

tion must be German, and to drink beer—to drink great quantities of beer—is German”—which was received with a round of applause. As is usual on such occasions, the drinking and singing lasted on towards morning, and the police were instructed to keep out of the way and not see anything as the revellers made their way home.

A finer day for a celebration than yesterday could not have been desired. It was Sunday, and soon after the morning service the various societies began to collect before the old college buildings. At the head of each society, gathered about its richly embroidered banner, were its officers, wearing their beautiful velvet caps with waving plumes, their gaudy sashes, hip-boots, and swords. This semester the Finken, or Independents, for the first time also appeared *wichs*, the Finkenkönig on their head. They carry the University flag. On its way to Fürsten-Graben, the procession, headed by the Mayor of Jena and the Parliamentary representative, passed through various streets of the quaint old University town. The population seemed to take a hearty interest in the celebration, and from nearly every window hung a flag displaying the colors of one or another of the societies or those of the town, the Grand Duchy, or the Empire.

The address was delivered by Dr. Ernst Harmening, an attorney in Jena, but by birth a Plattdeutscher. He began with a quotation from a letter from Frau Louise Reuter: "In Mecklenburg stood his cradle, in Thuringian soil rest his remains—the beginning and the end. Between these—Jena." It was these words which, when the question arose as to where a monument should be erected to Reuter's memory, led to the selection of Jena. "In Mecklenburg stood his cradle": in the little town of Stavenhagen, November 7, 1810, Fritz Reuter was born, the child of the town justice and burgo-master, who at the same time managed a large farm. Of the "Stembäger" life of these early years, Reuter has given us a charming picture in "Schurr Murr." At the age of fourteen he was put to school at Friedland and later at Parchim. His university studies were begun at Rostock; and at Easter, 1832, we find him matriculating at Jena. The Burschenschaften were just then at the height of their political development, and Reuter plunged headlong into their wild life. It was intended that he should study law, but he had little taste for it, and devoted what time he could spare from fencing and "beer studies" to mathematics and drawing. How dear to him in after years the memory of his life in Jena was, we can judge by the scene in 'Hanne Nüte' where the good pastor for the time forgets that "Die ganze Kreatur ist in der Sünde tief versunken" and "Es ist auf Erden alles eitel," and passionately bursts out with:

"Steh' mich, mein Sohn! In meinen alten Tagen
Lebt frisch noch die Erinnerung,
Als ich, wie du, einst frei und jung,
Den Flug that in die Ferne wagen.
Ach Jena! Jena! Lieber Sohn,
Sag' mal, hörst du von Jena schon?
Hast du von Jena mal geles'n?
Ich bin ein Jahr darin gewesen,
Als ich noch Studiosus war;
Was war das für ein schönes Jahr!"

At the end of the year Reuter returned home, and in the fall, while on a visit in Berlin, was arrested by the Prussian authorities as a member of the Burschenschaft, and confined, during a three years' investigation of his case, in various fortresses. He was then condemned to death for "attempted treason," but the sentence was changed by William III. to one of thirty years' imprisonment. He was confined successively at Silberberg, Glogau, Magdeburg, and Graudenz, being obliged to endure unusually hard treatment. At the end of seven years

the Mecklenburg Government succeeded in getting its subject back into its own hands, but only on condition that he should continue to serve out his sentence in his native land until the Prussian King should be pleased to pardon him. But here he did not lack manifestations of kindness and regard, and at the death of King William he was set at liberty by the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg. Much as he had been compelled to suffer, it does not seem to have embittered him in the least, and we can hardly overestimate the qualities of heart and mind which did not permit these years of hardship and abuse to develop in Reuter the bitter satirist rather than the genial humorist.

