

T H E G E R M A N

I N

B A L T I M O R E .



## **The German in Baltimore.**

*By Rev. J. G. Morris, D. D., L. L. D.*

THE German, like the New Englander, or we may safely say, the United States American, is found every where, in all lands, in all climates and among all peoples, and he can say of himself what Schiller puts into the mouth of Emperor Charles V.

*„In meinem Staate geht die Sonne nicht unter.“* (The sun never sets in my dominions.)

In the cities of Mexico and South America there are more German merchants, physicians, artists and mechanics of all sorts than there are North Americans. The sea ports of West and South Africa, of India and China and Australia—indeed in all places of trade and progressive business and enterprise all the world over—you will find the German industriously and successfully prosecuting his various pursuits. He seems to be the world's merchant abroad as his country men are the world's teachers at home.

One would almost think that Shakespeare (Taming of the Shrew, Act 1, Scene 1) had the German prophetically in view when he spoke of another man as being "A merchant of great traffic through the world."

But my theme is "The German in Baltimore" and that people must be an important factor in our city's economy when we learn from the census of 1890 that of a population of 434,439, 101,112 are Germans and that the present German population, and including the first generation, cannot be less than about 105,000, being over 23 per cent., and all of whom speak the German language at their homes and with most of whom

it is the language of business and of social intercourse and of worship. Add to these their immediate descendants born here and you have a population of Germans and of recent settlers and their offspring of about 105,000. This cannot be said of any foreign people resident here, although we have the representatives of 24 foreign nations, all of whom use their own original language as the medium of communication.

In 1893, I furnished the following synopsis for the "Sun:"

### **GERMANIZING THE CITIES.**

#### **Milwaukee Heads the List, While Baltimore is 38th in Order.**

German papers have lately been discussing the question which of the cities in the United States that have over 25,000 inhabitants counts the largest percentage of Germans among its population ? It is well known that New York and Chicago figure highest in the number of their Teutonic residents. The former, with its 583,154 Germans, ranks as the third greatest "German" community in the world, since it is only surpassed in this respect by Berlin and Vienna. But which is "the most German city" in America, or, as our German-American fellow-citizens put it, "*welches ist die deutscheste Stadt in Amerika?*" From a list of 124 towns of the United States whose population exceeds 25,000 it is seen that it is Milwaukee. Hoboken comes next, New York only in the tenth, Chicago in the twelfth and Baltimore in the thirty-eighth place.

The following is part of the above-mentioned list, taken from the census of 1890, the numbers of the first column indicating the order of percentage:

