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GERMANY,

BOHEMIA, AND HUNGARY,

VISITED IN 1837.

BY

THE REV. G. R. GLEIG, M.A.,

CHAPLAIN TO THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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GERMANY, BOHEMIA, AND HUNGARY,

IN 1837.

CHAPTER I.

PREPARATIONS FOR A PEDESTRIAN TOUR.—CARPATIAN SCENERY.—COSTUMES.—HAMLETS.—ST. GEORG.—MODERN.—CADETS OF CAVALRY.

I HAVE very little to record of Presburg itself. The town, as I have stated already, is, in its general character, much more German than Hungarian; and the people, a mixture of the two races, exhibit some of the peculiarities of both. Moreover, on market-days,—and, indeed, at an early hour of every morning,—bands of country-people come in, whose swarthy features, and wild and outlandish costumes, bespeak them as belonging to a race quite distinct from that of the burghers. But of the shops I took no heed, and the theatre I did not visit. We had dismissed our carriage on reaching the Sun, and now sent for the host, to consult him as to the practicability of the

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pedestrian tour, on the accomplishment of which we had set our hearts. He declared himself utterly confounded by the proposal. Such a thing had never been heard of in Hungary, and such a thing ought not to be attempted; for, in the first place, nobody would treat us, either on the road or at the inns, with the respect which was our due; and, in the next, he did not believe that we should be safe. We smiled at these objections, assuring him, that of respect, in his acceptation of the term, we were not at all covetous; and that, as to personal danger, we had heard so much, and seen so little of it, elsewhere, that we could not bring ourselves to entertain the slightest apprehension of it. "Very well, gentlemen," was the landlord's reply, "your pleasure must be done. But I warn you, that Hungary is not like Germany; and that in the mountains towards which you propose to go, there are plenty of bad people concealed. It is not at all certain that Sobri himself is dead, and if he be, he has left numerous representatives behind him."

We had no leisure then to inquire into the history of Sobri; neither, indeed, did it occur to us that such inquiry would be worth making. But, having intrusted our host with certain articles of apparel, with which we considered it

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unnecessary, in so warm a climate, to overload ourselves, we begged him to keep them safe till we should return to claim them. As we never did return, I trust that the honest man has long ago converted them to his own use; and should it be otherwise, I hereby give him ample authority so to dispose of them.

We slept that night, despite of the landlord's warnings, as we generally did, like tops, and at early dawn were astir, and full of zeal for the enterprise before us. The morning was fine, and the sky mottled with shifting clouds. We ate our breakfast merrily, settled our bill, which, by-the-by, was by no means moderate, and buckling on our knapsacks, resumed, once more, our erratic course, very much at the guidance of fortune. An object we doubtless had. It was, to penetrate through the Carpatian range into Galicia, to pass on as far as Cracow, if practicable, and returning by Transylvania, to visit Pesth and Ofen. This done, our imaginations pointed towards Styria, Illyria, and Italy; for we conceived that there would not be much to interest or amuse in the great plain of Hungary, and visions of Rome herself were before us. But, as often happens with men who speculate on contingencies, our scheme was not destined

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to be worked out. We never crossed the Galician border at all; we never saw Cracow; we did traverse a large portion of the Hungarian plain, and enjoyed the expedition exceedingly. So much for the difference that, even in matters of travel, will sometimes occur between theory and practice.