On regaining his liberty, he once more took up the study of the law, and this time at Heidelberg; but he soon let it drop again and became a "Strom," as they call a farmer in Mecklenburg. At his father's death in 1845 there were, however, no means at hand to undertake the management of a farm, and Reuter's next five years were spent in an irregular, wandering life. Having engaged himself to Louise Kunze, the daughter of a pastor, he settled down to the occupation of private tutor, and in his spare time wrote poems in his native dialect. The unexpected success of his first volume, 'Läuschen un Riemels,' led him to devote himself entirely to dialect writing. This instantaneous success was doubtless not a little due to the interest that Groth's 'Quickborn,' which had appeared the year before, had aroused for the hitherto neglected dialect. Plattdeutsch had become the fashion, and this fashion prepared the way for a just appreciation of the genius of the man who had chosen that idiom for its expression. In 1856 Reuter moved to Neubrandenburg, where he lived till 1863. These years were those of his greatest literary activity—'Olle Kamellen,' 'Schurr Murr,' 'Hanne Nüte,' 'Kein Hüsung'; and nothing that he afterwards wrote added to the reputation these had won for him. But for a trip to Palestine and Greece in 1864, the last ten years of his life were spent in the handsome villa which one passes on his way from Eisenach up to the Wartburg—years the memory of which is saddened by the knowledge that they were the last steps a great man was taking to a drunkard's grave. In a country where even the religiously bigoted cannot withhold from the liberal author of 'Hanne Nüte' and 'Olle Kamellen' their admiration and affection, there can be no lack of apologists for a man who could not control his appetite for drink, and the blame is thrown now upon hereditary tendencies, now upon the peculiar circumstances of his prison life, less often upon the temptations of his student days.

The unveiling of the bust was followed by brief addresses from the delegates from the various Plattdeutsche Vereine, who laid garlands at the foot of the pedestal. At two there was a banquet at the sign of the Black Bear (memorable as the inn at which Luther was wont to stop, and the scene of his interview with the Swiss student Kessler and of his heated controversy with Karlstadt). The bill of fare was printed in Low German and began with:

"Wat dat all to eten giwt
to dat
Festeten be de Enthüllung
von dat
Reuter Denkmal."

And how is this as a sample of successful avoidance of the hated *Fremdwort*?—"Kalv-fleesch in'ne fine klüterige Stipp in Bläderdeeg inleggt up de Aart as de Franzosen dat in Toulouse eten. (dor nennen's dat Fricassée)?" Besides the members of the Plattdeutsche Vereine and the guests from abroad, many

citizens and students were present, but not more than one or two of the University professors. Telegrams of greeting were received from Frau Reuter, the Grand Duke, and many others. No little credit is due the Burschenschaften in Jena for their substantial contribution to the monument fund. Other contributors were not forgotten, and I was glad to hear the hearty and repeated expressions of appreciation of what had been done by those in America who had taken an interest in the matter. The bust is considered by those who knew the author ("Olle Peters" himself was present) a good likeness of Reuter as he appeared in his best years. A representation of it will be found in the *Illustrierte Zeitung* for July 21. Ernst Paul, the sculptor, was born in Arolsen in the Duchy of Waldeck in 1856. As a pupil of Schilling he was engaged upon the National Monument on the Niederwald, and, besides minor works, has produced the Gutenberg statue in the Germanic Museum at Nürnberg and a "Sandalenbinderin" that is praised.

Some of the guests returned to their homes by the evening trains, but not a few remained over till to-day, and enjoyed one or more of the delightful walks and climbs of which the valleys and the hills about Jena offer such a profusion—drank Lichtenhainer where it is brewed, and bought a Ziegenhainer cane where they grow—or joined in ascending the Hausberg and drank a *Frühschoppen* at the Fuchsturm. But the real close of the celebration was yesterday evening, when many of us climbed up to the Sophienhöhe, a place of amusement on the slope of the Kernberge southeast of Jena, and, seated about the little tables in the gardens or on the verandas and gallery of the inn, spent a pleasant hour or so in that simple and *gemütlich* way the Germans so well understand. At our feet lay spread out the valley of the Saale with Jena and the neighboring villages. On the elevated plateau to the northwest the mighty invader dealt Prussia his hardest blow—on the heights opposite rises above the Jenaer Forst the imposing tower erected in commemoration of the final victory over the *Erbfeind*. As the sun went down behind the Thuringian hills we sang Reuter's "Ik weit einen Eikbom," and that song, so dear to the hearts of all who have had the good fortune to spend a summer in Jena, "An der Saale hellem Strande."

GEORGE HEMPLE.

Correspondence.