No.	City.	Population.	Germans.	Percentage.
1	Milwaukee .	204,468	135,142	66.10
2	Hoboken ...	43,648	24,682	56.54
3	Davenport .	26,872	15,072	46.09
4	Detroit .....	205,876	87,738	42.60
5	Buffalo .....	255,664	106,092	41.50
6	Cincinnati .	296,908	120,941	40.73
7	Cleveland ...	261,353	103,999	39.79
8	Dubuque ...	30,311	12,041	39.72
9	Quincy .....	31,494	12,139	38.54
10	New York .	1,515,301	583,154	38.47
11	Toledo .....	81,434	30,300	38.15
12	Chicago .....	1,099,850	406,600	37.20
13	St. Louis ...	451,770	167,542	37.08
14	Newark... ..	181,830	68,962	36.94
15	La Crosse. .	25,090	9,029	35.99
16	Fort Wayne	35,392	12,717	35.90
17	Long Island City .....	30,506	10,440	34.26
18	Allegheny .	105,287	33,814	32.11
19	Rochester ..	133,896	42,926	32.04
20	St. Paul .....	133,896	42,912	31.99
21	Saginaw .....	46,322	13,999	30.10
23	Covington . .	37,371	10,930	29.62
23	Dayton .....	61,220	17,033	29.26
24	Wheeling ...	34,552	9,612	27.82
25	Evansville ..	50,758	13,798	27.17
26	Pittsburg ...	238,617	64,824	27.17
27	Erie .....	40,634	13,310	26.86
28	Akron .....	27,601	7,267	26.33
29	Brooklyn ....	806,343	134,499	26.09
30	Peoria .....	41,024	10,663	26.03
31	Canton .....	26,189	6,715	25.62
32	Elisabeth City .	37,764	9,607	25.44
33	Jersey City ... .	183,003	64,824	24.89
34	Syracuse ....	88,143	21,000	23.81
35	San Francisco .	298,997	70,699	23.64
36	Utica .....	44,007	10,390	23.62
37	San Antonio .	37,573	8,542	23.38
38	Baltimore ...	434,439	101,112	23.28
41	Louisville ..	161,129	35,438	21.98
42	Galveston ..	29,084	6,041	21.76
46	Albany .....	94,923	18,509	19.46
48	Indianapolis .	105,436	19,566	18.53
49	Philadelphia .	1,046,964	188,707	18.02
63	St. Joseph, Mo .	52,324	8,580	16.69
68	Omaha .....	140,452	22,390	15.94
60	Reading .....	58,661	7,980	13.99
68	Denver... ..	106,713	14,484	13.56
71	Minneapolis	164,738	21,002	12.60
73	Kansas City, Mo .....	132,716	16,149	12.02
74	New Orleans	242,039	28,642	11.83
78	Kansas City, Kans ..	38,316	4,142	10.80
90	Washington, D. C .....	188,932	15,886	7.75
91	Wilmington, Del .....	61,431	4,757	7.73
92	Harrisburg	39,385	2,950	7.49
91	Salt Lake ...	44,843	3,041	6.77
95	Memphis ....	64,495	4,248	6.67
97	Savannah ...	43,189	2,690	6.24
98	Charleston, S. C .....	54,955	3,377	6.14
99	Boston .....	448,477	26,839	5.98
102	Mobile .....	31,076	1,340	4.27
103	Nashville ...	76,168	2,966	3.89
106	Richmond ..	81,388	2,855	3.58
108	Providence	132,148	4,310	3.21
112	Augusta, Ga	33,300	864	2.59
113	Atlanta, Ga	65,532	1,634	2.50
114	Norfolk .....	34,871	766	2.21
115	Worcester, Mass	84,655	1,478	1.75

Some years ago I read a short paper before this Society on the languages spoken in families and in business in this city, and the German far exceeded all the rest of foreign languages, and as it may perhaps be of a little interest to some of you, I will here repeat the result of my enquiries into this subject quite recently. From good and competent authority added to my own research, I find that the following 24 languages and dialects are spoken in families and in trade in this city: English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Low Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Bohemian, Polish, Slavakish, Moravian, Lithuanian, Russian, Greek, Roumanian, Finnish, Hungarian, Turkish, Welsh, Irish, Chinese, Japanese.

If any person is curious on this subject and wants what may be called *signal* proof of the extent and influence of foreigndom, especially German, let him look at the signs on Baltimore street, between Eutaw and Gay, and he will find over one half of foreign names, and if he should extend his researches into Marsh Market Space or Harrison street he would find a larger proportion.

I will not enter upon the early history of this people here—I mean that of their immigration and settlement, but proceed at once to consider the German of the present day in our city—his character, pursuits, thrift, industry, influence, success in every department of human activity, as far as is necessary for illustration.

Between 1745—'48 some German emigrants settled in what was then the village of Baltimore but they did not come immediately from Germany but from York, Pa. Two of these, Leonard and Samuel Barnitz, established the first brewery here which was located at the place so familiar to us, the S. W. corner of Baltimore and Hanover streets, and the name of Barnitz remains with us to this day.

In this connection it may be as well to state that the first glass blowing factory established in Maryland was by a German named Amelung in Frederick Co., but it was subsequently moved to Baltimore Co. and some specimens of his work are still in the possession of his descendants in the city at present.

