

HIGHER SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES IN GERMANY

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Higher schools and universities in Germany by Matthew Arnold

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MATTHEW ARNOLD

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HIGHER
SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES
IN GERMANY

BY

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FORMERLY FOREIGN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER TO THE SCHOOLS
ENQUIRY COMMISSION

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"The thing is *not*, to let the schools and universities go on in a drowsy and impotent routine ; the thing is, to raise the culture of the nation ever higher and higher by their means."

WILHELM VON HUMBOLDT.

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PREFACE.

"It is expedient for the satisfactory resolution of those educational questions, which are at length beginning seriously to occupy us, both that we should attend to the experience of the Continent, and that we should know precisely what it is which this experience says."

So I said in the preface to the first edition of this work, published in 1868. The history of education on the Continent is now regarded in this country with a great and increasing interest, and I republish, therefore, my account of the schools and universities of Germany. I have abstained from attempting to bring the account down to the present time, either by the addition of chapters at the end, or by the insertion of notes and corrections in the body of the work. A book which, in its

original state, was a whole, comes inevitably, by later additions and alterations of this kind, to be a whole no longer. Nor are they requisite for the object of tracing the main lines of the development and character of intermediate and higher education in Germany. These main lines were already there in 1865; they have not come into being between that time and this. It is not probable that they will be changed. There is, indeed, an increasing demand everywhere for modern or *real* studies, as they are called, and the school-course everywhere is being modified in compliance with this demand. But the need of those studies had been recognised by the organisers of German education before there arose a popular cry for them; and now that the popular cry has arisen, it is in Germany that this cry is least likely, perhaps, to be suffered to destroy the true balance of education.

The cost of things has risen greatly in Germany since 1865, and the school-fees mentioned in the following account of German Schools are now, I am told, in many cases the double of what they then were. But the cheapness of good education in the German schools for the middle and upper classes

still remains, relatively to its cost with us in England, as noteworthy now as it was then,—as noteworthy for us as the organisation of those schools, and as the universality of their provision.

February 1, 1882.