THE FIRST COLLEGE OBSERVATORY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Professor Loomis states, in his 'Progress of Astronomy' (edition of 1850, p. 162), that the first attempt to establish a college observatory in the United States was made by Prof. Albert Hopkins of Williams College, Massachusetts. This is an error; and it is repeated in the *Nation* of July 12, 1888, in the introduction to your abstract of Professor Safford's address on "Fifty Years of American Astronomy." Your article states that the Williams College Observatory was erected in 1838. Seven years before, an "attempt" had been made at the University of North Carolina by Dr. Joseph Caldwell, who was then President, and had been for a long time Professor of Mathematics. This was probably the first attempt made in this country, and will you not allow me space for a brief account of it?

In 1824 Dr. Caldwell was sent to Europe to buy books and apparatus for the University. Among the instruments he purchased in Lon-

don were a meridian transit instrument and a zenith telescope made by Simms, a refracting telescope by Dollond, an astronomical clock by Molyneux, a sextant by Wilkinson, a reflecting circle by Harris, and a Hadley's quadrant. These instruments were used in the University buildings until 1831, when they were placed in an observatory which had just been built for them. This building was of brick and stone, about twenty feet square and twenty-five feet high. A column of masonry rose through the centre to furnish stable foundations for the instruments. The flat roof contained a wide slit which continued for some distance down the walls and afforded a range of 180° for the transit. This slit was covered by a wooden framework which could be moved by rope and windlass.

Observations were made at this place by President Caldwell, Prof. Elisha Mitchell, and Prof. James Phillips. But the observations were continued only a few years. The construction of the building was very imperfect. The flat roof was so troublesome that the instruments were removed soon after Dr. Caldwell's death in 1835, and the building was partially destroyed by fire in 1838. It was never restored. President Swain, who succeeded Caldwell, afterwards carried away the bricks and used them in building a kitchen. This is still in use! The ruins of the observatory are yet plainly visible on a hill just outside the campus.

The records of these observations have, in some way, been lost, whether during "Reconstruction days," when the University was closed for several years and troops quartered in the buildings, or before, no one seems to know.

Dr. Caldwell's attempt to establish this observatory deserves record. His instruments were small, but the equipment was entirely sufficient for an excellent beginning. Accurate and valuable work could have been done with it. There would have been something lasting done, and this might have grown into one of the best college observatories in the country, if Dr. Caldwell's successors had possessed his zeal and taste for astronomy. But the University was poor, the public was indifferent, and there was too much to struggle against—the opportunity was lost.

There are persons now living in Chapel Hill, whose authority is unquestioned, who were often in this observatory and saw the instruments in place. Among them is Rev. Dr. Charles Phillips, who, as a child, frequently attended his father, Dr. James Phillips, while making observations, and to whom I am indebted for the above facts.

During the civil war a novel use was found for the telescope, when some of Sherman's troops passed through Chapel Hill. The instrument had been lying unused for a number of years, on an upper shelf in one of the lecture-rooms, and looked harmless enough not to attract anybody's attention. Two of the professors thought it would be a good place to hide their watches. The dusty object-glass was removed and the watches carefully concealed within the tube. But some of the soldiers must have been enthusiasts in astronomy. At any rate they loved gold watches, and the unlucky professors had to apply to the officers of the regiment to have their watches returned!

JAMES L. LOVE,
Associate Professor of Mathematics.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, August 6, 1888.

WHAT THE REPUBLICANS EXPECT TO DO FOR CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: During the past year many of those who voted for the Democratic candidates in 1884 have beyond question been pained at President Cleveland's lapse from the civil-service principles to which he once gave utterance. Some of those who supported him at that time, forgetting now that with all his shortcomings in that regard there has not been another administration for a quarter of a century when the civil service of the country was, as a whole, so far removed from politics, appear to have despaired, and are considering whether it may not be wise to support the Republican nominees at the coming election, in the hope of better things from them, if elected.

