

worship brought out many of the best qualities of the Germans, faith, valor, hospitality and chivalric courtesy.

These people also respected woman. Polygamy was not in use. The wife was treated with esteem and confidence and her opinion consulted when there was doubt. The German women were as brave as their warriors and we find them in the camps, amid the sound of arms, wherever there was danger. With such masculine traits of character we cannot expect to find in the German woman the attractive softness and gentleness which characterizes her race. The first virtue of the female however has ever been chastity.

These bold warriors were Nature-worshippers. They adored the sun, the moon, fire and earth. Human sacrifices were the most precious offerings to their altars. Their only temples were dark and ancient groves. Exposed to blind superstition by their woeful ignorance, the German priests exercised a power over the people that no magistrate could exert and the defects of civil policy were sometimes supplied by the interposition of ecclesiastical authority. In the faith of soldiers, cowardice was the most unpardonable of sins, and the wretch who had lost his shield was alike banished from the religious and civil assemblies. All agreed that a life spent in arms and a glorious death in battle were the best preparations for a happy futurity.

Here was the situation and such were the manners of the ancient Germans. All contributed to form a people of military heroes, yet we find that from the defeat of Varus to the reign of Decius, they made but few attacks on Roman territory. Internal feuds were always a cause of disunion among them and this fierce multitude incapable of concerting or executing any plan of national greatness was divided into more than forty independent states. The German tribes were voluntary and fluctuating associations of soldiers, almost of savages. The irregular divisions and the restless motions of the people of Germany, dazzle our imagination.

One tribe of this race appeals to our interest in the study of English history. About the middle of the second century they occupied a small district on the right bank of the Elbe and were known as the Saxons. They were divided into three independent tribes, governed by hereditary chiefs and known as the Westphalians, the Ostphalians and the Angrians. Once a year the chiefs of the tribes assembled to deliberate on affairs of general interest. Pillage on hand and sea were their only occupations. In the third century their devastations on the British and Belgian coasts occasioned the appointment of a particular officer named Count of the