

however, that the spirit of exact and specially mathematical research owed its right of domicile within the universities to others who came after him, and to circumstances with which he was hardly connected.

The man to whom Germany owes its first great school of mathematicians was Jacobi. He was self-taught like Gauss; but whilst Gauss followed in the footsteps of Newton and the ancients, Jacobi followed in those of Euler, Lagrange, and Laplace. The style and methods of these mathematicians, being more suited for didactic purposes than the classical style of Euclid, Newton, and Gauss, was probably more congenial to the mind of Jacobi, who from his twenty-first year (1825) developed a great activity as an academic teacher.<sup>1</sup> He was first

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mained unknown and unnoticed. See on the history of the subject, Hankel, 'Theorie der complexen Zahlensysteme,' 1867, pp. 71, 82. Gauss, through hiding his researches on this subject so long, lost the claim to the priority of the invention, though not of the effectual use of it. In another instance he allowed others to appropriate the merit of cultivating a large new field which had been familiar to him many years before. It was known all through the first half of the century that Gauss was in possession of valuable discoveries in what he termed the "new transcendent functions." References in the 'Disquisitiones,' § 335, in his correspondence with Schumacher, Bessel, Olbers, and Crelle, had made his friends curious to see the "amplum opus" which he had promised. It appears, however, that, independently of him, Jacobi and Abel (1802-29) following the investigations of Legendre (whose labours began in 1786 and culminated in

his great work 'Traité des fonctions elliptiques, &c.,' 1825-28, 2 vols. and 3 supplements), succeeded in developing the theory very much on the same lines as Gauss had taken nearly a generation earlier. Eminent mathematicians who, since the publication of Gauss's posthumous papers, have fully investigated the subject, assign to Jacobi and Abel the undisputed priority of publishing, but to Gauss that of discovering, the fundamental properties of the "doubly periodical" functions. Full details will be found in the historical introduction to Enneper's 'Elliptische Functionen,' 2nd ed., Halle, 1890. See also Gauss's Werke, vol. iii. p. 491-496; Dirichlet's Discourse on Jacobi in Jacobi's Werke, vol. i. p. 11; C. A. Bjerknes, 'N. H. Abel,' Paris, 1885; Koenigsberger, 'Zur Geschichte der Theorie der elliptischen Transcendenten,' Leipzig, 1879.

<sup>1</sup> Carl Gustav Jacob Jacobi (born at Potsdam 1804, died at Berlin 1851) was the first great mathe-