

only 17 per cent. of the population of Berlin are attendants, however occasionally, on public worship; and it is certain that the supply of religious instruction is quite inadequate to the needs of the people. Yet there is a more hopeful side. The various missions and denominations have worked very nobly; the Baptists have probably, by this time, about twenty thousand members in Germany; then there are the Wesleyan Methodists, and the American Presbyterians, each of which bodies is doing good in Berlin; but at the best there are but a few score of thousands in a population of forty millions! The growth of a true religious belief and life in this great people must be from within their own Church; and this, as it gathers strength, will be potent enough to break through old forms, and to work out new ones for itself. But are there any signs of this? Well there are—partly in the great attention that is paid to the study of the Bible. The educated youth of Prussia know the Scriptures to an extent that might surprise one. The common schools, of which there is one now in every village, are doing a great work for the young, that will yet bear marvellous fruit; and the growth of the Sunday-school system in Germany of late years is extraordinary; while there is, after all, much very faithful and powerful exposition of Bible truths in German pulpits.

On the middle Elbe, ninety miles south of Berlin, lies Meissen, the ancient city "old in story," in whose praise many poets have already poured forth their song. This little Meissen, to-day with only thirteen thousand inhabitants, is one of the most important centres of culture in the kingdom, and was one of the first points from which an attempt was made to "Germanize" Lusatia. Otto the Great made Meissen the chief city of a margravate, and, at the same time, founded a bishopric there, so that the city became a firm support and defence against the East, and a light for the heathen Slaves dwelling there, whose conversion to Christianity and to the manners and customs of the Germans was carried on from that point with great success.

Meissen became a centre of culture for all Germany; but, in a narrower sense, it remained so to Upper Saxony a much longer time; for here the foundation of its military, judicial, and ecclesiastical institutions was laid by the margraves, burgraves, and bishops; here many members of the Wettin dynasty were born and buried; here resided Ernest and Albert, the founders of the two Saxon lines; here, twice, the university of Leipzig found hospitable shelter from plague and siege; and here Henry the