

AT A GERMAN UNIVERSITY.

II.

In my first article on this subject I said that the spirit of learning, far from dying out, was as strong in Germany to-day as it ever was, and to prove the statement, if indeed that were at all necessary, I gave the names of some of the distinguished scholars at the University of Leipsic, whose work has won the admiration and gratitude of students and learned men the world over. Of all these the most interesting to me was Professor Sievers, the well known specialist in phonetics and philology, and consequently I chose him to refer to in detail. But the others and many of their confrères are interesting too, and therefore I am going to devote this article to a sketch of one or two of these and of their work.

The Professor of English is Dr. Wülker, and as I had more to do with him than with any of the others whom I am about to describe, I shall write about him first. Though a scholar of no mean ability, he cannot be considered a man of genius. He has done a considerable amount of useful work in the editing of Anglo-Saxon and Early English prose and poetry, but this did not require genius so much as patience, industry, aptitude for details and accurate knowledge. These qualities Prof. Wülker undoubtedly does possess in a very high degree, and it is upon the very good use he has made of them in what may be called the mechanical side of the study of English, that his reputation among scholars will rest. Among other things he has re-edited and enlarged Grein's "*Treasury of Anglo-Saxon Poetry*," a work of great magnitude and one requiring the very qualities of accuracy and painstaking perseverance with which nature has endowed him. It is to Wülker also that scholars owe the probably correct solution of the interesting question as to how the so called "*Vercelli Book*" came to be in Italy. He made a visit to the monastery at Vercelli and learned that in early times there had been a library in connection with it, to which travellers, in return for the hospitality shown them, often made contributions in the shape of manuscripts and collections of poems. From this