

# The Lutheran Visitor

GOD'S WORD, OUR RULE; CHRIST, OUR PATTERN; A PURE FAITH, OUR WATCHWORD.

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## LETTER FROM GERMANY.

Dear Visitor:—Shortly before sailing from New York a letter was received from a friend who wrote, "We shall anxiously await news from the Fatherland." In response to such an expressed desire, it is an actual temptation to write often and at length through your columns to friends in the Southern Church, especially when in the midst of these new surroundings with their endless production of new impressions. But I should do only injustice to all concerned were I satisfied to report mere impressions. The sympathetic appreciation of a people and a just estimate of their religious, theological or ecclesiastical status dare not to be conclusively learned in a moment. Therefore, I may be excused, it is hoped, for simply giving you from my note-book facts and ideas that have been collected incidentally.

The universities have issued their catalogues of students for the winter semester of 1901-1902. Those who attend lectures are classified as follows:

	Students.	Visitors.	Women.
Berlin . . .	6857	6235	611
Munich . . .	4203	256	29
Leipsic . . .	3747	472	73
Bonn . . .	2071	193	205
Breslau . . .	1753	170	76
Halle . . .	1731	208	89
Tubingen . . .	2371	37	2
Goettingen . . .	1338	83	32
Freiburg . . .	1321	99	52
Heidelberg . . .	1271	168	27
Wurzburg . . .	1194	60	41
Strasbourg . . .	1133	123	—
Marburg . . .	1085	54	—
Erlangen . . .	1004	17	4
Giessen . . .	947	51	18
Konigsberg . . .	911	70	38
Kiel . . .	818	58	19
Munster . . .	789	27	—
Griefswald . . .	723	39	—
Jena . . .	698	47	—
Rostock . . .	552	27	—

The extent of the direct influence of the German universities is indicated by the corresponding totals of those in attendance for current semester: 35,518 students, 8,495 visitors and 1,316 women.

Christoph Ernst Luthardt, first professor of theology, senior of the university and of the theological faculty, though he retains his high position in Leipzig University, is no longer able to deliver lectures because of very feeble health. His has been a fruitful service in behalf of the church of our fathers and he has now attained to a ripe old age. It may be remembered that this well known Lutheran scholar was born the 22nd of March, 1823, at Maroldswiesach in Unterfranken. After serving his apprenticeship in the year 1856, he accepted a call to become K. T. A. Liebner's successor in the chair of systematic theology in Leipzig University, where his principal life-work has been accomplished. Dr. Luthardt is the author of numerous works well known in the theological world. His "Fundamental Truths of Christianity", "Saving Truths of Christianity" and "Moral Truths of Christianity," have been translated into English and are excellent reading for laymen as well as pastors. The name of Luthardt is naturally associated in our minds with that of the lamented Delitzsch, his great colleague. There were giants in those days. The theological faculty of Leipzig University is now composed of comparatively young men.

Judging from the index of sermons in German churches and of the religious press, the situation of the German Lutheran church is not greatly different from that of our church at home. On the other hand, in certain strata of society, there is similar ignorance of Biblical facts and truths, moral laxity, and indeed also half faith on the part of some teachers of religion, as in America; on the other hand, there is active organization to put down vice, the inner mission work so well known everywhere, and voices raised from pulpit and professional chair in behalf of positive Christianity, both of faith and life. As elsewhere in the world, so here, unbelief and sin raise their heads, but God and His truth have many valiant witnesses in the Fatherland. One special reason for

hopefulness of an increasingly bright future for the church in Germany is the evident fact that good men are awake to the dangers and needs of the age. This much is apparent to the casual observer.

There has been ample opportunity during the past two weeks to attend the churches of Leipzig. In addition to the Sunday services, the churches were open on Christmas eve and three days following, for one or more services, also on New Year's eve and New Year's day. During this season the churches we have attended have been filled to overflowing. It is true we have gone to hear such popular preachers as Superintendent D. Pank, of St. Thomas' Lutheran church, and Dr. Rueling, pastor of St. Johannes' Lutheran church, in front of which is the Reformation monument. One of the most impressive services attended was held in St. Thomas' church on Christmas eve. It consisted of alternate Scriptural readings from the prophets and the singing of Christmas carols by Molette and congregation. Several of the old hymns were interpreted to us with new sweetness and beauty. The experience of the genuine German celebration of Christmas has left favorable impressions. The observance of the season was reverent. In Leipzig the shops were almost universally closed on Christmas day and the day following. There was an entire absence of annoying firecrackers. It seemed to be the season generally devoted to family, social and church enjoyments.

Next week we leave here to go to Berlin, stopping at Halle and Wittenberg. A happy New Year for you and all your readers.

Very sincerely,

J. A. Morehead.

Leipzig, Germany, Jan. 1, 1902.

When we see a single Christian aflame with love and other graces of Christian character, what a benediction! But when we see a whole church thus alone in Christ—how glorious!

## Editorial.

Elsewhere in this A Remarkable issue will be found a tribute to Mrs. Catharine Counts, who was well and favorably known by many of our readers. In her death a veritable Dorcas has passed from the activities of the Church below to the rest and rewards of heaven. Our departed friend was indeed a remarkable woman. Endowed with intellectual powers far above the average, possessed of a pure and noble heart, of fine artistic talents and great industry, she has left an undying impress upon her generation, and the memory of her sweet, Christian life will linger yet many days to bless and ennoble other lives. Though the weight of 93 years was upon her there was no diminution of her mental faculties, but almost to the last she worked with pen-knife and needle, and her art work was in advance of much of that which emanates from the art schools of this progressive age. Had she been trained in this department of industry as a specialty she would have proven herself the equal if not the superior of Rosa Bonheur herself. Her decorative work has been admired by many, and no Easter will pass for years to come without reviving memories of her kindness and skill, of deeds nobly done. Nor was she less remarkable for her Christian virtues, her sweet faith in the Holy Jesus and her devotion to the Church. As the needle to the pole so her walk was ever Godward, heavenward, and none could associate with her without feeling the force of her beautiful Christian life. To know her was to love her, and to stand in her presence was to catch the bright rays of a life hid with Christ in God.

Naturally many mourn her departure, and talk of the "good works and almsdeeds" which were adornments of her noble life. She rests in peace, and her works follow her. "Servant of God, well done! Rest from thy loved employ."