Our point, this day, was Modern, a town on the way to Trentschin, and distant from Presburg about eighteen or twenty English miles. We made for it along a well-constructed road, which skirting the bases of the mountains, introduced us, at every step, to scenes of surpassing interest. On our left stood the hills, low, and covered with vineyards to their summits,—the roots and offshoots of the giant masses which separate Hungary, on the west and north, from Moravia and Galicia; on our right, a vast plain, feathered here and there with clumps of trees, and presenting the appearance rather of an enormous park, than of a portion of a wide agricultural district. Hedgerows and gardens, too, were, for a while abundant; the latter stocked with vegetables and fruits for which Presburg supplies a market, the former kept, as long as they continued to adorn the landscape, with a neatness which would have done no discredit to Kent or

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Somersetshire. Yet the appearance of everything around us, animate as well as inanimate, bore a character quite distinct from all which we had previously encountered. We felt that we were at last in a new country; we were conscious that we should have to deal with people not alone essentially different from ourselves, but having nothing in common either with the Germans or the Bohemians. We saw that, in their domestic habits, in their individual bearing, in their dress, complexion, and mode of exercising their powers, they belonged to a portion of human society with which we had yet to form an acquaintance. The dark and swarthy countenances of the men, their small, piercing eyes, their long, shaggy, and matted hair, which hung over their shoulders, the moustache shading the upper lip, with here and there a beard that reached to the chest; these things, one and all, pointed to a stock—quite distinct from that to which the natives of the west of Europe trace back their origin. It seemed to me as if we had passed the line which divides one of the great families of mankind from another, and if I did not look round for pagodas and mosques, their occurrence, at any given moment, would have little surprised me.

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It was not, however, in their features alone, that the race among which we now found ourselves, differed from the inhabitants of the other provinces through which we had passed. There was a complete change of costume, a complete change of deportment, a complete change in the construction of their dwellings, and in every thing which might have contributed to the formation of their national character. The groups of peasants whom we met, some bearing burdens, others driving loaded cars towards the town, reminded me, indeed, a little of the Torpindas. The men wore like them, short cloaks of coarse brown cloth, and hosen of the same material, made tight to the shape. Their head-dress, too, was the broad, sombrero hat; and they carried long poles in their hands, shod with iron spikes. But the women were absolute novelties; for not one female Torpinda had ever crossed our path. Their dress was a sort of loose bodice, with a handkerchief tied over their heads; petticoats wide, but of meagre longitude, and coloured stockings; while both sexes had their feet protected against the wear and tear of travel, by pointed wooden clogs. Moreover, the very men bore no other resemblance to the Torpindas than might be created by a similarity

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in costume and complexion. The Torpindas struck me, wherever I saw them, as a morose and sullen race. These peasants were as much otherwise as can easily be imagined. No doubt we were to them objects of quite as much curiosity as they could be to us; and we received from them, in consequence, many a broad and lengthened stare as we passed. But it was always accompanied by a good-natured smile, and a nod of the head, in return to our salutation; and among the women, at least, with a sort of joking, which was, to us, for obvious reasons, quite unintelligible.

For some time after quitting Presburg, the marks of civilization that greeted us were both numerous and satisfactory. No vineyards could be better kept than those which covered the sides of these low hills; while the red-tiled cottages that peeped out from amid the clustering grapes, showed to peculiar advantage; but a couple of hours' walk sufficed to effect a change. We were, by this time, getting beyond the influence of civic society. The gardens, tilled and stocked for the exclusive benefit of Presburg, became gradually less numerous, till they ceased altogether. The bases, and a portion of the ascent of the hills, might continue green with an abundant crop of the

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vine; but the summits, rising more and more above the plain, assumed a bolder aspect, and forests, the growth of ages, crowned them. Moreover, we looked to the right, and saw that, in that direction, too, the scene was putting on a different character. The park-like appearance of the landscape, melted, by degrees, away. The lordly clumps of oak and beech ceased to challenge our regard; and the enormous meadow merged in the commencement of a corn-field, the limits of which no powers of vision could reach. Away, and away, beyond the farthest ken of human eye, the wheat and the rye were waving—without a hamlet, without a cottage, without a homestead, without a stall to break in upon their sameness. It was one of the most extraordinary, and I must add, most uninteresting specimens of fertility which has ever come under the observation of my senses, and my imagination had no means of embracing it.

