

**CHARLES SEALSFIELD;
ETHNIC ELEMENTS
AND NATIONAL
PROBLEMS IN HIS WORKS**

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Charles Sealsfield; ethnic elements and national problems in his works by Bernhard Alexander Uhlenhof

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BERNHARD ALEXANDER UHLENDORF

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Ethnic Elements and National Problems
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By

BERNHARD ALEXANDER UHLENDORF

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PREFACE.

Little appears to be known in this country of the fact that the gigantic modern epic as it was enacted in the settlement of this continent, in the founding of our democratic state and the development of a new composite nationality, combining the characteristics of various ethnic elements and civilizations, had found a rhapsodist of extraordinary powers here among the distinguished German settlers during the third and fourth decades of the last century. It seemed deserving of the effort, therefore, to inquire into the spirit in which our romancer, known under the pseudonym Charles Sealsfield, had conceived this epic and to make a special study of how the racial constituents of the growing American nationality, as well as the questions connected with their amalgamation into a body politic, unfolded themselves before his keen and observing eye. To what extent the character of the American democracy and civilization of the present time still agrees with the democratic ideal that Sealsfield beheld and glorified in his novels the reader of this monograph will determine for himself.

A study such as is here presented, moreover, appears to be timely especially now in consideration of the revived interest in Sealsfield indicated by the recent translation into English of one of his early political pamphlets, as well as by the publication in Germany of new editions of several of his romances. This revival of interest in Sealsfield, the prophet of German democracy, is doubtless due to the recent political upheaval in Germany as much as was the decline of his contemporary popularity after the failure of the revolution of 1848.

The writer's interest in Charles Sealsfield was first awakened by Professor Otto Heller of Washington University who at that time was planning a critical edition of the works of the famous German-American novelist. It is, however, to the profound historical and philosophical insight of Professor Julius Goebel into the many literary, historical and cultural

problems contained in the works of our romancer that the author of the present monograph owes his chief inspiration. For the benefits derived from his teaching and guidance and for the many valuable suggestions and criticisms freely given, the writer wishes to express his sincere gratitude. He also desires to acknowledge gratefully the interest shown by Professors C. W. Alvord and O. E. Lessing in the progress of this study and the unfailing assistance given him by his wife.

Urbana, Ill., July 4, 1922.

B. A. U.