

**GUSTAV ADOLF IN
DEUTSCHLAND, 1630-1632
FROM SCHILLER'S HISTORY
OF THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR**

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Gustav Adolf in Deutschland, 1630-1632 from Schiller's History of the Thirty Years' War by
Friedrich Schiller & Wilhelm Bernhardt

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FRIEDRICH SCHILLER & WILHELM BERNHARDT

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SCHILLER.

Gustav Adolf in Deutschland

1630-1632

FROM

SCHILLER'S

HISTORY OF THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR

— Illustrated —

WITH NOTES

BY

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PREFACE.

IN 1789, Schiller, who was then in his thirtieth year, was appointed Professor of History at Jena, a university-town of Thuringia, only a few miles distant from Weimar. The duties of his new office required the poet to devote himself with double zeal to the study of History, a subject in which he had already won distinction by his "*History of the Revolt of the United Netherlands*," published in 1788. His second great historical work, "*The History of the Thirty Years' War*," which appeared in 1791, is — as Thomas Carlyle says — still the best historical performance which Germany can boast of and by which Schiller rose to a level with Hume, Robertson and Gibbon.

The time of that fearful religious struggle, so rich in picturesque events and gigantic personages, is painted most graphically: The characterizations of Gustavus Adolphus and Wallenstein show a scholarly refinement joined to a happy psychological divination. Brilliant are the descriptions of battles and great catastrophes: *The Destruction of Magdeburg* — *The Passage of the Lech* — *The Battles*

of *Breitenfeld and Lützen*—figure in our recollection, as if our eyes had witnessed them, and the *Death of Gustavus Adolphus* is described in terms which might draw ‘iron tears’ from the eyes of veterans.

But in writing his great historical masterwork, Schiller had a much higher aim than to call forth our emotions, sympathetic or romantic. His main object was to present a general picture of the events, and to connect with it his critical and comprehensive view of that epoch, more especially of the condition of the people who carried on the war.

Something most remarkable in German Literature is Schiller’s prose style, which being more of an impassioned kind, exercises an irresistible charm upon the young, whilst that of Goethe is purely artistic, and can only be fully appreciated and enjoyed after a closer acquaintance with the language.

Although for these reasons Schiller’s “*History of the Thirty Years’ War*” is pre-eminently fitted for use in school and college, yet it has seldom, if ever, found its way into the school-room on account of its length. To remove this difficulty, the Editor of the present edition has selected for publication that part of the work which beyond doubt is the most attractive and most generally interesting, viz., the account of the events of the years 1630–32, commonly called the “Swedish Period” of the Thirty Years’ War,

a time made heroic by the presence of Gustavus Adolphus, after whose death, in 1632, the war degenerated into a scene of the wildest barbarism, by which Germany was reduced to a wilderness and flung back at least a century in the march of civilization.

Attention is called to the fact that in this edition — as in Schiller's work — the dates are given according to the Old Style; ten days must be added to bring them in accordance with the New (or Gregorian) Calendar.

Of books used or referred to in the Notes may be named:

SAMUEL R. GARDINER, "*The Thirty Years' War.*"

A. J. W. MORRISON, "*Schiller's History of the Thirty Years' War.*"

B. CHAPMAN, "*History of the Thirty Years' War.*"

W. HARTE, "*History of the Life of Gustavus Adolphus.*"

ANTON GINDELY, "*The Thirty Years' War.*"

BAYARD TAYLOR, "*History of Germany.*"

THOMAS CARLYLE, "*The Life of Friedrich Schiller.*"

C. A. BUCHHEIM, "*Deutsche Prosa.*" Vol. I.

WILHELM BERNHARDT.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Easter, 1894.