We might have traversed a space of eight English miles, pausing, from time to time, to look round from the eminences that came in our way, when a Slavonian village,—the first of the sort which we had seen,—appeared in the distance. It reminded me more of the wigwams which I have seen inhabited by slaves in

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Jamaica, than of any settlement of labourers in any quarter of civilized Europe. It was a mere hamlet, containing, perhaps, some twenty huts, all of them circular in their form, and thatched over with straw; and as they stood apart one from another, there needed but a small stretch of the fancy to regard them as the dwelling-places of negroes. But the figures which passed to and from them,—how shall I describe these? Their loose trowsers and short cloaks, their hats, broad in the brim, yet sharp and high in the crown, came upon us at first with an effect so strange, that I know not in what terms to define it. Had we been standing in any other situation than under the burning sun of a July day, I could have fancied that we had fallen suddenly among a body of Esquimaux. And then their tools,—their three-pronged spades, with handles twelve feet long at the least; their rude litters for the conveyance of corn-sheafs, their rakes, their hoes, fabricated on the exact model of the classics, and their ploughs, mere beams of timber, put together in the most unworkmanlike manner; all these were so different from the implements made use of elsewhere, as more and more to impress upon us an assurance that at length our craving after the novel in human society, would be gratified.

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We sat down on the brow of a knoll to examine these objects while we rested; and pursued our journey at last in a degree of exhiliration and excitement, even to look back on which is highly agreeable.

We had been so much occupied up to the present moment with the novelties which, at each step in advance crowded upon us, that the idea of looking behind never once occurred. Before quitting the brow of the hill, thoughts of the past came back upon us, and we turned round. I never beheld a more striking scene of the kind. The road, the hills, the park-like plain, were all as we had previously seen them, with this single, though most marked exception, that they were all beheld in a different point of view; but the extremity of the panorama was that which mainly delighted us. There, at the utmost limit of a huge vista, uprose the castle of Presburg, crowning a hill with its dilapidated towers; and, as it leaned against the horizon, it struck me as being like many other things which we meet in life,—far more attractive as beheld from a distance, than when subjected to a closer scrutiny. We gazed long and joyously on the glorious panorama, and then trudged forward.

We descended the little eminence, and found

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ourselves in a sort of glade,—the road passing through the middle of a carpet of rich sward,—over which trees of most umbrageous shape were scattered. On a green knoll to the left three crosses had been erected,—the effigies of our Lord between the two thieves,—and before the centre figure a peasant was kneeling. We did not disturb him in his devotions; but lifted our hats, and passed on. By-and-by, the outlines of a fortified town became visible, and we pushed towards it. It proved to be St. Georg, a place of little note, though like almost all the towns in Carpatia, surrounded by a wall, quite indefensible against the fire of artillery, but sufficiently strong to resist the attack of a body of predatory horsemen. I found, on inquiry, that such places enjoyed, in former years, peculiar privileges, and that they had been conferred on them in consequence of the shelter which the towns afforded to the peasants when driven from their homes by an inroad of the Turks. Moreover, it turned out that the dates of these rude walls and towers were in most cases the same. They had all been erected during the last and most terrible outburst of the Moslems, when not Hungary alone, but Austria likewise, was overrun; and feeble as to our eyes they now appeared, there were few of them which,

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in their day, had not done the state some service.

We halted at St. Georg to rest, and ordered dinner. It was served up to us in a sort of coffee-room, and though not dressed as Dr. Kitchener would have recommended, to persons whose appetites a nine miles' walk had sharpened, it proved exceedingly acceptable. The charge, too, struck us as something ludicrously moderate; it amounted, inclusive of a flask of excellent wine, to sixteen pence halfpenny of our money. This settled, and the thousand and one questions put by our curious host having been either answered or evaded, we resumed our march, and at five in the afternoon reached Modern. Like St. Georg, it likewise had its walls and towers, within which a half-troop of cuirassiers found quarters. We made for the best inn in the place,—were stared at, as we expected to be, by the landlord,—overcame his scruples by the good humour with which we sustained the scrutiny, and took possession of our billet.

