

German language and literature (1839). It was at this time his purpose to work his way to a professorship and to adopt permanently the university career, but only a slight obstacle was sufficient to divert him from this course and to lead him to the field of literature. He resigned his position in 1844 at the age of twenty-eight.

In 1848 a new turn was given to his life. He became, in company with Julian Schmidt, editor of the *Grenzboten*,¹ a weekly journal of high class devoted to politics and literature. In this new work he was able to give expression both to his political and his literary tendencies.

Germany was at this time shaken by a far-reaching political agitation in favor of more liberal, democratic institutions. Freytag sympathized with this liberal movement. Moreover, his intense patriotism inspired him to support strongly the political aim of this journal, which was the exclusion of Austria from German politics and the elevation of Prussia to leadership in national affairs.

In 1867 the Liberal Party of Erfurt elected him to a seat in the North German Parliament. But he had no gifts as a practical politician, and at the expiration of his term was glad to return to literary work. With the exception of a short time spent as the guest of Frederick, Crown Prince of Prussia, at the headquarters of the Third Army, in the Franco-German war, 1870-1871, Freytag took no further part in public life.

The last period of his life, 1871-1895, was devoted entirely to private research and literary work. He died at Wiesbaden, April 30, 1895.

¹ Freytag continued his connection with this journal until 1871.