

....The Germans have not, up to this time, seemed to excel as novelists. While in almost every other department of literature they have fairly held their own, in this they have commonly been adjudged to have fallen behind the English and the French. The causes of this fact—if it be a fact—lie in all the characteristics and surroundings of the nation. Occasionally, however, we have a German novel which commends itself to the English-speaking public as very excellent; and to this class belongs Franz Dingelstedt's last production, *The Amazon*, translated by J. M. Hart and published by G. F. Putnam's Sons, of this city. Written in a humorous vein, it is, at the same time, marked by keenness of psychological insight, variety of portraiture, sweep of fancy, freshness of description, and breadth of tone. It is a story of artistic and aristocratic life. The painter, Roland; the brilliantly handsome and intellectual singer, Seraphine; the polished little diplomatist, Wallenberg; the sturdy and crusty banker, Kraft; his pretty, worldly little daughter, Armgard; and the subordinate personages are sketched with a free and true hand. The humorous and striking scenes are numerous. The description of the opera, "The Amazon," and of that other opera, "The Deluge," which is to set composer Bullermann's name in the music of the future far above Wagner's, remind us of Jean Paul. The scenes in the ante-chambers of Seraphine and Wallenberg are detailed with the precision and life of an eye-witness. There, are besides, throughout glimpses of character given us, pictures of human life, summings-up of human opinions that are worthy of the author's philosophic fatherland. The descriptions are very minute; but there is, at the same time, breadth of treatment. The main story extends over three days only, and yet the action does not lag or halt. There is plenty of movement and variety, laughter and passion, *badinage* and serious criticism, and an idealization that does not lose sight of the actual. The book has been very successful in Germany, and seems likely to be not less fortunate in America.