

under the guidance of one of the boys, who promised us a short-cut.

This youth proved to be filled with the old wandering spirit that lures so many of his race into the wilderness life. He confided to us as we walked that he liked, to tramp extended distances, and that the days were really not made long enough for those who had to return home at night.

"I is been top of dose hills," he said. "Bime by I mak' heem go to dose lak' beyon'."

He told us that some day he hoped to go out with the fur-traders. In his vocabulary "I wish" occurred with such wistful frequency that finally I inquired curiously what use he would make of the Fairy Gift.

"If you could have just one wish come true, Pierre," I asked, "what would you desire?"

His answer came without a moment's hesitation.

"I is lak' be one giant," said he.

"Why?" I demanded.

"So I can mak' heem de walk far," he replied, simply.

I was tempted to point out to him the fact that big men do not outlast the little men, and that vast strength rarely endures, but then a better feeling persuaded me to leave him his illusions. The power, even

in fancy, of striding on seven-league boots across the fascinations spread out below his kindling vision from "dose hills" was too precious a possession lightly to be taken away.

Strangely enough, though his woodcraft naturally was not inconsiderable, it did not hold his paramount interest. He knew something about animals and their ways and their methods of capture, but the chase did not appeal strongly to him, nor apparently did he possess much skill along that line. He liked that actual physical labor, the walking, the paddling, the tump-line, the camp-making, the new country, the companionship of the wild life, the wilderness as a whole rather than in any one of its single aspects as Fish Pond, Game Preserve, Picture Gallery. In this he showed the true spirit of the *voyageur*. I should confidently look to meet him in another ten years—if threats of railroads spare the Far North so long—girdled with the red sash, shod in silent moccasins, bending beneath the portage load, trolling *Isabeau* to the silent land somewhere under the Arctic Circle. The French of the North have never been great fighters nor great hunters, in the terms of Anglo-Saxon frontiersmen, but they have laughed in farther places.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

Germany as It Is¹

MR. von Schierbrand knows his subject, Germany, like a German, and he knows his American audience like an American. In addition to these qualifications for making us understand Germany, he is a critic of real acumen, whose sympathies are broad enough to enable him to understand movements with which he is not identified. When he states in his preface that his book is free from bias, the reader is inclined to expect a bias so deep that the author is unconscious of it; but after reading the book and following the author's observations upon movements on which his views differ from our own, we are ready to accord him the praise of having given us an unbiased description of Germany as it is.

¹ *The Welding of a World Power*. By Wolf von Schierbrand. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York.

After an introductory chapter upon Germany as a world power, which is about the least interesting in the volume, he contributes three chapters upon the personality and influence of the Kaiser. Though in sympathy with the Kaiser's world politics, he recognizes the reactionary character of most of the Emperor's views, and also recognizes the extent to which the Kaiser's self-confidence has proven unwarranted. Not only, he points out, has the Kaiser failed to win over the Socialists, as he told Bismarck he could do in a single year, but also he has failed to keep out the "undesirable" middle class from the ranks of officers in the army. He has, however, succeeded in a degree almost incredible in destroying the freedom of the press, in making the courts mere registers of his personal wishes in every matter before them, and in taking

Germany back from the ranks of a limited monarchy to that of an autocracy. The sources of the Kaiser's personal influence cannot be summarized in a sentence. It is due in great part to traditions of which we in America can with difficulty appreciate the strength. It is also due, Mr. von Schierbrand indicates, to the wholesomeness of the Emperor's family life and to the frankness, whole-heartedness, and passionate vigor with which he throws himself into the struggle to make his power absolute in Germany and feared throughout the world.

The chapter which follows gives a rapid survey of the present political life of Germany, bringing out with great clearness the growing power of the Upper House of Parliament appointed by the courts, the lessening power of the Reichstag, elected by universal suffrage, the extraordinary power of the clericals (a power largely given them by Bismarck's conflict against them), the divisions between Liberals and Radicals and Socialists, and the noteworthy ability of the radical parties to produce orators as contrasted with the inability of the conservative parties to produce them.

Having thus put the general situation in a nutshell, the author next turns to a critical examination of the parties which are bent upon a revolution, industrial or political, and presents two brilliant chapters upon the Socialist movement and the Polish problem. Though by no means a Socialist himself, he states forcibly the reasons why the Socialist party has come to command the suffrage of nearly one-third of the voters of the Empire, despite the efforts of the monarchy to repress their movement by prosecutions on the one hand, and by conciliating its supporters through compulsory insurance, old-age pensions, and the like, on the other. The criticism given of the insurance and pension bureaus is a remarkably clarifying one. The reader is not cumbered with a mass of details, and is permitted to see that the elaborateness of the machinery by which the insurance funds are collected and distributed has necessitated the employment of a force of officials whose expenses consume one-third of all that is paid in for the insurance. The great government building in which the administration of this bureau

centers is known among the Socialists as the "Pasting Palace."

