

to keep his staff employed in supplying him with the necessary works. In this work of compilation he is so successful that during the decade of his librarianship he has been able to issue two heavy books on Gutenberg, besides several other works which we need not mention here, but of which each by itself, if done properly, would almost have required a lifetime. This result is no doubt gratifying to Dr. Van der Linde himself; whether it is equally gratifying to the public remains to be seen.

The above story would have no importance in the ordinary course of life; but, placed side by side with the account of Dr. Van der Linde's presence in Germany, and some other circumstances which will be stated below, they fully explain the depressing influences which have reduced a man, who, under favourable conditions, might have become a very fair author, to the level of a very indifferent compiler. Thus we see him, almost before his *Haarlem Costerlegend*, had had time to become known anywhere, issue a large octavo volume of 800 pages, under the title, *Gutenberg: Geschichte und Erdichtung aus den Quellen nachgewiesen*. Stuttgart, 1878.

He was bold enough to begin the book by stating falsely that "it contained his personal *Kulturkampf*, which in its consequences had cost him his home and property," while abuse of his opponents was, if possible, carried to even greater length than in his *Haarlem Legend*. Immediately after its appearance the book was described as Dr. Van der Linde's *magnum opus*. Again I became mixed up with the work, as I was invited and undertook to give an account of it for the *Printing Times and Lithographer*. At first sight the learning displayed in the book appeared to me even more stupendous than that which I had found, or thought to have found, in the *Haarlem Legend*. But I very soon saw that the 800 large octavo pages were nothing but a tissue of old stories, statements, and opinions, copied and transcribed, at second, third, and fourth hand, from all sorts of authors, and by preference as it were from the most insignificant, without the slightest attempt at verifying even the most important statements. The researches that I endeavoured to make to supplement Dr. Van der Linde's shortcomings were published in a separate book in 1882, under the title *Gutenberg: was he the Inventor of Printing?* I may be pardoned if I quote a few passages from what I then wrote about his work. I said—

"It was clear that Dr. Van der Linde had intended, in the first place, to write a book on himself, and that Gutenberg occupied only a secondary place in his work. . . . It is singular that Dr. Van der Linde, who complains that people often write books on the principle of 'taking three books and making a fourth of it,' should have compiled his *Gutenberg* entirely on this principle. . . . I cannot believe that he left his study, at any time, for even half a minute, for the purpose of research. . . . To quote from him without verification is out of the question. . . . That he did not feel disposed for the labour through which I have gone is not surprising. But it is matter for amazement that his book, which I have found wanting in every particular regarding the main question, should have been written in such a tone of authority and decision, and with such remarkable intolerance of everything that Dr. Van der Linde does not approve. His vehemence in speaking of his opponent's mistakes, or errors of judgment, is never agreeable; but when we consider that he has fallen into as many mistakes as any of his predecessors, and imagined a great deal more than any one of them, and yet had far better opportunities for obtaining trustworthy information, his vehemence becomes a phenomenon which I leave to others to explain. . . . From taking all his documents at second, third, or fourth hand, and rarely telling his readers on what authority he

himself prints any single document, and from not investigating a single point in the whole question, his book presents, as it could hardly fail to present, a more complete chaos on the subject than any of its predecessors."

I further stated that

"I had avoided all direct reference to the tradition of a Haarlem invention of printing, because, having no opportunities at present to make researches in this direction, I feel bound to abide by the results which Dr. Van der Linde made known in 1870. I have never made any thorough examination of the Haarlem question; but such inquiries as I have made have led me to believe that the Haarlem claim cannot be maintained. At the appearance of Dr. Van der Linde's *Haarlem Legend* in 1870, I was so struck by its excellence that I translated the work into English. Now that I have made a thorough examination of his work on Gutenberg, and have found this book so singularly unreliable, I should wish to go over the ground by which he reached his results with respect to the Haarlem question. Dr. Van der Linde appears to be most easily led away by what he reads, if only it coincides with his views. He believes, for instance. . . ."

I cannot lay stress enough upon the last quotation, for Dr. Van der Linde's book on Gutenberg was so poor, so entirely devoid of research or anything that looked liked competency in dealing with an intricate historical subject, that it could not but severely shake the confidence placed in his *Haarlem Legend*. And I believe I shall be able to show that that confidence was wholly misplaced.

That Dr. Van der Linde himself did not believe in the value of his book is sufficiently proved by the fact that, almost at the very time of its publication, he wrote to me that he was "rewriting the subject, and on a grand scale, for which he required State support, and hoped to receive this from the [German] Emperor." This new book, paid for by the German Empire, is now before us. It exceeds, if possible, the author's previous publications in its abuse of all persons who happen to disagree with him. One or two examples will suffice to show the scurrilous and inexpressibly childish nature of that abuse. C. A. Schaab, who published in 1830 a work of three octavo volumes on the invention of printing, is called by a pun upon his name, "Schafskopf" (Sheephead); and yet Schaab's book is not worse than Dr. Van der Linde's own. Dr. Campbell, the Librarian of the Royal Library at the Hague, is compared to a "vagabond." The author's love for inserting statements without verifying them seems to have visibly increased. So after having said, in one place, that he never read my book on Gutenberg (an assertion which is manifestly untrue), he yet represents me, apparently on the strength of some German newspaper article, as having said that Hans Jacob von Sorgenloch was the inventor of printing, which, of course, I never did. So again, in a footnote, he says that I was led round and feasted at Mentz by a priest for a whole month; the fact being that I was at Mentz only from Friday afternoon till the following Sunday evening; and, as regards the priest, I only saw one for half-an-hour in the Mentz Library. It is, of course, needless to dwell upon these and a multitude of other equally preposterous things which have done service to swell his so-called history of printing.

