

least, not a *German* Empire, and, as we see, was not so called. Another inaccuracy is the statement that Marlborough was made a duke for his victory, with Prince Eugene, at Blenheim; when the fact is that his dukedom was given him two years before. Again, if when Mrs. Gifford speaks of Joseph II as "the eldest son of Leopold" she is guilty of nothing worse than heterophemy, she is not excusable in allowing herself to write "William III of Orange" for "William III of England." [Lothrop Publishing Co. Illustrated. \$1.75.]

HISTORY.

Germany: Her People and Their Story.

Germany: Her People and Their Story, by Mrs. Augusta Hale Gifford, is described in its sub-title as *A Popular History of the Beginnings, Rise, Development, and Progress of the German Empire from Arminius to William II, Told for Americans*. We wish we were warranted in commending it to our readers, for its author has evidently endeavored to do her work well, and a good popular history of Germany is much needed in this country. But we are obliged to say that, while a great deal of useful historical information can be gathered from the book, it is far from being what a popular history should be. Had Mrs. Gifford taken Green's *Short History of the English People* for a model, she might have produced a book which, while it would not have rivaled the admirable work referred to, would have met with wide and merited favor. This she did not do, and the result is over six hundred pages of narrative which nothing but a good sprinkling of anecdote prevents from being dry and at times almost tedious. Not only does the author tell us far too little about the German people themselves, and next to nothing about their literature, but she often sadly fails to catch and reproduce the informing spirit of an age. Furthermore she sometimes dismisses in a sentence or two important events having directly to do with German history, as in her account of the war ending at the treaty of Ryswick, which did so much to foil the ambition of Louis XIV. Surely mention should have been made of the part played by William of Orange in that great struggle, and of the bloody fights of Steinkirk and Landen, and the memorable recapture of Namur, in which affairs the forces of the leading German States conspicuously figured. Yet more than half a page is devoted to the ravaging of the Palatinate, and only half a sentence to the rest of the war. William of Orange, the head of the coalition against France, is not once referred to in this connection, and nothing whatever is said of what England and Holland did in aid of the empire. Nor is Mrs. Gifford always accurate. Take, for example, her sub-title. There never was a *German* Empire until 1871. There was a *Holy Roman* Empire, which, rising, not in the days of Arminius, but in the Dark Ages, came to an end in 1806; but while eventually it was confined to Germany, it was, theoretically at