You are aware that the first paper maker in this country was a German but not a Baltimorean; his name was Rittenhouse of Germantown and a near relative of the Astronomer.

When the revolution broke out there were Germans enough in Baltimore and the surrounding counties to make a full regiment besides an artillery company who served with distinction under Gen. Smallwood. The famous "*Maryland Line*" was composed largely of Germans. The battalions commanded by Michael Cresop and Morgan consisted mainly of Germans as well as Pulaski's and Armand's Legions.

But let me come to definite subjects.

The German tongue is tuned to melody and the German language beautifully accords with song. The rich storehouses of these incomparable harmonies have been conveyed by the German beyond the borders of his fatherland and they are heard and admired in every quarter of the civilized world. Not only in the German but in the English language the full toned originally German notes ring out harmoniously.

The cultivation of music, vocal and instrumental, which has been so wonderfully developed in the United States during the past 50 years is incontestibly the result of German science, taste and masterly instruction.

The Germans now lift the banner of music higher than any other people. German song and singers are important factors in the development of the beautiful art and in the cultivation and ennobling of the lofty sentiments inspired by soul enrapturing music.

Nearly all our great performers in concerts, in orchestras, our music professors in Institutes and Academies, and wherever else the art is taught or practised are Germans.

In Baltimore alone there are 15 distinct Singing Associations of high scientific and artistic character, and we can easily conceive what an influence this combination of talent has upon a community of which nearly every child is taught music from its earliest youth and hears the sound of it in the family and school every day.

We may all adopt the sentiment of the poet:  
 "God is its author and not man; He laid  
 The key-note of all harmonies; He planned  
 All combinations, and He made  
 Us so that we could hear and understand."

M. G. BRAINARD.

*Pedagogy* or the science of teaching has been cultivated to a greater extent by the Germans than by any other people, and that nation that claims without dispute to be the school-master of Europe should know how to impart knowledge. The *Pestalozzi* system is German—the *Kindergarten* by its name betrays its origin, and here let me depart a little from the text and say a few words of the transfer of German words over into the English of which there are fewer than from most other European languages—*Kindergarten* (Child's Garden) or Infant School, or Child's School would have been to common, but they call it *Kindergarten*. The few other German words thus used as English are *Sauerkraut*, *Lager Bier*, *Meerschaum*, *Smear Kaes*, *Kohl Slaw*, *Zwieback*.

Wherever the Germans settle the first public buildings however humble, are a church and a school house, and so it was in Baltimore. The first German school house established in Baltimore was in 1758 at the S. E. corner of Holliday and Saratoga streets. Since that day the school interest has been vigorously maintained with various degrees of success, and Scheib's, Knapp's, Deichmann's and other private or parochial schools have been conducted with great success.

The Public schools have of course superseded many private establishments, but does it not show a public influence of commanding force that our authorities were compelled to establish English-German schools at the public expense. No other people could now secure such privileges, but the benefit was not intended to ensure to German children only in being taught English, but to American children being taught German. This proposition was at first vigorously opposed but gradually the cause gained favor and the act was passed in March 1873, and it is an interesting fact that the liberal design was first proposed, and finally carried through by the persevering energy of Anglo-Americans exclusively.

I see that John T. Ford was on the Committee. He was in his boyhood a Sunday school scholar of mine, and it was in that school he learned this broad philanthropy and enlightened public spirit.

We all remember when French was the fashionable and of course the predominant foreign tongue taught in the schools and in private, and while French is very properly pursued by those who have taste for language or who desire to acquire enough of travellers' French to enable them to get their baggage through a French custom house, German is the language studied by all who see the business advantage of it here at home or who intend to prosecute studies of the highest order, for it is an accepted fact among men of advanced education that the ability to read the German writers in their own prolific language is an incalculable advantage.

