

THE PELOPONNESUS

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and walls were built to resist them. Christians with no respect for pagan traditions built a village in the sacred precinct and used fragments of the old temples. Successive inundations of the Cladeus covered the whole place with a layer of sand from ten to twenty feet deep.

Acting on an early suggestion of Winckelmann, the French conducted brief excavations in 1829, discovered the site of the temple of Zeus, and took a few sculptures to the Louvre. It was left for the German government, under the lead of Ernst Curtius and the Crown Prince Frederick, to win the olive crown. A million of marks, or two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, were spent by that government, — not to enrich its own museums, but to uncover for the whole world this buried but unforgotten shrine of Hellenic nationality and pride. The excavations continuing from 1875 to 1881 were conducted under a directory in Berlin, of which Curtius and Adler were members. It was at Olympia that Dr. Dörpfeld, coming in the third year of the excavations, won his spurs as an architect. The work cost more than anywhere else on account of the great mass of sand to be removed. The wicked Cladeus was made to do penance by carrying off on its bosom a large amount of the sand and silt it had brought down. Its energy in the work of restitution only showed how much sand a small river could carry and made it possible to believe how much it had done that needed undoing. Fortunately the digging at Olympia was done scientifically, and Mr. Syngros, a wealthy and patriotic Athenian, built a handsome museum in which to shelter the sculptures and the sixteen thousand bronzes.