds.

Fortunately for the prospects of the undertaking the series once completed will not need to be done again, unlike text books. The convenience of possessing such a series is enormous. At any moment in the practising lawyer's life he may either have to refer directly to the old reports, or he may indirectly through a more modern report be referred to that source, and be anxious to weigh the exact meaning of a passage and its context. All the necessary apparatus is supplied by Mr. Wood Renton, the editor, for enabling the reader to know exactly the pages and paragraphs of the original from which the pages of the reports are taken, so that the practitioner may use any volume in Court; and for enabling him to refer to modern reports where the old cases have had an effect on modern cases, or have been modified or distinguished in their applications to recent decisions. We have referred to many merely mechanical details because the value of the reproduction depends on the kinds of facts we have pointed out, and the sole object of the book is to give the reports exactly as they stand. We can only add that the printing, paper, and general appearance of the volumes are perfectly satisfactory, and saying this we say all that is to be said by way of enabling the reader to appreciate this latest venture in the law publishers' world.