

singing a chorus at the same time. Then each class marched off separately to the different apparatuses under the command of its leader, or "Vorturner," as he is called, who ordered those under him round in a manner that would not be submitted to by Americans or English. The exercises gone through differed considerably from those in vogue in this country. Those performed on the horizontal bar were somewhat similar, but those done on the parallel bars were not at all the same, being apparently less calculated to develop the muscles, but more showy. The vaulting horse was very much used, and a good deal of jumping was done, this latter always from a little spring-board. None of the feats performed were remarkable, except those executed by the president, who pulled himself up to his chin first on one arm and then on the other, four or five times running. The proceedings were closed by a general set-to, first with light swords, and then with sabres, and a duel between a guest from Breslau and a noted local fencer, resulting in a walk-over for the Greifswolder. On the evening of the same day a great drinking bout, or "Festcommers" was held in a large hall hired for the occasion. It was handsomely decorated, and had a series of long tables of the roughest description in it. Near the entrance were standing the officers of the society in full evening dress, with little round caps, about six inches in diameter, placed on the front part of the head and a little on one side, broad sashes of silk from the right shoulder across the chest, swords with fancy hilts, and large white fencing gloves. The sashes and caps were white and red, the colors of the society, and altogether these officials looked quite picturesque, and unlike anything to be seen in America. They addressed all strangers who entered, touching their caps in the military fashion, and mentioning their names as a polite intimation that you should also do so, and state who had invited you. At about eight o'clock, all having arrived, the officers took their places at the ends of the tables, and beer was served all round without delay. There were about one hundred and twenty present, including the majority of the professors. After a little the proceedings were formally opened by the president and vice-presidents rising, striking the tables with their swords and calling out "Silentium!" Then the president made a speech welcoming the guests, which was well delivered, of course, for every German can speak in public without any display of bashfulness, and with a natural fluency which is astonishing to a stranger. Then followed a song, the first on the printed programme with which each person was supplied. Many of the songs had been written for the occasion and were sung to popular airs. A very fair orchestra helped matters a good deal. Then the president rose, and after more striking of the tables with swords, silence was demanded for the delegate from Heidelberg, who forthwith arose, made a very short speech, and asked permission to drink the health of the Greifswolder Turnverein. This being accorded by the president, he poured half a liter of beer into his stomach and sat down. In a like manner each delegate was called upon and responded to the call. Many other toasts were drunk, notably that of the Chancellor of the University, who made an excellent and telling speech, and that of the Turnlehrer, who is known all over Germany as being one of the best fencers in the land. It was nearly four a. m. when the last student left the hall and tried to get home. The student I sat next to had seen the bottom of his glass twenty-three times, and I left him to spend the night on his doorstep, after having tried in vain to rouse his landlady. The next day's festivities consisted in an excursion on a steamer chartered for the occasion to an island in the Baltic sea, some ten miles from Greifswold. Here the whole party loitered round the park till dinner time, when all sat down in an old hall belonging to the duke who owns the island, and partook of an extremely meagre repast for which each man paid one mark. Then came another interval, and then tables were set out under the trees in the park, and another "Commers" was held. It much resembled the one I have just described, but was much less orderly. The chairman and officers soon lost all control over the rest, and a scene of the wildest hilarity ensued. There were usually two or three songs and a couple of speeches going on at the same time.

Everybody's health was drunk, and that is always done with peculiar honors at students' meetings. Usually the president announces that they will now drink a "salamander" in honour of somebody or something and then calls out "*Ad exercitium Salamandri, Eins, Zwei, Drei!*" At the last word everybody, standing up, drinks. Then again the president gives the word, *Eins, Zwei, Drei*, and every glass is set down and rattled on the table till he again gives the word of command, and then every one sets his glass down with a bang. There are any number of rules with regard to the drinking of beer in society, which must be strictly adhered to if one does not wish to give offence, and strangers are very apt to get a trifle mixed with regard to them, especially towards the end of an evening. The Commers on the island was finally broken up by the president, who was one of the few sober men at six p.m., and after a great deal of difficulty, all were got safely on board the steamer. Needless to say no member of the Turnverein was to be seen attending lectures for several days after. Nor did the affair end in peace. One of the delegates had a difference of opinion with an outsider, and the difficulty was settled with swords on the following day, the guest getting badly hurt. Beer is one great characteristic of German student life, and duelling is another of which I shall speak at some future time.

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## THE STUDY OF HISTORY.

### II.

In a previous number of *The Gazette* I dwelt on the importance of history as a branch of study, on the proper objects of the pursuit, and of the various methods of treating it adopted by the chronicler, by the didactic historian, and by the philosopher. Arriving at the conclusion that a combination of these methods would best promote the success of the historical student, I was led to enquire whether an inductive investigation, suggested by correspondence of dates, might not enable us to inform the dry details of chronological narrative with the spirit of symmetry and of system, and thus to connect the lower elements of history with its nobler truths and deeper lessons. From an examination of the leading events in modern history, and more especially in that of Britain for many centuries, we were led to note a very memorable and suggestive recurrence of important epochs towards the close of successive periods, and to remark that those epochs had been generally regarded as days of intellectual light and social progress. On a similar comparative view of the periods near the middle of these respective centuries, a general correspondence in certain very different characteristics seemed to present itself, such periods having usually been marked by the gloomier phenomena of history. Making due allowance for the temporary influence exercised by vigorous rulers, and for the opposite tendencies of feebler governments—allowing also for the various modifying results of national character, political or religious institutions, and untoward circumstances—we observed that for many ages the nations had passed, with a steadiness of recurrence approaching to constancy, through such cycles of transition, and that apparent exceptions, when closely examined, seemed to confirm rather than contrail the general rule. Those wars and revolutions which have attended the closing years of one century or the opening years of another, were found to have been connected with struggles for advancement, as they were dignified by displays of human originality and power; while, on the other hand, the events of the period intervening have stained the page of history with the repulsive hues of civil conflict, or darkened it with the sickly shades of scepticism and factions zeal. This impression seems to be justified even by the comparison of a favourable case of the one kind with an unfavourable instance of the other. The days of the Commonwealth in England, about the middle of the seventeenth century, have much of the interest attaching to heroism, genius, and lofty patriotism; yet their glory did not endure; and the struggles and triumphs which distinguished them, however memorable and important in the history of the country, left but a slight