The room into which we were ushered opened at once into the inn-yard, and as it affords a fair specimen of the sort of accommodation which an Hungarian hotel of the better order supplies, it is right that I should describe it.

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An exceedingly comfortless billet, it proved, of course. It contained two truckle beds, a table, some chairs, and a broken mirror. The roof was arched; and the only light admitted, came through a small window at one of the extremities, in front of which strong iron bars were fastened. There were two doors, only one of which had a bolt on the inside; and the floor seemed but little acquainted with mop or pail. Such an apartment, when exhibited as the best which a cabaret of no mean exterior could furnish, held out slender promise of luxurious quarters elsewhere; yet we had made up our minds to cast fastidiousness in such matters aside, and we did not think it worth while to anticipate evil. On the contrary, as our host—his first suspicion over—had become both civil and kind, we applied ourselves diligently to the task of dressing, and gave orders that supper should be prepared against the seasonable hour of eight. This done, and our toilets completed, we strolled out; and after taking a hasty survey of the streets, passed through one of the gates, and made for a vine-clad hill which immediately overlooked it.

Our stroll, for I cannot speak of it as more, proved to be extremely agreeable. The heat of the day was past, and though somewhat

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jaded with our march, we were still capable of enjoying the delicious breeze, as it shook the leaves of the graceful plants, amid which we found both shelter and refreshment. Though the fruit was not ripe, it yet hung in heavy bunches from the vines, which are here trimmed and trained with exceeding skill, being brought to a state intermediate, as it were, between the low bush-like forms of those in the south of France, and the festoons and spiry pillars which you see in Spain and Italy. Through long alleys of such, we accordingly wandered on, making several vain efforts to communicate with certain peasants whom we found engaged in tying up the summer shoots, till having reached the summit of the acclivity, we there lay down, that we might look abroad upon the landscape beneath us. I cannot undertake to describe it. There was nothing of grandeur about it; no evidence of surpassing wealth; nor any traces of skill or ingenuity anywhere; but something so entirely different from all which I had seen elsewhere, that it produced a powerful effect upon me. We looked down into the main street of the town, which seemed as if the plague had recently swept over it; for scarcely a living creature was astir. Beyond that a huge plain greeted us,

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waving far and wide with corn. But there were no hamlets scattered over it, no detached farm-houses, no cottages, nor any other trace of the hands by which that vast field must have been cultivated, and would by-and-by be shorn of its glory. All this, though in due time explained, struck us at the moment as involving inconsistencies through which it would be impossible to make our way; so having permitted both vision and fancy to exercise themselves till they grew weary with the task, we gathered ourselves up from our grassy couch, and returned to the inn.

One of the first inquiries put to us on our arrival in Modern, had been, "Whence come you?—of what land are you the natives?" We told the truth, of course; and now our host met us, with the intelligence that there was another Englishman in the town,—a cadet, in the regiment of which I have already spoken, as having a half-troop in quarters there. Our obvious rejoinder was, "Go and find him out, and tell him that we shall be very glad if he will do us the favour to join us at supper." Our host went, and in quarter of an hour there entered our apartment a young gentleman, who appeared less surprised than gratified to find himself once more in the society of his coun-

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trymen. His name was Barrington, he had served several years in the Austrian cavalry, and though in daily expectation of a commission, still did duty as a cadet. We became excellent friends in a moment; and hearing him speak of two other cadets,—one an Italian, the other a German from the Rhine,—as his messmates and friends, we begged that they too might be sent for, and they came. It is not worth while to repeat even the substance of the conversation that passed among us. It turned chiefly, as may be supposed, on military matters, in which all seemed to be enthusiasts; and was kept up with great spirit till midnight. Then, however, as they found that I could not be persuaded to delay another day, but must start at an early hour on the morrow, they rose and bade us farewell. Mr. Barrington, indeed, promised us an escort,—a favour which we willingly accepted, because our route lay over a tract of country where, on the map at least, no roads were marked; but with the other two, we shook hands, probably for the last time. I need scarcely add, that the five hours' sleep which we obtained were very sound, and very refreshing.

