

be trodden under foot. That will be, in short, the net result to Germany of the brutal deeds of Hoedel, Nöbling, and their set. It is impossible in the fever of exaggerating alarm which prevails on the Continent to judge how far the Socialist conspiracy may have spread its odious toils. That its ramifications are traceable from Moscow to the Atlantic there can be little doubt, and, unfortunately, its real character, now that it gets to be better understood, shuts out the hope that it is amenable to any considerations to be urged on grounds of religion, morality, or the interests of society. It is ostensibly based on a denial of God or a hereafter; it opposes and would overthrow the institution of marriage, the rights of property, and the entire social fabric. It recognises no duties, acknowledges no moral

responsibility, respects not law, order, decency, life, or human rights—it is nihilism, blackness, and blankness, rapine, lust, and murder incarnate. It is singular that to the French influence of the eighteenth century, fostered by Frederick the Great, Prussia owed its bureaucracy and its military spirit; and now again the revolt against that order, which is the complement of freedom, was drawn from the Parisian frontier. Both were thoroughly irreligious in their essence, and this generation groans under the load heaped up from Voltaire and Rousseau to the diabolical creed of the Commune. Who shall say, in the lurid light gleaming from Germany, that a decline in religious belief does not menace the very foundations of morality, of order, and of society?

CURRENT LITERATURE.

TO thoroughly appreciate all the advantages which Mr. Davenport Adams's *Dictionary of English Literature** possesses one must consult it frequently. It is, beyond all question, one of the most satisfactory works of its kind ever issued. It is a perfect mine of information about everything connected with English literature, and as its usefulness becomes known few editors and men of letters will find themselves able to do without it. Its pages may be consulted on almost everything bearing on literature, and with, generally, gratifying results. While not aiming to be a biographical dictionary, it goes pretty fully into

such details in an author's life as are considered pertinent or necessary. In almost every instance where an author has published several books, the dates of their issue are given in chronological order, as well as such facts about them as are likely to prove interesting. First lines of poems, obscure as well as noted names in fiction, odd phrases, noms de plume of literary persons, little scraps of criticism, familiar quotations, definitions of some of the things one finds in literature, notes, short articles on the drama, novels, poetry, newspapers, &c., with numberless facts and fancies interesting, useful, and necessary have all a place in this exhaustive work. The dictionary is comprehensive and particular, and fills a place peculiarly its own. Mr.

* *Dictionary of English Literature.* By W. DAVENPORT ADAMS. London: Cassell, Petter & Galpin; Toronto: G. Mercer Adam.