

LITERARY INTRODUCTION.

Perhaps the most prominent living German writer is Gustav Freytag. He forms, so to say, the dramatic link between Gutzkow and Laube, combining the intellectual nobility and idealism of the former, with the freshness and the realism of the latter. His observations of life and nature are subtler and keener than Gutzkow's, while his style is more artistic and tasteful than Laube's.

Gustav Freytag was born on July 13th, 1816, at Kreuzburg in Silesia, his father being a physician. Having passed through the grammar-school at Oels, he studied Teutonic philology, at the Universities of Breslau and Berlin, from 1835 to 1838, passed the examination for the degree of Ph.D., and settled at Breslau to lecture in the University on German language and literature. Being prohibited in 1846 by the philosophical Faculty from lecturing on German "Kulturgeschichte," he quitted the University and removed to Leipzig, in order to study there the technicalities of stage-management as directed by Laube. In 1847 he married, at Dresden, a Silesian lady, and having in 1848 undertaken the editorship of "Die Grenzboten," together with Julian Schmidt, he settled at Leipzig. But for years it has been his wont to spend the summer at his country-seat near Gotha, where he is frequently visited by the Duke of Coburg-Gotha, who made him a "Hofrath" in 1854. The first of his dramas that appeared was "Kunz von der Rosen" in 1841, followed by "Die Valentine" in 1846, "Graf Waldemar" in 1847, and "Die Journalisten" in 1852. By