The Socialist movement, according to Mr. von Schierbrand—and he is doubtless right upon this point—is no longer a revolutionary movement in the sense that it was twenty years or even ten years ago. The strength of the party now is based upon its democracy, and the industrial demands which it is pressing forward could all of them be secured without overthrowing the general framework upon which industry now rests. Monopolies, indeed, would be managed by the Government, but there would be a large field of industry remaining under individual control, and workers in every field would still be paid in proportion to the supposed value of their work. Socialism, Mr. von Schierbrand writes, has exercised a vast educational influence. "It has quickened," he says, warmly, "the intellect of the worker, and has first enabled him to think, however faultily, on political and economic topics. It has, by organizing thousands of social clubs, given these whilom dull and torpid masses a genuine taste for and appreciation of purely æsthetic pleasures, such as music, singing, theatrical performances, concerts, and, above all, books. The Socialists in Germany have done what the Government had left undone, viz., founded thousands of workingmen's libraries. The Socialist press has in this respect done wonders."

But this chapter upon Socialism is perhaps less interesting than that upon "The Polish Problem." Prussian Poland, it is pointed out, has prospered not only out of all proportion to Austrian Poland and Russian Poland, but relatively more than the western portions of Germany. But, in spite of these advances, or rather perhaps because of them, the Polish national spirit has developed an intensity in Prussian Poland unknown in the more oppressed provinces in other lands and unknown in Prussian Poland itself a generation ago. "Up to about twenty-five years ago, the small middle class to be met with in Polish towns and cities was composed almost wholly of Germans and Jews. To-day the young and well-educated generation of Poles have largely replaced them. Polish merchants, bankers, shopkeepers, mechanics, artisans, physicians, lawyers, and engineers are

now in the majority." Only three per cent. of the Poles are now illiterate, and at the German universities the percentage of Polish students has increased tenfold within the last twenty years; but along with these advances the whole people have become fanatically attached to the vision of a restored Polish nation.

In this movement the Polish priesthood has borne a conspicuous part. The fact that the Poles are Catholics, while Germany is a Protestant power, has made sectarian passions mingle with national passions to produce an almost rancorous intensity of anti-German feeling. It is, says Mr. von Schierbrand, due almost wholly to the Polish clergy that the knowledge and use of the German language are not general in the Polish districts. The Polish clergy correctly argue that with the adoption of German as the language of home and of the pulpit the battle would be practically won for the friends of Germanization. Hence their strenuous and consistent efforts have been directed against the use of German wherever they have had the power to prevent it. "And they have succeeded remarkably well, especially when it is considered that the Poles, as a class, had to forego all those material advantages which naturally would accrue to Poles able and willing to speak and write both languages. To carry out their programme logically, the Polish clergy have succeeded in persuading their countrymen that to abandon the constant use of Polish means to become a renegade,

an enemy to the race, and a 'hiringling to the foreigner,' as the Polish press puts it. The Poles, in the service of this idea, have voluntarily shut themselves out of every career and calling which would force them to make habitual use of German as their vernacular. This includes, of course, every kind of government service."

Along with this intensified Polish spirit among the Poles has come a still more remarkable "process of Polonization to which the German element resident in the Polish districts is being subjected." Inter-marriage between Poles and Germans nearly always means the loss of nationality for the German part. German colonies in the Polish districts have been attempted on a great scale to counteract these influences, but these colonies all have languished, or where they have been securely established they have met in Poland the fate of the English colonies in the greater part of Ireland. The colonists who have taken part in the ordinary life of the people have come to sympathize with their neighbors and to feel as they do on the question of home rule.

These chapters are indicative of the manner in which Mr. von Schierbrand deals with vital things in his description of the German Empire. Few books on political science give a clearer ideal of the political fabric of the country, and no recent book of travels has given anything like so clear an account of the feelings and aspirations of the people.

Books of the Week

This report of current literature is supplemented by fuller reviews of such books as in the judgment of the editors are of special importance to our readers. Any of these books will be sent by the publishers of The Outlook, postpaid, to any address on receipt of the published price, with postage added when the price is marked "net."

American Standard Bookkeeping (The). High School Edition. By C. C. Curtiss, A.M. The American Book Co., New York. 6x9½ in. 192 pages.

American Advance (The): A Study in Territorial Expansion. By Edmund J. Carpenter. With Map. John Lane, New York. 5½x9 in. 331 pages. \$2.50, net.

A clear, circumstantial account of the various annexations by which the original territory of the United States has received nearly a four-fold expansion. The author apparently believes in the wisdom of all of the successive annexations, but in dealing with the Mexican cession he brings out sharply the pro-slavery spirit animating the Polk administration.

"When," he writes, "during the progress of the peace negotiations, the Mexican commissioners moved for the insertion of an article which should provide that the territory to be ceded should remain forever free, Commissioner Trist steadily refused to entertain such a proposition. 'If the territory should be increased tenfold in value,' wrote Trist to James Buchanan, 'and, besides, covered all over a foot thick with pure gold, on the single condition that slavery should be excluded therefrom, the proposition would not be entertained, nor would I think for a moment of communicating it to the President.'" The