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CHAPTER II.

WALK TO TYRNAU.—LOSE OUR WAY.—OVERTAKEN BY A HUNGARIAN GENTLEMAN.—MR. SCULTATI'S HOUSE.—HUNGARIAN HOSPITALITY.

THE day had dawned some time when we awoke from our deep slumber, and seven o'clock struck ere our coffee was swallowed, our bill paid, and ourselves *en route*. Meanwhile, Mr. Barrington was not forgetful of his engagement. He arrived just as we were beginning to apprehend that some call of duty might deprive us of the pleasure of his company, and we set forth, all three together, on foot. It struck me that the tone of our companion's conversation was more subdued to-day than it had been over-night; and that the idea of losing us so speedily caused him to reflect with something like regret upon the isolated nature of his own position. I do not know that I have any right so to express myself, for he certainly uttered no complaint; but I felt at the moment, that the situation of an Englishman in a foreign service is scarcely an enviable one; and I fancied that my young friend's thoughts were turned into a similar channel. Be this, however, as it may, we did

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not separate till after he had walked some long miles beside us, and more than once expressed a wish that it had been in his power to become our companion throughout the whole of our excursion. Poor fellow! I almost regretted, for his own sake, that such an arrangement was impossible.

Our point to-day was Kosztolan, a village some six or eight leagues in advance of Modern, where report said, that there was an inn; not, indeed, so large or so comfortable as that which we had just quitted, but sufficiently capacious to accommodate, for a single night, travellers so little disposed to fall out with trifles as ourselves. In order to reach it we were directed to make, in the first instance, for Tyrnau; and to gain Tyrnau, it was necessary to steer a good deal by the map; for even in this part of Hungary, so soon as you abandon the great roads, you are entirely at the mercy of your own genius for exploring. Of this, to us an important truth, we were indeed made fully aware, when having reached a sort of hamlet in the centre of an immense plain, we found all traces of a path disappear. We looked round in every direction, but there was no object to direct us. Behind, indeed, were the Carpatians, assuming, at each mile which

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we compassed in our journey, a bolder and more majestic character, still clothed to their brows with luxuriant wood, and having their bases covered by traces of cultivation; but elsewhere on the right, on the left, and in front, the nature of the country was everywhere the same. One enormous flat was before us, here and there dotted, rather than enriched, with trees; but, except where these tiny groves intervened, either waving with corn, or giving support to a rank natural pasturage. Of anything like a town, or a village, or even a solitary dwelling, not a trace was discernible. It was a huge ocean of herbage, broken in upon, where its sameness was disturbed at all, only by patches of fallow.

We drew forth our chart, and studied it attentively, for the huge plain appeared deserted of human beings; and had the case been otherwise, we were well aware that between them and us little oral communication could pass. At the inns, we could always count on finding somebody by whom German was both spoken and understood; but among the peasants, no way was to be made, except by him who might be master of the Slavonian. The result was, a determination to push forward, pretty much at random. On, accordingly, we went,—the same, and still the same strange,

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novel, but certainly not wild country, around us,—till arriving at a sort of dip which in the extent of the prospect had previously escaped observation, we found to our surprise that the dwellings of men were not, after all, so distant as we had supposed. There lay in the hollow beneath, a village, built with more appearance of regularity, and regard to convenience, than any which, since our departure from Presburg, we had encountered. It was thoroughly oriental in its character, to be sure; the houses being mere huts, and each standing apart one from the other; but the whole were arranged in two long lines, so as to form a street, wide, open, and very airy. A double row of trees screened the fronts of these dwellings, which, on nearer inspection, proved to be loaded with fruit; and when we put forth our hands to pluck a portion of it, no one thought of finding fault with us.

