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Hermann der Cherusker und die Schlacht im Teutoburger Walde

Goebel, Ferdinand

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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

THE conquest of the Germans, who had made frequent incursions into the Roman territories beyond the Rhine, was first undertaken by Drusus (13 B.C.). In his first expedition he subdued the German tribes along the coast, from the mouth of the Rhine to that of the Elbe. Before his death (9 B.C.) he had penetrated into the interior of Germany as far as the Elbe.

Tiberius continued his brother's work, and made the district between the Rhine and the Elbe a Roman province. But these Roman successes had not broken the independent spirit of the German tribes, and under the governor Varus, who made himself notorious by his oppressions, a formidable conspiracy arose in the year 9 A.D. The leading spirit of this rising was a young nobleman called Arminius, the son of the prince of the Cherusci. He had served with distinction in the Roman army, and had been created a Roman knight by Augustus. Naturally he was not suspected by the Romans of taking up arms against them, and even the accusations of his kinsman Segestes could not shake their confidence in him. The consequence was that the Roman army

under Varus was annihilated in the Teutoburger Wald (9 A.D.) by Arminius, and Germany freed from the foreign yoke. But Arminius had yet to fight many a battle with the Romans, and even against his own countrymen. After having defeated Marbod he was the recognised head of the German nation. Some of his jealous fellow-countrymen, however, and above all some of his relatives, accused him of aiming at royal power, and in his thirty-seventh year the man who had so many times risked his life, and had lost his wife and child while fighting for the freedom of his country, fell by the hand of an assassin.

About twenty-five years ago a splendid monument was erected to him on the highest point of the Teutoburger Wald.

The author of this thrilling account of the great Arminius, Mr. Ferdinand Goebel, is a native of Cologne, and holds the post of Headmaster of St. Martin's School at Emmerich on the Rhine. He has written a considerable number of *Jugendschriften*, most of which have been published in many editions. In 1884 appeared from his pen *Neues Märchenbuch*, which was followed by *Rübezahl* ('85), *Münchhausens Abenteuer* (6th edition, 1900), *Hermann der Cherusker* ('91), *Siegfried* ('91), *Gullivers Reisen* ('92), *Till Eulenspiegel* ('93), *Andersens Ausgewählte Märchen* ('94), *Huldigung der Blumen*, *Festspiel* ('94), *Deutschland über alles*, *Festspiel* ('94), *Am Niederwalddenkmal*, *Festspiel* ('96), *Treue um Treue* (1900), *Das Büchlein vom heiligen Martin* (1900). The author possesses a remarkable power of expressing his thoughts in straightforward but

forcible language of simple construction, which makes a book like the present volume most suitable reading for boys and girls who cannot yet grapple with complicated and intricate sentences ; moreover, there is a fascination about the hero of the book, which cannot fail to arouse the interest of the young ; and finally, the narrative is full of incidents which will supply the element that appeals to the young reader and at the same time imparts historical and biographical information.

We are indebted to the author and his publishers, Messrs. Düms of Wesel, for permission to include the book in this series. The original text with several coloured illustrations is published at 0.50 M.

J. E.

ST. ANDREWS, *October* 1901

PREFATORY NOTE TO THE NEW EDITION

THIS edition is corrected in accordance with the New Rules for German Orthography, which for the first time give us a uniform and authoritative Standard Spelling for the German Empire, Austria, and Switzerland.

O. S.

PREFACE

The history of the world is a vast and intricate web of events, and it is the task of the historian to weave these events into a coherent and meaningful narrative. This book is a contribution to that task, and it is hoped that it will provide a new perspective on the events of the past. The author has endeavored to present the facts in a clear and concise manner, and to avoid the pitfalls of bias and prejudice. It is the author's hope that this book will be of use to all who are interested in the history of the world.

The author is indebted to the many friends and colleagues who have helped him in the preparation of this book. In particular, he wishes to thank Mr. J. H. [Name] for his helpful criticisms and suggestions. The author also wishes to thank the publishers for their cooperation and assistance in the publication of this book.

J. H.

PRELIMINARY NOTE TO THE NEW EDITION

This edition is revised to conform with the new facts for Germany, which for the first time are now within our knowledge. The author wishes to thank the German people, Austria and Switzerland.

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