

GERMANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The occurrence not long since of the bicentenary of the arrival of the first German immigrants in America has directed attention on both sides of the Atlantic to the numerical strength of the German element in the United States. The New York *Journal of Commerce* declares that this can be inferred only very inadequately from the last census returns. The only persons reckoned in it as 'Germans' are those born within the present German empire. Austrians and Swiss Germans are credited to their respective states. The last census has this advantage over its predecessors—that it tells us how many native born American citizens are children of German parents (understanding the term "German" in its restricted application to natives of the present German empire); 4,833,842 had German fathers, and 4,557,623 German mothers. Other tables enable us to form an estimate of the number of those children who have had both parents Germans; and so we may set down the total number of children having one or both parents Germans at about 5,500,000. To this should be added about 400,000 out of the large number of persons of foreign origin whose actual place of birth is not given; the Germans from Austria, Switzerland and Luxembourg; and those Alsatians who, although talking German, are classed as French. All these may be set down at 200,000. We may also fairly throw in the number of those Pennsylvanians, who still use German as the language of ordinary intercourse. If all these items be reckoned up, it will be seen that the German-American element cannot fall short of nine millions. Should any one think this estimate too high, let him remember there are thousands of descendants of Germans who speak the German language as their mother tongue, and all whose sympathies and connections are with the German element, although in the census they are returned as pure Americans.