

Methodist Magazine and Review.

JUNE, 1901.

STUDENT LIFE AT HEIDELBERG.

BY PROF. H. ZICK AND W. H. WITHROW.



THERE are two foci around which life swings at Heidelberg, like the sun in its orbit or like the twin stars of a binary system—the castle and the college. Thousands of pilgrims visit the town by the Neckar to see the ruins of its incomparable castle. Thousands of students throughout the Fatherland revere the grim old pile in the Ludwigs-Platz as their *alma mater*. Compared with the splendid university buildings at Toronto and Montreal, at Bonn and Berlin, at Vienna and Prague, that of Heidelberg is a distinct disappointment. It is a plain, uncompromising square building, with monotonous, factory-like windows, its only picturesque feature being the great double ogee roof; yet, with the exception of the universities of Prague and Vienna, it is the oldest in central Europe. Its five-hundredth anniversary was celebrated in 1886 with much academic pomp and state. All the learned bodies of Europe were represented, and one of its unique features was conferring the title of Doctor of Divinity upon Prince Bismarck, the man of Blood and Iron. Its period of greatest prosperity was in the sixteenth century, when it was the chief seat of Reformed learning in Germany, and here



LIBRARY TOWER, HEIDELBERG CASTLE.

Luther lived for a time. During the stormy period of the Thirty Years' War, when the whole Rhenish Palatinate was devastated with fire and sword by the French, it survived with difficulty. But of recent times it has recovered much of its ancient prestige. Its halls are thronged with about fourteen hundred students, and its noble library contains four hundred thousand volumes, and many unique and precious ancient manuscripts.