I do not mean that a man cannot be proficient in history art, science, linguistics, philosophy or theology, or in any other branch of human knowledge without the German language, far from it, but there must be some advantage gained from the lectures of eminent professors in more than a dozen famous universities, and it is the desire to sit at the feet and learn from those mighty German Gamaliels, which leads so many young American and even English students to frequent the German universities.

The various benevolent and reformatory institutions founded and supported by these people show their laudable public spirit and their generous efforts towards alleviating the sufferings of humanity.

The Orphan House in Aisquith street has secured the sympathy of the whole German community of the city and is a monument of charity of the loftiest character.

The Home for the Aged in W. Baltimore street is an institution of the highest rank in that sphere of benevolence in which a large number of aged destitute people are kindly protected until their last day.

The Jewish Orphan House, also German, was founded by, the liberal gift of \$30,000 from W. S. Rayner and wife, but

was burned down in 1874 and rebuilt by the liberality of the Israelitish people. (It is located in the Western suburbs on what was called the old Alms House lot.)

The Jewish Hospital in East Baltimore is another noble evidence of *German* humanity and is a proud monument of the kindly feelings of that people towards their suffering compatriots.

The German Society of Maryland is one of the oldest institutions of that character in the city. It was founded in 1817 and among its original supporters and first officers are the names of nearly all the most substantial German citizens of those days.

I cannot specify the names of other Societies and Unions which contemplate the relief of suffering humanity, but must be satisfied with simply stating that besides those mentioned there are *fifteen* other German Societies in Baltimore which aim at the relief of the poor, the sick and the aged.

But there is one other on which I must dwell for a moment because its purposes and pursuits are so analogous to those of our own Association. It is the *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland*, which was founded on January 6th, 1886, and meets every month. It has published a volume of transactions consisting of articles in both languages on subjects intimately connected with the history of the Germans in this state and it has abundant material on hand for another volume.

It has published some interesting facts in relation to the active and patriotic part which the Germans of Maryland took in the war of Revolution, and how they distinguished themselves in many a hard fought battle. It was through the efforts of this Society that a long unknown muster roll of a regiment known as the "German Rifles" was unearthed in the State House at Annapolis and afterwards printed, and from this and some other facts it was first made generally known that the Germans shared largely in the revolutionary war.

The proceedings of this Society are bilingual. A paper read in English may be criticized in German or *vice versa*.

A speaker may begin his remarks in German and finish them in English or the contrary.

The Society has a fair library and has received some donations from some German princes and other men of rank and influence.

It also exchanges its publications with similar institutions who seem to be very anxious to obtain them.

There are thirty-two places of worship in Baltimore in which all the pulpit instruction is imparted in the German language.

There are five German Banks, three Fire Insurance Companies.

There are eight German Newspapers: Correspondent, Journal, Sonntags-Post, Bayerisches Wochenblatt, Katholische Volkszeitung, Volksfreund und Biene, Wecker, Zions-Kirchenblatt; five Bookstores, and a number of Club-houses with large German libraries.

In every department of human activity, in every profession, in commerce, trade, invention, education, legislation, in the courts and in the church, in the professor's chair or at the author's desk, in philosophy, theology, scholarship, music, painting, sculpture and sterling citizenship, in a word, in every pursuit which ennobles human nature, the German maintains an equal rank with the most exalted of all other nations.— "The grand achievement of German brawn and brain in the work of building up the American nation" and of perpetuating its glory are acknowledged by all intelligent persons.

Wherever German people have been settled long, their influence as a thrifty, enterprising, educational race is universally felt, although every body may not be conscious of it and that people who at home have done the thinking of the educated world, as is claimed by men who understand this subject, must wield a silent influence that is irresistible.

I have much more to say on this subject but I have not time to day, and will conclude by quoting the words used by President Gilman in an address to the Germans at the Blunschli Commemoration in 1882:

*"Ad illuminantes gentes, Germania!"*

"Germany, the enlightener of the nations!"

