

The Story of the Nations.

GERMANY



THE STORY OF THE NATIONS

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THE STORY OF THE NATIONS

SUBSCRIPTION

EDITION





PREFACE.

GERMANY is the heart of Continental Europe, and influences have gone forth from her which have deeply affected every one of her neighbours. The present volume traces the life of this powerful nation from the time when imperial Rome was baffled by her valiant Hermann down to the present period.

The absorbing story begins with pictures of the surgings of the nations,—the Huns, the Slavs, the Goths, the Saxons, the Franks; it tells of the throes by which the heroes of old brought the great people to its independent life; recounts the struggles of the various Teutonic families among themselves, and of all of them with their neighbours; and brings up vividly the power of an idea, as it shows the strife and perplexities arising from the Imperial spectre, as well as the dire contest that followed the schism of the Church and in a short time involved all Christendom in disputes touching the highest interests of humanity.

The reader of the story of Germany is thus

brought face to face with problems of the deepest moment, with which men of deadly earnestness were struggling through the ages, putting forth all the power of their intellect and the force of their vigorous bodies, intensified by the deep-seated religious convictions which they nourished in their hearts.

The story of such a people as the Germans could not fail to possess intense interest for anyone; but for us of another branch of the Teutonic family, it has the additional charm that it is the history of our blood-relations. On their experience we have built, and to the light of their example we look for guidance; in their triumphs we rejoice; to the grandeur of the genius of their poets and prose writers, of their scientists and theologians, we look with pride and admiration, congratulating ourselves that we, too, are Teutons. We stood with their Hermann, as he said to the Roman Varus, "No farther!" just as we stood with the barons before King John on the field of Runnymede.

It has been the endeavour in preparing the following pages to keep before the mind this unity of the Teutonic peoples, as well as to indicate the steps by which the idea of Empire has progressed to the present German Unity.



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(From a photograph by Reichard and Lindner.)

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GERMANY

BY

S. BARING-GOULD, M.A.

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WITH THE COLLABORATION OF

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