

15TH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
HISTORY OF THE GERMANS IN MARYLAND.

Mr. President und Members:

WITH to-night our Society stands at the close of another, the 15th, year of its existence. During the last twelve months the second part of Mr. H. Schuricht's valuable work: "History of the Early Germans in Virginia," appeared under the auspices of this Society, making together with the Secretary's, the Treasurer's Annual Reports, List of Members and Obituary Notices, a stately volume of 362 pages.

Two articles of original research were read in our meetings during the same period, neither of the authors, however, I am sorry to add, being officially connected with the Society. The subject of the first article by *Dr. Eugene Cordell* was a biographical sketch of DR. AAL, a German surgeon of the revolutionary army, and residing for a number of years in Baltimore City, where he also died. The other article by the *Rev. J. A. Weishaar* of Annapolis, treated of "The German Element in Maryland till the year 1700."

But one active member was added to our list during the year, and as one resigned his membership, we have on our list at the close of the year the same number with whom we entered upon it, viz.: 53.

Our library has been considerably enriched by donations as well as by purchase, numbering now some 300 volumes, most of them being of a historical character, besides many valuable pamphlets, magazines, etc.

Those who have kindly remembered this Society by donations to its library during the year are:

The Pennsylvania German Society,
 The University of the State of New York,
 The Archaeological and Historical Society of Ohio,
 The Northern Indiana Historical Society,
 The American Jewish Historical Society,
 Der Bremische Künstler-Verein,
 The Enoch Pratt Free Library of this City.
 The Wisconsin State Historical Society,
 The Franklin and Marshall College,
 Mr. J. G. Rosengarten of Philadelphia,
 Prof. J. Hanno Deiler of New Orleans,
 Dr. W. A. Fritsch, of Indiana,
 The Proprietors of the "German Correspondent" and of the "Baltimore Journal."

If the Society is again indebted to the "Germania Club" for the free use of our place of meeting, we are also obligated to the *Rev. Ed. Huber* for the privilege of storing our volumes of Daily Papers, Annual Reports, etc., with which our book-cases had become over-burdened, in a spare room of St. Matthews' School House.

It is a fact generally admitted, that this Society was the first one that entered into the field with the object of recovering from oblivion, as far as possible, the adventures, the trials and the achievements for personal and general welfare of our German predecessors in this country. Quite a number of Societies with similar objects in view have since then arisen in different States of the Union. But more than that, whilst but comparatively few years ago there reigned a spirit of utter indifference, if not of shame, amongst many of the descendants of these German Pioneers as to their forefathers, at the present time not a few are earnestly concerned to unearth the history of their ancestors, and quite a number of valuable books referring to the subject have already made their appearance as the result of these individual efforts. Whilst we cheerfully recognize all these efforts, have we no reason to rejoice in the fact, that the first impulse for this general movement has been given by this Society? And if some of these Societies, though

born later than ours, have nevertheless outstripped us in the result of their work, whilst we have thus far not been able to furnish a complete history of the Germans in Maryland, we may comfort ourselves with the fact, that this State is not only one of the smaller ones of the Union, but also with this fact, that the immigration of Germans to our shores in the earlier years and their settling in our State, aside from the City of Baltimore, has been comparatively small. Even of those who came hither in the earlier times almost no record whatever has thus far been discovered. But notwithstanding the meagre sources from which to draw, fragmentary articles have been furnished by members and published by the Society of sufficient historical import to have met not only with favor generally, but of sufficient value to be quoted by authors of no mean reputation in their larger and more general works.

If an increase of membership appears desirable, from reasons stated, a greater interest in the object of this Society on the part of many of its members seems even more desirable. This may be accomplished with very little sacrifice on the part of the individual member, to be recompensed, I dare say, with much pleasure and profit to themselves as individuals as well as to the Society by a more general and active attendance of our monthly meetings. The place of our meetings, by the courtesy of the "Germania Club," is centrally located, easily reached and comfortably furnished. The discussions which arise in our meetings frequently take a wide range and often in a most striking manner suggest avenues for further research of which the speaker perhaps had no thought whatsoever at the time. Thus whilst a member may not be expected to furnish articles of a historical character, he may become the means of suggesting such.

It remains for the Society to elect at to-night's meeting officers for the ensuing year, viz.: a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and five additional members to compose with the above officers, the Executive Committee.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

F. PH. HENNIGHAUSEN,

Baltimore, February 19th, 1901.

Secretary.