

This law was modified in 1736, 1739, 1763, and 1794, in which year the following remarkable clause was added:—Art. 46, "The instruction in school must be continued until the child is found to possess the knowledge necessary to every rational being. The clergyman of the district determines this." Amendments were passed also in 1808, 1811, 1812, 1817 and 1825, when the compulsory law was enforced in all newly acquired territory. By act of Frederick William IV., in 1850, the Prussian constitution provided for a continuance of the same laws.

Since 1850 every state of Germany has adopted compulsory laws, and in 1890 the Prussian Diet passed a general compulsory act, of which clause 1 reads:—"Every child within the kingdom of Prussia must follow the course of instruction laid down for the elementary schools." By this act the term of compulsory attendance was fixed to extend from the sixth to the fifteenth year. It went into force on the first of October, 1890.

Germany to-day reports no illiterates. During the year 1888 out of 500,000 children of school age, but 5,145 were absent from school longer than the time allowed by law, or but about one to the thousand. In Berlin but fifteen parents proved law-breakers, and in all Germany but 1,020 were fined for delinquency.

Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Bavaria, and France, have compulsory laws which are effective and salutary. In a recent address in Washington, Rev. William Morley, of New Zealand, gave it as one of the evidences of progress and prosperity in the colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Fiji, that they all have free secular and *compulsory* education by state provision. In the United States, twenty-seven states and territories have compulsory laws, no less than 16 having enacted such laws since 1886.

Massachusetts passed her first compulsory law in 1642, when a fine of 20 shillings was imposed for non-attendance. The truant law was passed in 1850, and the foundation of the present compulsory law in 1852. This law of 1852 required attendance of all children between 8 and 14 years of age for a period of not less than 12 weeks in each year. The truancy laws were consolidated into a general statute in 1859, made more effective in 1862, when school districts were compelled to carry out these laws.

A new and more satisfactory act was passed in 1873, when the length of compulsory attendance was changed from 12 to