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by Joseph George Rosengarten.



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GERMAN INFLUENCE IN AMERICA

By J.^{oseph} G.^{eorge} Rosengarten

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RECENT events show a strong and increasing mutual interest between Germany and the United States, and this may well renew inquiry and suggest a better knowledge of the early relations of the two countries. As early as 1670 the first German that set foot in Carolina, John Lederer, made a tour of exploration under the direction of Governor Sir William Berkeley, of Virginia. Once a Franciscan monk, Lederer was a man of learning; his journal, written in Latin, was translated by Sir William Talbot, Governor of Maryland, who speaks highly of his literary attainments. His book is now a very rare one, and copies fetch a high price among early Americana, but it has been reproduced in a variety of editions, among others by Force in his tracts, and it is now easily accessible in all American collections.

Of the Germans in Pennsylvania much has been written and printed of late, yet there must still remain in the archives of German churches more of the correspondence largely printed in the "Hallesche Nachrichten," through which the tide of German emigration was for many years directed to Pennsylvania. New York had discouraged it by harsh treatment of the early emigrants, but Maryland and Virginia and the Carolinas and Georgia all benefited by the large number of Germans who settled within their borders. To Louisiana and the vast territory then known by that name Law's Mississippi scheme brought, it has been estimated, more than seventeen thousand Germans, who settled in that region as far north as the present State of Illinois.

In the old French war, the Seven Years' War, from 1756 to 1763, Great Britain organized the Loyal American Regiment, to consist of four battalions each of one thousand men, principally the German settlers in America, officered by foreign Protestants. That regiment still exists



and is known as the Sixtieth, or King's Royal Rifle Corps; it fought at Louisburg and Crown Point and Ticonderoga, at Fort Duquesne and under Wolfe at Quebec, where it won the motto "Celer et Audax," which it still wears; it took part in the battles of Martinique and Havana, and later during the American War of Independence at Savannah, Mobile, Hobkirk's Hill, Guilford, and Yorktown; among its officers were men afterwards distinguished both in the mother country and in the later history of the American Republic.

During the ante-Revolutionary period between 1745 and 1770 more than fifty clergymen, educated in Germany, came to this country. The Harvard professors of that day spoke with admiration of the thorough mastery of the Latin language shown by these Germans in speaking and writing. One of their number, Dr. Kuntze, long the pastor of the German Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, was the founder of Hebrew and Oriental instruction in this country.

The Muhlenbergs were educated at Halle, and long maintained a close correspondence with their old school and mission-house, securing there new assistants in their great task of providing educated clergymen for the large and growing German population of the Middle and Southern colonies.

Naturally the events of the American War of Independence were closely followed in Germany. Schlözer's "Briefwechsel," in ten volumes, 1776-1782, and his "Staats Anzeigen," a continuation in eighteen volumes, contained many papers of interest relating to the struggle between Great Britain and her colonies; families supplied letters and journals of their sons serving in this country, and both sides were fairly represented in the prompt reproduction of state papers and official reports. The Frankfort *Neueste Staatsbegebenheiten*, Reimer's *Amerikanische Archiv*, and other journals gave their German readers a current knowledge of the events in which so many of the German settlers of this country were taking an active part. German maps of battles and sieges and German portraits of American heroes and worthies were printed in large numbers to meet the demand and to-day form part of every collection of Americana. The war over, many of the officers who had served here published their accounts: Schöpf's "Travels," Ochs's and Ewald's books, full of their personal experiences, Wangenheim's "Description of American Trees," even a comedy, "The Hessian

Officer in America," and that charming book, Madame von Riedesel's "Berufsreise in Amerika," were only a few of the results of personal experiences. The German archives are full of the personal and official correspondence of German officers, for their families were directed to send to them all letters for preservation, and many of them have since been printed.

Recently the Emperor of Germany spoke of the good record of the German regiments that had served in the War of American Independence. The Colonel of one of these very regiments gave its officers a lecture on the part it had played in the American Revolutionary War. At the recent anniversary of the German Gymnasium at Pyritz the Rector read the diary of one of its former students during his service with his regiment here. German novels dealing with the events of the American Revolution have become quite numerous. A recent translation of E. J. Lowell's capital book on "The Hessians in America," has been published by an officer of the German general staff,—a fitting tribute to a capital example of American historical research. To Lowell's suggestion is due much of the reprinting of the numerous diaries and journals of the German officers who served here. Germans too who served here during the Civil War, Colonel Heros Von Börcke and Estvan on the Southern side, and a much longer list of those who were in the Northern army, have published books on the war. While Von Holst represents and typifies the German student and teacher in a succession of works dealing with our constitutional history, there is hardly an event or a question in recent American history, social, economical, or political, that has not been discussed by Germans, fully masters of all that is of interest in our contemporary history.

A country that has New York, with more Germans than in any German city except Berlin, and a larger German population scattered throughout its length and breadth than any single German state or all its colonies put together, cannot fail to keep in close touch with the mother country and to influence and to be influenced by all the movements, financial and political, that have a common interest for the people of both countries. The literature of the two countries is largely common to the people there and here, and a German who comes to Harvard as a professor follows the good example set by Lieber and Vethake and Seidensticker here in Philadelphia, and may well find the same hearty welcome.

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The interdependence of two nations with so much in common in their past and so many ties in the present cannot fail to be an important factor in the future. Allied for the industrial development of the parts of the world hitherto remote from commerce, and united in many matters of education and training, Germany and America may well move forward in harmony, each maintaining all of its independence of method and thought and action, yet both gaining strength from a better understanding and mutual self-help by which each may supplement the needs of the other.

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