The village, as seen from a distance, had excited our liveliest admiration. Its appearance was altogether that of some cluster of fairy buildings,—so bright shone the walls, under the rays of a mid-day sun, so picturesque were the spiral roofs, so graceful the lean of the branches over their thatched coverings. I cannot say that it ceased to interest, even when

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we approached it. We saw, indeed, that whatever of cleanliness belonged to it, appertained only to the exterior of things; for the open doors made a sad disclosure of filth and squalor within. The women and children, too, who lounged about the sills, were dirty and half naked, while throughout there was an air of languor and listlessnes, such as bespoke a state of social existence, very little raised above barbarism. Yet, either because it differed essentially from everything of the sort which had heretofore come under our observation, or that objects which present themselves unawares to our notice, act with proportionate power upon the fancy, we did not traverse its long and broad street without making repeated halts, and expressing one to the other a lively sense of admiration. The remainder of our walk as far as Tyrnau was not rendered memorable by the occurrence of any adventure worth recording. Our route continued to lie across a plain of amazing extent and inexhaustible fertility, with the hills on our left, and the horizon bounding the view in other directions. But I cannot recollect that except once,—when a solitary wayfarer passed us,—so much as a labourer crossed our path throughout the whole

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of its duration. So scant and far separated is the population of this country, to which nature, in respect both of soil and climate, has been so bountiful. At last, however, about two o'clock, that is to say, after we had been more than six hours on the march, the spires of Tyrnau uprose in the distance. We made for them, not ill-pleased at the prospect of a halt; and in the midst of a furious shower,—the outpourings of a dense cloud which for some time previously had been gathering over our heads,—we entered the Green Tree,—a little inn in the suburbs,—and ordered dinner.

We did not conceive that it was at all incumbent upon us, to traverse the streets of Tyrnau, under such rain as then was falling. The town appeared to belong to the same class with Modern; for it was evidently of no great extent, and was girdled in by walls and round towers, and other relics of skill in a species of fortification which has long since passed away. Perhaps, too, the symptoms of vitality about it, might be more numerous than those which greeted us at our previous stage; for there were several large buildings in the place, one of which was described to us as a very wealthy monastery; but it was evidently, like Modern,

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a town falling to decay; and hence little likely to repay the toil of a minute examination. Besides, we could not afford a wetting, because our whole stock of wearing apparel comprised but a single change of habiliments. Accordingly, having made good use of the water with which our landlady supplied us, and otherwise done the duties of the toilet, we sat down at one of the tables in the public room till our meal should be ready. It made its appearance at length, and was disposed of with all the zeal of which a large share of air and exercise is the never-failing source. And then came the questions, where lay our station for the night, and by following what route might we hope to reach it? Both were answered to our satisfaction; so having loitered on till the storm passed away, we once more buckled up our knapsacks, and taking leave of our civil landlady, pushed on towards Kosztolan.

The fates had decreed that by us Kosztolan should never be visited. After walking in the direction pointed out, and compassing what we believed to be at least half the space between us and our night's quarters, we were met by three men, whose features sufficiently testified to their Jewish origin; and of whom we demanded, in German, whether we were in

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the right way. To our extreme mortification they assured us, that we were not. The road from Tyrnau to Kosztolan ran in quite a different direction; so different, indeed, that in order to reach it, we must needs retrace our steps to the very outskirts of the town which we had quitted. Now when it is borne in mind that our march had already extended to something like twenty miles,—that the day was wearing on,—and the fields deep and heavy with the late rain, it will scarcely be wondered at if such an announcement should have affected us the reverse of agreeably. We questioned our informants closely,—tried all possible methods of cheating them into a statement that the footpath and the great road would terminate at the same point, and yielded at last only from a feeling that to yield was indispensable.

