

**CHRIST IN A GERMAN
HOME: AS SEEN IN THE
MARRIED LIFE OF FREDERICK
AND CAROLINE PERTHES**

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Christ in a German Home: As Seen in the Married Life of Frederick and Caroline Perthes by
Clemens Theodor Perthes

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CLEMENS THEODOR PERTHES

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FREDERICK AND CAROLINE PERTHES.



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THERE is a circle of our most intelligent readers familiar with the two octavo volumes published in England, containing an admirable translation of Professor Perthes' biography of his father and mother. Many of our leading presidents and professors of colleges and theological seminaries, our most learned divines and authors, have confessed that that work is one of the most interesting which our age has produced. Its size alone has precluded its publication in this country; for the work is of so high a character as to appeal to a very intellectual but rather limited class of readers. The rare value of the book has long prompted me to desire to see the best things in it made the common property of a large public; and at my request a genial and gifted friend has gone over the whole work, and culled out those portions which especially illustrate the family life of Frederick and Caroline Perthes, and which delineate that rarest and most beautiful spectacle in the world, a truly Christian, highly refined, and most amiable and gentle home.

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It will be remembered by some and ought to be known by all that the names of both Frederick and Caroline Perthes, were perfectly familiar in Germany. He was not only the greatest publisher of his time and nation, but a leader in great political, theological, and educational enterprises, and an intimate friend of almost every other great man of his day. She was a daughter of the distinguished poet and essayist Claudius, and a woman of rare loveliness and conspicuous accomplishments. Their home was the familiar assembling place of all that was good and great in Germany, during the earlier years of the present century. The portrayal of their life must therefore be a kind of panorama of all that the student of German life and character desires to see in the Augustan age of German literature. And busied as Perthes was with all the great problems of his time, and wielding a leading hand in all the religious, literary, patriotic, and commercial movements of Germany, even a brief sketch like the present must necessarily open up a field of great interest.

The central figure of the book after all is Caroline, the gentle wife, not the resolute, stirring and wonderfully able husband. And it was not at all a surprise to me when the author of the biography, Professor Perthes of Bonn, told me that by far the larger number of letters which came to him after the publication of

the work in Germany, spoke of the deep interest which had been awakened in the lovely character of his mother. For among all the women whose lives have become familiar to English and American readers, there is none who can be compared with her in the combination of qualities which make up the true Christian woman.

W. L. GAGE.

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