

distance white Alpine mountains and glaciers are glistening in the moonlight. Stauffacher, one of the older members of the "Bund," stands in the centre of the confederate patriots and delivers a speech which may be fitly called a German declaration of the rights of man. It is as sober as it is enthusiastic, and gives us the poet's last ideas of liberty. This poem was given to the world in 1804 when the continent was groaning under the despotism of Napoleon. Its success was instantaneous, and its sentiments, not confined to the stage, spread with electric energy throughout all Germany, whose people received it as a message to themselves. In permitting the performance of this play, Napoleon vastly underrated the influence of poetry in moulding public opinion. It was inconceivable to him that an obscure poet at Weimar could set at work forces stronger than the strength of France, and he therefore sneered at the Germans for their admiration of a piece founded on a revolt which had formerly lost their Empire a Province.

The influence upon national life of this spirited and noble hymn in honor of national liberty and true dignity of man, was unbounded; and to this day its immortal strains never fail to stir to their depths, hearts alive to pure and generous emotions.

F. M. C., '95.

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### THE SATURNIAN AGE.

Emerson says, "Another step to civility in the change from war, hunting and pasturage to agriculture," and history seems to bear him out in the observation. Whether this truth can be applied to mythopœic ages is doubtful. Yet if we conceive of mythology as being a production of thought future to the age and as really growing out of actual history, we could well make the application.

The Saturnian Age then, of Roman mythology, would be the culmination and crystalization of mythopœic society, the future of the former turbulent years and the evolved perfection of that age. On the other hand the age bears a remarkable resemblance to Eden, the beginning, the genus. The fact that Saturn was one of the oldest Roman deities would favor that view, as also the agricultural nature of the conception. The characteristics of the period are few but fundamental and elementary. Our noblest ideals are usually the least defined in detail and represent fundamental principles. Because of the simplicity, purity, harmony and wisdom of the government of Saturn, the period has been designated the Golden Age of Italy. As future chronologic periods have approximated the ideal, they also have received the title Golden. Indeed the aim of advance and the goal of all nations, all ages seems to be the perfect state. The aim of evolution of society, be it theory or fact, has for its ultimate