A retrograde movement is seldom an agreeable one. Even when the party of pleasure is over, and we are returning to our own homes, objects appear to have become far less interesting than they used to be; and if this be the case under ordinary circumstances, much more perceptible is the feeling in such a case as ours. The very miles appeared to lengthen as we went. But we reached the suburbs of Tyrnau at last, and making for the great road, which

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we had previously been advised to shun,—we began to traverse it at a rapid rate. Neither was this acceleration of pace unnecessary, inasmuch as the shades of evening threatened to close round us, and the church tower, which was pointed out as that of Kosztolan, lay far removed from us. By-and-by we gained a sort of hamlet,—a collection of wretched mud huts, thrown at random, as it were, by the wayside; and, finding there that four roads met, we became entirely puzzled. To address ourselves to any of the wild-looking people who stood at the doors of their huts, and gazed upon us with countenances in which surprise was strongly depicted, appeared useless. We knew not one word of their language, nor they one word of ours; but the name of the village, we imagined, would probably be familiar to them, so we pronounced it, and made such signs as we flattered ourselves might be understood. We were not mistaken. An old woman, poking her head through an opening in the wall of one of the huts, screamed out something which would have been quite unintelligible, had she not, at the same time, pointed towards a lane on our left, and nodded, when we made a movement as if to follow it. Thus reassured, we recalled our lagging energies, and pushed on.

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We had not proceeded far, when there met us an open carriage, in which two gentlemen were seated,—one elderly, with a pair of huge moustachios and a very soldier-like air; the other young, apparently not more than two or three-and-twenty, and of a singularly prepossessing appearance. He wore a round blue cloth jacket, embroidered with black lace, white trousers, very loose, and a cloth cap, with a gold tassel; and he held the reins with exceeding skill and elegance. They bowed to us as we passed, and we returned their salutation without ever supposing that more would come of it; but we were mistaken. We might have gone forward, perhaps, a couple of hundred yards, when the step of some one in chase fell upon our ears, and we heard a man's voice calling to us. We stopped, turned round, and saw the younger of the two gentlemen hurrying towards us.

"I see that you are strangers," said he, in French, "I have been a traveller on foot myself. May I take the liberty of asking whence you came, and whither you are going?"

We told him, without hesitation, that we had quitted Modern that morning; and that it was our intention to sleep at Kosztolan. "But," continued I, "it seems to me either that we

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have not been directed aright, or that Kosztolan is much farther from Tyrnau than we were led to believe."

"It is a great deal too far for you to reach, with any comfort to yourselves, to-night," said the stranger; "and if you did reach it, you would find there no adequate accommodation. My house is close by, and I shall take it as a particular favour if you will turn back with me and be my guests, at all events till to-morrow."

We were too much struck by the unaffected kindness with which this invitation was given, and too well pleased with the opportunity which it seemed to afford of becoming acquainted with the domestic habits of the Hungarian gentry, to be very persevering in the refusal with which, for appearance's sake, we considered ourselves bound, in the first instance, to meet it. But had the contrary been the case, I am sure that our resistance would have been overcome. The young gentleman scouted the idea of our being to him a source of the slightest inconvenience. "My house is not very large," said he, "but there is room enough in it for more than two guests. You will find my mother and sister there, both of whom generally live with me, and my uncle likewise, whom you saw beside me, and who, for the present, has given us the

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pleasure of his company. We will, therefore, go back to the village, if you please, where the carriage awaits us; and I can only assure you, that the longer you may find it convenient to honour my roof by abiding under it, the better pleased I shall be."

