

FRENCH HATRED OF GERMANY.

FRENCH hatred of Germany has been looked upon as something of a bugaboo, as greatly exaggerated, and having little reality except in the writings of sensationalists. That this hatred is a fact, a very serious fact, is vouched for by J. V. Widman, the distinguished Swiss writer, who has lately traveled in Southern France. In an article in the *Bund*, Berne, he shows how deep-seated is this hatred, when, he says, the extermination of the Germans is the theme of almost every song. We translate the following:

"In St. Gingolph the church-fair was in progress, and there was much merry-making. Large placards, with pictures and songs, were offered for sale. They nearly all mentioned the War of Revenge and the Russian Friendship. Here is a sample of the text of one of these songs, entitled

OUR NEW ARMY.

*Courons nous, aux Allemands !
Mes amis, en avant,
Exterminons ces brigands
Élançons nous, en chœur,
Sur le chemin
Qui conduit à Berlin.*

"The *Prussiens scélérats* must be exterminated to a man, says another; and a third is entitled '*Nous attendons le jour des représailles.*' What a pity that this cry for revenge will not cease even twenty-four years after the war! The matter gives me cause to think. Undoubtedly such publications are circulated throughout the whole of France in millions. I did not think the matter was so bad. The chief motive for circulating such stuff in millions of copies among the people and in the army is, of course, the speculation of private individuals. Yet the Government not only does nothing to stop this, but even assists such Chauvinistic demonstrations under the guise of patriotism."

The *Nation*, Berlin, one of the few German publications which formerly seriously discussed the advisability of giving up Alsace-Lorraine as a balm to soothe the wounded pride of the French people, regards all attempts to patch up a peace as futile. The paper quotes French authorized schoolbooks, in which it is said that every boy in France must aim at the realization of the dream of revenge upon the barbarians inhabiting Germany, who will never fight in the open, and who murder infants and aged people in cold blood. — *Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*