

GERMAN GENIUS IMAGINARY.

World Yet to Hear of Mighty Teutonic Achievements.

During the last few months I have heard the Germans arraigned as blatant boorish, barbarous, yet in nearly every case the speakers suffixed to their invectives such an expression as "But when it comes to brains you will have to hand it to them; they have made science."

What, hand it to them? What epoch-making invention or discovery is of German origin—except a stamp on which is inscribed, "Made in Germany?" Their scientists have kicked up a fair amount of spray as they gamboled in their pool, but the world has yet to hear of a mighty Teutonic splash. Time and again French, English, American, Spanish and Italian inventors and discoverers have sent tidal waves around the globe. Let us now be specific.

The steam engine has been called the greatest of all inventions; it broke the shackles from slaves; it mingled the marts of the world! It made neighbors of the antipodes. Newcomen, a native of Devonshire, obtained the patent for the first partially successful steam engine; Watt, a Scotchman, perfected it; Cuynot, Murdock, and Trevitick brought forward the locomotive, not on German soil; Stephenson, an Englishman, was the first to apply the locomotive steam engine to railways for passenger traffic; France, England, and America applied it to navigation. When all had been completed Germany pulled the whistle cord, shouted "Hoch der Kaiser!" and tagged it "Made in Germany."

Germans Never Invented These.

The telegraph which brings us the daily history of the world was invented by an American, Professor Morse, who also suggested the Atlantic cable, which was subsequently laid by that American merchant-scientist, Cyrus Field, assisted in "mooring the New World alongside of the Old" by Lord Kelvin, the prince of physicists, a British subject. Graham Bell, the chief inventor of the telephone, was born in Scotland and grew to fame in America. A young Italian, Marconi, gave wireless telegraphy to the world. The House of the Hohenzollern has made great use of these inventions in telling Great Britain, America and Italy in arrogant verbiage what the Vaterland has done for the benighted peoples of the earth.

Cyrus McCormick, a native of West Virginia, produced the reaping machine which harvests the food of the world; Meikle, of England, brought forth the threshing machine; thus was famine banished. Eli Whitney, of Massachusetts parentage, invented the cotton gin; Hargraves, an Englishman, made the spinning-jenny; Arkwright, also English, supplied its efficiency with his famous spinning frame; the Englishman Kay introduced the fly shuttle in weaving; Brunel, who devised the knitting machine, and Cartwright, inventor of the power loom, were British citizens. Thus was the world clothed.

Although Germany is militaristic and worships at the shrine of Mars, what votive offering has she made to the god of war? It was not she who contributed gunpowder, gun powder, smokeless powder, percussion cap, nitroglycerine, dynamite, torpedo, shrapnel, automatic cannon, magazine rifle, breech loading gun, Gatling gun, revolver, Maxim silencer, hammerless gun, gunboat, ironclad battery or ship, armor plate, revolving turret, submarine or airplanes.

No German Made These.

Since Germany borrowed her military appliances from other nations, we are not surprised that she obtained her devices of prosperity from the same source. She did not produce the first aniline dye, vulcanized rubber, liquid gases, gas engine, water gas, thermometer, barometer, pianoforte, barbed wire, cut nails, plate glass, circular saw, cable car, electric car, sleeping car, air brake, bicycle, automobile, pneumatic tire, sewing machine, typewriter, calculating machine, cash register, steel writing pen, et cetera ad infinitum.

The greatest thing Germany has done is to falsely advertise herself as the light of the world. No son of hers invented the electric light, the gas light, the acetylene light, the kerosene light, the searchlight, the flashlight, the safety lamp, the candle dip or the friction match. America, England, France and other "untutored nations" performed these tasks. The sun, moon and stars are the only lights left for Germany's contention, and, according to the Mosaic account, the Lord and not the Kaiser made and placed them in the firmament.

Daguerre, a Frenchman, presented us with photography. Our own Edison brought forth the motion picture to delight and instruct the eye and the phonograph to please and teach the ear. The Germans enjoy our reels and records, and, lifting high their steins, drink a prolonged toast to the achievements of the Vater-

land. "Deutschland uber Allies."

Galileo, who first saw the heavens with a telescope, was an Italian. The men who first saw the earth and its teeming life with a microscope were not of German origin. Yet many telescopes and microscopes in our colleges being marked "Made in Germany" have led students to believe that these wonderful instruments were devised by German brain. The Germans are mechanics, not inventors.

These Weren't Teutons.

By the use of the compound microscope Pasteur, the French biologist, as early as 1857, demonstrated a connection between microscopic organism and disease. This was nine years before Dr. Koch, the German bacteriologist, had graduated. In this connection the important antiseptic surgery of Dr. Lister, of England, should be recorded. Edward Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination, and Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of blood, were Englishmen. An American taught the world the use of anaesthetics. Our dentists excel all others. They are employed by many crowned heads—even the Kaiser has his.

The Teutons have not shown the engineering skill of the French, who cut the Suez canal, or of the Americans, who joined the Atlantic and the Pacific at Panama. The decimal or metric system, by which the Germans make their measurements is a gift from France. The method by which they make their steel is that of Sir Henry Bessemer, of England. Many of the fruits and vegetables, of which they eat an enormous quantity, were brought forth by our own peerless Burbank. No wonder that the Germans can "goose-step" so high for what else have they practiced?

Lavoisier, the father of modern chemistry, was a Frenchman; Linnaeus, the founder of botany, was of Swedish origin. To Hutton, of England, we are indebted for geology; to Maury, of Virginia, for the physiography of the sea; to Descartes of French parentage, for analytical geometry; to Comte, of France, for sociology; to Germany for sauerkraut and pretzels. Germany has not contributed her quota toward the world's advancement. How she struts in her foreign plumage! She is neither inventive, resourceful nor original.

She has made no geographical discoveries of importance. Her neighbors have. What role did she play in discovering various portions of the New World? Did she establish any colonies? I thank God she did not. Her sons did not compose the crew of Magellan's fleet, the first to circumnavigate the globe. A German did not discover the North Pole, nor lead the way toward the South Pole. It is high time to cease talking of Germany's achievements unless one wishes to indulge in satire.

History and study will reveal that the world's greatest teacher, scientist, inventor, discoverer, statesman, general, philosopher, preacher, painter, poet, architect, novelist, or singer was not "made in Germany."—Townes R. Leigh, professor of chemistry, Georgetown college, in Montgomery Advertiser.

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