

# THE LITERARY DIGEST.

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## GERMANY AND THE GERMAN-AMERICANS.

THE authorities in Germany, never very friendly to men of German birth who have become naturalized Americans, now and then have an attack of special animosity. Evidently this is the case just now; for German-Americans returning to the land of their birth are not permitted to make a long stay. Various reasons are given for this. It is said that these naturalized Americans boast unduly of the fact that their new citizenship liberates them from military service. The German Government maintains that such men, being unwilling to perform the duties required of other Germans, may not compete with them in business. It is also said that the German authorities vent the dissatisfaction caused by our tariff policy upon people who are Americans by choice. The *Staats-Zeitung*, New York, says:

"The authorities in Germany have very little affection for the German-Americans. Yet we do not believe that they will do more than refuse permission to settle in the country to men who have left it before they had fulfilled their military duties. Formerly permission to stay was granted to men above the age of military service. Very probably this permission will now be refused to all, or the age limit will be raised. It is also very likely that many German-Americans will be told to leave the country after a very short stay, even if they do not attempt to settle. Our Ambassador in Berlin is powerless to do anything in the matter. If he objects, the Germans will repudiate the Bancroft treaty, which stipulates that American citizens of German birth shall be allowed to leave the country if they do not wish to serve in the army. It is also very probable that Berlin seeks to exercise a little pressure upon Washington with regard to the sugar tariff. The idea is not bad, for the German-Americans have reason enough to expect that the Washington authorities will do something for them. We fear, nevertheless, that all hope of such gratitude is misplaced."

The *Morgen Journal*, New York, believes that Germany's anti-American policy is very much like cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. The German-American, thinks the paper, is a good customer of German produce, and as such entitled to much greater consideration than he receives. Much attention is given to the case of a young man named Meyer, who was born in the United States, yet must serve as a soldier in the German army. The *Westliche Post*, St. Louis, discusses his case as follows:

"Meyer's father lived for some years in the United States, and returned to Germany with his children. As he had not changed his nationality, his children, including the young man whose case at present interests the Washington authorities, remained Germans according to German law. It is possible, tho not very probable, that young Meyer will be released, but in that case he will certainly be turned out of Germany. The strangest thing is that he has all the rights of an American citizen on American soil, and could qualify as candidate for the Presidency. Yet the American Government is powerless to protect him in Germany. We must, however, admit that we can not understand why the Washington authorities should do anything for this Mr. Meyer. He does not appear to have valued his American citizenship very highly, and only remembered it when he was made to exercise with a shooting club on the other side of the water."

A few Liberal papers in Germany question the right of the Government to act in such arbitrary fashion toward German-Americans. The *Tageblatt*, Berlin, is of opinion that the Bancroft treaty guarantees much greater liberty to American citizens than the authorities are willing to grant. This paper also declares that the decree empowering governors of provinces to order the expulsion of German-Americans is unjust, and may be abused. The Reichstag therefore should busy itself with the matter.—  
*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*