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Geographi-
cal distribu-
tion of the
German uni-
versities.

It is not my intention to dwell on the history of the German universities, on the gradual growth of the university system ; though every stage in that history is interesting and important if we wish to understand the inner working and usefulness of this great organisation. Neither do I wish to do more than just mention, as an equally important subject, the geography of the German universities ; how through nearly fifty larger or smaller towns, in the course of six centuries, learning and higher education have been spread over the German-speaking countries of Europe. These figures alone suggest the intricacy of the subject, the many springs, the continual ebb and flow of the rising tides of ideas, the many courses of thought, the many schools of learning, the internal conflicts, the unavoidable friction, the healthy competition and rivalry, the republican spirit, the impossibility of any creeping stagnation of life, the absence of any lengthened tyranny of doctrine, of an oppressive hierarchy, or of idols of opinion and belief. I leave it to my readers to indulge in comparisons easily suggested by these different aspects, to fasten upon the strong and upon the weak points of this great system of the German universities.¹ What I wish to emphasise

¹ The migration of students as well as of eminent professors from one university to another is one of the most important features of German academic life. Thus we find the imaginative tendencies of the southern intellect represented by Hegel and Schelling in philosophy transplanted into the midst of the encyclopædic and logical sciences of the North, or into the centre of industrial Switzerland in the person of Vischer ; the theological criticism of the Tübingen school wandering northward to

Marburg and Berlin in Zeller ; and the philological criticism of Gottfried Herrmann locating itself in Zürich in his celebrated pupil and biographer Köchly, and in Bavaria through Thiersch. Jacobi came from the lower Rhine to Munich, where also Liebig formed a centre of modern scientific celebrities. Savigny in Berlin and Thibaud in Heidelberg represent the historical and philosophical schools of German jurisprudence. Vienna for a long time was the most celebrated German training-school of practical