

for the past year two regular troupes of professional actors and actresses; and, what is more, not by individual speculation with lucrative aim and success, but under considerable pecuniary sacrifices by the strenuous efforts of two noble-minded clubs. The "Concordia" deserves public thanks not only for erecting a splendid building, the hall of which is considered by many the prettiest although not the largest in this country, but also for the unceasing efforts and liberality in supporting the German drama. The stage of the "Concordia" is, in regard to the selection of pieces, performance of the first characters, taste of costume and scenery, equal, if not superior, to any German theatre in this country, whilst in liberality toward the art and the artists, it surpasses anything previously known. The other, the Turner Theatre, is perhaps second in means to the Concordia, but in liberality and enthusiasm it is not inferior. It has also the merit that on account of lower prices it reaches classes of population who are seldom visitors of the other theatre. There are also private theatricals here, of which the stage in Mechanic's Hall has quite respectable proportions. The average standard of the dramatic performances gives general satisfaction, and a steady improvement is perceptible. Original pieces, as of domestic authorships, have also made their appearance, and the prospects are promising for more and improved efforts. In regard to Painting, we cannot point to works of the first magnitude and celebrity, but there are many meritorious specimens of portraits, landscapes, historical and other sketches in the parlors and saloons of our city which have emanated from German artists. In a similar manner it may be said of the Plastic Art that wood and stone proclaim in several public places and many private houses the standard of the German chisel.

COMMERCE.

There are about six German banking houses in Baltimore, *i. e.*, such as transact exchange business between Europe and the Germans of our city; about 100 wholesale merchants and not less than 1,500 retail dealers in different branches of commerce. Steamboat lines are not in the hands of German capitalists, yet of late there is one such enterprise in progress, with fair prospect of early and favorable results. Direct import and export from this port to Europe are but on a small scale when compared with New York or Philadelphia, but what there is done, especially in the line of importing, is nearly all done by German merchants, and in consequence of this, there are certain branches of commerce, as, *p. e.*, toys, fancy goods and notions, clothing, etc., in a great measure in their hands exclusively.

The German merchants as a class represent many very substantial firms and considerable wealth, although they do