

lations may serve to explain some features in the social and political life of the Germans in Baltimore, of which we desire to give in this sketch a faithful picture.

In ethnographical productions as well as in literary efforts, to describe the real status of a single class of population, any flattering encomiums or uncharitable insinuations, any favorite hypotheses or prejudicial insinuations will surely mislead the unsophisticated into erroneous conclusions and preoccupy the intelligent with suspicion against the motives, the veracity or the ability of the author; therefore, all such deviations are avoided in this bird's-eye view of German Baltimore. A merely mathematical outline of the existing religious, educational, commercial, industrial and social institutions, supported by figures, accurate when possible and always within the limits of truth when exactness was not accessible, will characterize these lines and enable the reader to cast light and shadow wherever his eye is predisposed to find it.

This is agreeable to every independent thinker but especially valuable to the immigrant who looks for a new home in which he longs to find, if possible, that which he mourns as having left behind.

As German immigration into large cities for very palpable reasons, can never assume a colonial character, their habitations are never collected in Separate wards or districts and although perhaps predominant in certain sections, they may be called scattered in every direction. This is evidently beneficial, as the constant contact with the native population causes affiliation which ends mostly in the second and always in the third generation in complete amalgamation. This has been noticed in nearly all, but especially in the eastern cities of this country; and Baltimore is no exception, so that no intelligent German will come here without looking forward to this result, however much he may be attached to his inherited opinions and habits of life. Our German element therefore, may be properly compared to a school, which exists perhaps for centuries, yet year by year undergoes changes in teachers and still more in pupils, of whom sight is lost as soon as they leave the threshold of their "alma mater." This analogy will be found striking when applied separately to the different manifestations of German life in regard to religion, education, literature, arts, commerce, industry, social intercourse and condition, and politics during the last twenty or thirty years. This, however, would reach beyond the compass of our present aim—of dealing only with the present, therefore, we simply state, that as the statistics given in the preceding pages were taken from the census of 1860, so these mentioned in the following lines are deducted from the official sources dated January 1, 1866. Beginning with