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to find it again, Gotthelf remained throughout his life a believing Christian.

The comparison with Hardy brings out differences even where there are resemblances. In his themes, his devotion to moral and educational causes and his uncompromising boldness, Gotthelf has more in common with Tolstoy. Not that Gotthelf's work can offer the broad canvas of *War and Peace* or *Anna Karenina* — few novels in world literature can. But Gotthelf's faithful delineation of peasant life is paralleled by Tolstoy's devoted concern for this same social class. Tolstoy's appraisal of the value of the peasant way of life by the side of urbanised art is that of Gotthelf. The reformatory, moralising zeal of Tolstoy in his later years recalls Gotthelf in various ways. The ideal family as expounded in *Geld und Geist* would have made a strong appeal to the Tolstoy of the "Twenty-Three Tales".

Gotthelf's work is regional in its characteristic setting, and in its concern with the life and well-being of the country communities of Canton Berne. But this regional quality does not prevent it rising to universality. Humanity, its struggles and problems, is the theme of his work — man's place in society and the universe. In other words his is the theme of every great novelist, and Gotthelf's work, quite independent of the place or language of its setting, rises to this universal quality because of the quality of the author's mind.

#### YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING) SWISS CLUB.

The last meeting of the year was held at Messrs. Hagenbachs' Restaurant as usual, with over 50 members present. Mr. O. Schneider, our Consul, had come from Manchester to pay us one of his very welcome visits and to inform us about the Swiss-British agreements concerning National Insurance and Income Tax in connection with transfer of pension. This brought home very forcibly the valuable work which our Legation is doing for us in so many different ways. Mr. Schneider also told us how happy he had been to work with M. de Torrenté who is leaving us for Washington, and said that he would be glad to convey to him our gratitude for his work in this country and our best wishes.

Coming from the opposite direction, M. Bringolf, a colleague of Mr. Schneider, told us how he had gone to Sunderland to meet a Swiss ship at the end of a transatlantic journey. His description of the state of the ship after a very rough passage, funnels carried away, huge steel beams torn like match-wood, made us feel more vividly what we owe to the sailors' courage and endurance. Furthermore, it made us realise the great value of the Swiss Navy which should no longer be regarded as a stage joke, as it increasingly becomes an asset in our economy and even offers a new opening for the adventurous spirit of our young compatriots.

The meeting, as usual, was most informal, friendly and happy, many bringing in their own way, their contribution to the general enjoyment. Now, that we have an accordionist, Mr. André Dubler, our young people are more full of zest than ever, whatever the national language in which they express their enthusiasm.

C.M.I.




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