J. H. HESSELS.

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

- BRÜNING, Ida. Le théâtre en Allemagne: son origine et ses luttes (1200-1760). Paris: Plon. 3 fr. 50 c.
FLAUBERT, Gustave. Correspondance de. 1^{re} série (1830-1850). Paris: Charpentier. 3 fr. 40 c.
RÉAL, A. Les grands vins: Curiosités historiques. Paris: Plon. 6 fr.

SCHMIDT, R. Schloss Gottorp, e. nordischer Fürstensitz. Ein Beitrag zur Kunstgeschichte Schleswig-Holsteins. Leipzig: Hesseling. 35 M.
VETTER, Th. Der Spectator als Quelle der "Discourse der Maler." Frauentfeld: Huber. 1 M. 60 Pf.

HISTORY, ETC.

- ANQUEZ, L. Henri IV. et l'Allemagne. d'après les mémoires et la correspondance de Jacques Bongars. Paris: Hachette. 5 fr.
BORGEAUD, Ch. Histoire du plébiscite. Le plébiscite dans l'antiquité, Grèce et Rome. Basel: Georg. 3 M.
D'IDVILLE, le Comte H. Le Comte Pellegrino Rossi: sa vie, son œuvre, sa mort, 1787-1848. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 7 fr. 50 c.
GRAF, F. Die Gründung Alessandrias. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte d. Lombardenbundes. Leipzig: Fock. 1 M. 20 Pf.
MONUMENTA Germaniae historica. Scriptorum tomus XV. pars 1. Hannover: Hahn. 28 M.

PHILOLOGY.

- LINDNER, B. Das Kaushitaki Brāhmana, hrg. u. übersetzt. I. Text. Jena: Costenoble. 10 M.
RADLOFF, W. Proben der Volksliteratur der nördlichen türkischen Stamme. 6 Thl. Der Dialect der Tarantschi. St. Petersburg. 3 M. 70 Pf.
ZIMMERMANN, E. De epistulari temporum usu Cicero-niano quaestiones grammaticae. Leipzig: Fock. 1 M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PORTRAITS OF ENGLISHMEN IN GOETHE'S HOUSE AT WEIMAR.

All Souls' College, Oxford. April 26, 1887.

During the later years of his life Goethe was very fond of having portraits of his friends and visitors painted for him by Schmeisser. Among 142 of these portraits there are thirteen of Englishmen who had been staying for some time at Weimar, and in whom Goethe took a particular interest. Though the names have been preserved, it is difficult to identify the portraits after a lapse of so many years. The following list of names was sent to me in the hope that I might be able to ascertain some particulars about them, and I should be grateful for any information which could help to identify these travellers, and to fix the date of their visits to Weimar: (1) Cromie, Irishman; (2) Dupré, Englishman; (3) Lord Foley (probably Thomas Henry, fourth Lord Foley, born 1808); (4) Gough, Englishman; (5) Knox, anno 1816; (6) Sir Lawrence (sic); (7) Lawrence, Englishman, brother of the preceding; (8) Naylor, Englishman; (9) Plunkett, Englishman, mentioned in Goethe's letters to Carlyle; (10) Captain Culling Smith; (11) Stumpff, engineer; (12) De Voeux, Englishman; and (13) Crabb Robinson (well known).

F. MAX MÜLLER,

President of the English Goethe Society.

IS GORDON DEAD?

Trieste: April 22, 1887.

I have just received a note from the Rev. Mr. Robert W. Felkin, dated Edinburgh, April 2. Under the supposition that I am proceeding with an expedition to the Soudan in order to discover General Charles Gordon, he encloses me a note from a youth whom he educated in England for some years, and whom he has now placed at the American Mission School at Assiout. It dates from as far back as November 28, 1886.

The following is the extract:

"There was a man came from Khartoum and said that he was one of General Gordon's soldiers; he came into class [school] and the master asked him many questions, and he said that General Gordon had a steamboat, and went down to South, and there was a Turkish soldier whose face was like his, and they killed him and said it was General Gordon.

"He said a great many things about Gordon's soldiers, that they were not able to use their guns because they were so weakened with hunger.

["Signed] SULAYMAN KANSUN."

I see with pleasure that Mr. Felkin never thought that the evidence proved Gordon's death, and conceives many ways to explain his escape.

RICHARD F. BURTON,