

THE Methodist Magazine.

JULY, 1889.

GLIMPSES OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL GERMANY.*

BY THE REV. SAMUEL G. GREEN, D.D.

THE entrance to Northern Germany by the Elbe is, in its way, as pleasant as that by the Rhine, and avoids the fatigue of a long railway journey before reaching the principal cities. A great sea-port city must always have its points of interest, and Hamburg is no exception; although, truth to say, there is little in its architecture or its associations to detain the traveller. Among the churches, that of St. Nicholas, of which the late Sir Gilbert Scott was architect, is pre-eminent in beauty. We much admired its stately exterior, although the great plain buttresses suggest a kind of incompleteness. It is true that in a Protestant cathedral there is happily no room for that kind of enrichment which marks the Gothic cathedrals of former ages. Sculptured saints, and niches for statues, and legends carved in stone, are alien from the simplicity of our worship, and we can well dispense with the elaboration and the splendour. Still the contrast architecturally was felt, and the material of which so much of this fine cathedral is built cannot be made as effective as stone.

The newness of many of the stately streets, in contrast with the antique high-roofed buildings of other parts, was very noticeable. After the great fire of 1842, the city was, in great part, rebuilt on a uniform plan, to the loss of the old picturesqueness, of which glimpses may still be gained along the banks of the canals that intersect the town; but much, no doubt, to the promotion of convenience and healthfulness.

We saw in the city a few market-women with their singular

* For the text and some of the engravings of this article we are indebted to the admirable volume on "The German Fatherland." Published by the Religious Tract Society, London.—Ed.