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AN ACCOUNT OF THE HIGHER SCHOOLS IN PRUSSIA.*

(Compiled by the Secretary from materials supplied by the Prussian Minister of Education.)

The higher Schools which exist in Prussia are divided, generally speaking, into two classes, called respectively *Gymnasien*† and *Real-Schulen*. These two classes differ from each other in their object, the business of the former being to prepare boys for the universities, and for those pursuits in life to which university studies are a necessary introduction; that of the latter to educate boys not designed for the universities. They differ, therefore, also in their course of instruction, the studies of the latter being of a more "positive and objective" kind than those of the former. But they do not differ in the principles on which their respective *curricula* are framed; that principle being, in each case, to aim at the thorough preparation and cultivation of the mind for its future work, whatever that work may be, rather than at the imparting of such knowledge as may be immediately and practically useful. They are not *Fachschulen*—not mere places of training for particular callings or professions. And they are, "before all things, German and Christian."‡

*Extracted from the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Revenues of certain Colleges and Schools, and the Studies pursued and Instruction given therein; with an Appendix and Evidence. Vol. II.

†The title "Gymnasium" dates from 1822, when it was extended by authority to all schools of learning (*Gelehrte Schulen*), which were previously called Latin Schools, Lyceums, Colleges, &c.

‡See *Unterrichts u. Prüfungs Ordnung der Real-Schulen höheren Bur-*

Below the *higher schools* are the *Mittel-Schulen*, and below these the *Elementar-Schulen*, both of which differ essentially from the classes above them in this respect, that they do not aim at giving a general education, but at imparting some necessary rudiments of practical knowledge.

There are 143 *Gymnasien* and 61 *Real-Schulen*. All, with few exceptions, are day-schools (*Externate*); but of the *Gymnasien*, some have boarding-houses (*Alumnate*) in connection with them, and three are exclusively boarding-schools (*Internate*), which is not the case with any of the *Real-Schulen*.

The curriculum (*Lehrplan*) of all the higher schools comprises instruction in the following subjects, viz., the Christian religion, the German, Latin, and French Languages, History, Geography, Mathematics, Natural Science, Writing, Drawing, Singing, Gymnastics. The basis (*Grundlage*) of the course in the *Gymnasien* is Latin, Greek, and Mathematics; that in the *Real-Schulen*, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and the Modern Languages. Both *Gymnasien* and *Real-Schulen* have six forms of classes, ascending from the sixth (*sexta*) to the first (*prima*) some of them having various subdivisions. Boys are not as a general rule admitted into the sixth or lowest form till they have completed their ninth year; and they are required to possess a knowledge of reading, writing and ciphering. The whole course (*Schulcurus*) lasts from eight to ten years. There are other schools which in principle should be classified with the *Gymnasien* and *Real-Schulen* respectively, having the same course of instruction up to a certain point, but wanting the upper forms: these are called respectively *Progymnasien* and *höhere Bürgerschulen*. Most of the higher schools have a definite denominational character, which governs the selection of the directors and teachers. Of the 143 *Gymnasien*, 102 are Protestant (*Evangelisch*), 39 Catholic. Except, however, a few exclusively Protestant or Catholic Foundation-schools (which are boarding-schools), all the superior schools receive pupils of every religious denomination. There is perfect freedom in this respect; in some forms of some schools there are more Jews than Christians. This is especially the case in Posen and Silesia. As to the patronage and maintenance of these establishments, 62 *Gymnasien* are royal, 62 receive support from the State, which thus participates in the patronage

gerschulen, 1859. *Beilage* p. 3. There is an authoritative rule, dating from 1826 and still subsisting, that the lessons in all the Schools should begin with prayer, and that the head master and assistant should attend divine worship: *Preuss. Jahrbuch* for 1861.