



KARL AUGUST.

Of the personality of Schiller Dr. J. Perry Worden, Ph.D., writes:

Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, who died just a century ago, was born almost amid the roar of artillery and the clash of arms, at Marbach, Württemberg, on November 10th, 1759, the same year which gave Burns to the troubled world. Strangely enough, it was the anniversary of Luther's birth; but neither burgher nor statesman noted the coming of a new champion of liberty. Schiller's father was but an army surgeon and barber, unable for years to draw a thaler of the salary he slaved for in the services of his unscrupulous duke; his mother was but the daughter of a country innkeeper, accustomed to the ways of simple folk. The last dream, therefore, likely to elate either Caspar or Elizabeth Schiller would

have been that the faint spark in their frail babe should some day blaze the guiding star of a groping and grateful country.

Humble and impoverished, however, as were the parents of Schiller, they possessed some noble virtues which contributed in no small degree to the building of the poet. The father, a severely pious and unselfish man, though barred from home for years by war, pondered on the future of the child, and planned to school him well. The mother, dutiful and true, kept little Fritz close to her tender heart and taught him those household virtues which later he sang in his charming "Lied von der Glocke." To all her children Frau Schiller was a haven in time of storm, and if they were conscious of doing wrong, they confessed to her first, that she might punish them herself and avert their father's wrath. She inspired Fritz also with a feeling of religion, in daily walks storing his receptive mind with Bible lore.

"It was a beautiful Easter Monday," writes Schiller's sister Christophine of one of these outdoor strolls and talks, "and our mother related to us the story of the two disciples, to whom, on their way to Emmaus, Jesus had joined himself. Her speech and narrative grew more and more inspired, and when we got upon the hill we were all so much affected that we knelt down and prayed." Science need not tell us why Schiller inherited the physical features of his mother and her character as well.

His schoolmaster, Pastor Moser, in Lorch, had directed his curiosity to the ministry of the Church, and his devout father strove to advance him to that goal. A bitter disappointment, however, was in store for both father and son. Duke Karl established a military school, where in 1770 he had