On this point we may for the moment ignore the probability, now openly asserted by the Republican organs, that the election of Mr. Harrison means Mr. Blaine as Secretary of State and chief adviser, and four years of Blaineism abroad in the land. The Republican State Convention of Michigan, just held, has, we may assume unintentionally, but plainly, announced what may be expected in the civil service if the Republicans are successful in the present campaign. The platform adopted yesterday at Detroit "arraigns the Democratic party . . . for the prostitution of the civil service"—why? Because it is wrong in principle? No: simply because this "prostitution" has been found "so soon following the glowing declaration of the newly elected Democratic President"! The platform is silent as to the real views of the Republican party of Michigan on the naked question of civil-service management, but the speech of the temporary chairman, applauded to the echo by the Convention, formulates their sentiments better than any vote-catching plank in a platform. From the report in the *Detroit Tribune* (the Republican organ in Michigan) I make the following extract from the chairman's speech:

"I find no fault with the administration of the Democratic party in bestowing its favors and its offices upon its friends. That is one of the fundamental principles and tenets of my political faith [applause]; and I believe that in the early part of 1889 the Republican party will be kept very busy in that same direction [applause and laughter]."

Verily the spirit of the delegate from Texas still dwells in the Republican party. Does it promise better than President Cleveland's performances? G.

AUGUST 10, 1888.

CAMPAIGN CREDULOUSNESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your editorial on "Campaign Lying" in the *Nation* of August 9, you state that "intelligent men are not fooled by them, and that they are meant for the ignorant workmen, particularly the Irish." In this you are mistaken, as I have talked to some men recently, whose intelligence is undoubted—notably a prominent member of Councils, representing one of the most influential wards in Philadelphia, who assured me that the article purporting to be an extract from the *London Times*, to the effect that "the only use England has for Irishmen now is to send them to the United States to vote for Cleveland and free trade," had positively appeared in the *London Times*, and gave me the date of its publication (June 16, I think). He also stated that in the future whenever this quotation was used, it was to have the date of publication. As far as I have observed, these articles are be-

lieved by intelligent Republicans as well as by the ignorant.—Yours, etc., W. H. C.

PHILADELPHIA, August 11, 1888.

"TO ADMIRE AT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: At page 33 of your current volume, you designate the phrase "to admire at," in the sense of "to wonder at," as "a decided provincialism." Is it not, rather, an archaism? See Dr. Murray's Dictionary.

"To feel or express wonder mingled with approbation" is a sense of "to admire" which, I believe, has not hitherto been noticed by lexicographers.

"The Divine goodness, whose providence is never enough to be admired at."—William Watson, *A Decacordon of Ten Quodlibetical Questions* (ed. 1602), page 24.

The expressions "the onely admired at Heroes of the world in his dayes," "such admired at worthies," "his admired at holy father," and the like, occur in the same work, at A 2 v., pages 102, 145, and elsewhere.

As any one who has lived in New England must be aware, the meaning which the New Dictionary assigns to "I admire to do it," quoted from Miss Alcott, is erroneous. See Webster or Bartlett.—Your obedient servant,

F. H.

MARLESFORD, ENGLAND, July 23, 1888.

Notes.

WE mentioned last week the late Gen. Sheridan's aversion to any publication of his observations on the German Army in action during the war with France in 1870-71,—perhaps because what he did let slip touched German-American sensibilities somewhat deeply. The November *Scribner's*, it is now announced, will reproduce, in an article called "From Gravelotte to Sedan," the General's notes made during his stay at the German Headquarters. A high degree of interest will attach to this posthumous paper, as to the General's Memoirs, of which Charles L. Webster & Co. will be the publishers.

Harper & Bros. publish directly 'Fifty Years Ago,' by Walter Besant—an illustrated account of English life, customs, and manners at the date of Queen Victoria's accession.

Longmans, Green & Co. will shortly publish 'The Record of a Human Soul,' an anonymous little book, "the honest account of the struggle of a sceptic who ardently but unavailingly desired to believe."

A new edition of the late Capt. R. F. Coffin's 'Yachts and Yachting,' brought down to date by Charles E. Clay, editor of *Outing*, is in the press of Cassell & Co.

Mr. Edward McPherson's 'Handbook of Politics for 1888' will be issued by James J. Chapman, Washington, D. C., about September 1.

We welcome the appearance of a second edition of Mr. Edward Stanwood's 'History of Presidential Elections' (Boston: Ticknor & Co.), which also serves as a history of parties, in default of a general work on the latter subject. Apparently it is the intention of author and publishers to renew this work every four years, so that the political student may be kept fully abreast of the movement of the national sentiment. Armed with the present volume, and with McPherson's 'Handbook of Politics' (which lags this year-like our pokey Congress and our deliberate Presidential campaign), the stump-speaker and the voter have great resources for intelligent thought, speech, and