All this passed,—the invitation was given, was pressed upon us, and accepted, without one question having been put, either as to our country, our condition, our lineage, or the nature of the inducement which had led us to travel in Hungary at all. It was not, indeed, till the servant had been displaced to make room for us, and we were seated, I beside our youthful driver, and my son near his uncle, that the slightest anxiety to be satisfied on these heads was expressed. Then, indeed, the elder of the two strangers ventured to demand whether we were French? and when we told him, no, that we were English, it seemed to me that the cordiality of both gathered an increase. It soon came out, that they were great admirers of the English constitution and English character. Of the former, indeed, they spoke as bearing a striking resemblance to their own,—a mistake, as I have elsewhere explained, into which almost all their countrymen run; and the latter they were so well-bred as to contrast

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very favourably with what it pleased them to describe as the insincerity and *fanfaronnade* of our neighbours. Moreover it came out that the younger of the two, in a pedestrian tour which he made through Switzerland, had fallen in with certain Englishmen, between whom and himself a good deal of intimacy arose; and that a favourite dream in which he had ever since delighted to indulge, included the possible chance of his one day visiting England itself. Where such a kindly feeling prevailed on one side, and on the other the sense of obligation was strong, there occurred no difficulty whatever in effecting a right understanding between the parties. We became very animated in our talk as we proceeded onwards; and when we reached our destination, every feeling of restraint had been laid aside.

The gentleman whose guests we had thus unexpectedly become, belonged to that class in Hungarian society which corresponds, in respect to rank, with our untitled aristocracy,—the proprietors of estates which have descended to them through many generations. He inhabited a country-house, which, in point of size and the general aspect of things in and around it, I can compare to nothing so aptly as to the dwelling of a Highland laird. It was a long-fronted, two-

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storied white-walled chateau, having before it a sort of court, or grass-plat; round which ran a gravelled drive, that was fenced off from the road only by a hedge and paling. At the bottom of this court, again, and at right angles with the swing gate by which we entered, stood a range of cottages, where dwelt the grooms, and menials, and hangers-on upon the family; while just across the road were stables, coach-houses, sheds, barns, and a garden, well stocked with fruit and vegetables. Of park, or paddock, or grounds purely ornamental, there was, however, no trace. Except where the green court lay (and it was not wholly ornamental, inasmuch as the draw-well stood exactly in the centre of it,) every rood of land had been laid under the plough. Up to the very walls of the mansion, the corn crops were growing; and in the hamlet where we and our host first met, the labourers or serfs by whom they were reared, resided.

It was not, however, in the outward appearance of things alone, that I traced a close resemblance between the domicile of this Hungarian gentleman and that of the Highland laird, —rather, perhaps, as he was half a century ago, than as you now find him, except in rare cases. The family of Mr. Scultati (for so my young

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friend was called,) appeared of countless extent. There was no end to the retainers,—men, women, and children,—who went to and fro beside his hall-door, and thronged his kitchen. Eating and drinking, moreover, appeared to be a work which suffered small intermission; and the viands, though coarse, perhaps, were most abundant. Then, again, I saw one woman arrive with several couples of fowls, another with a basket of eggs, a third with a jar of milk, a fourth with something else; and I learned that such were not so much the spontaneous offerings of a good will, as the feudal perquisites, which the chief claimed, and the cottar and small tenant paid. "It is thus," said my kind host, "and thus only, that the hospitalities of such a household as mine could be kept up. These things are brought to me every day. What could I do with them, if I did not feed the people whom you consider so numerous?"

I have ventured to describe these matters in detail, because they belong essentially to what may be called the manners of the country, and because I am quite sure that in finding such peculiarities brought forward by a stranger, no man's individual feelings can suffer wrong. It must not be expected that I shall use the

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same freedom when speaking of the domestic habits of those who were good enough to admit me into their families. With respect to Mr. Scultati's ménage, for example, I shall have done enough when I state, that it was in every respect gentlemanlike and abundant,—that a comfortable apartment was allotted to us,—that we met the ladies first in the drawing-room, and afterwards at supper,—and that the great desire of all appeared to be, that we should feel ourselves at home. Music, too, added its charms to the pleasures of the evening; for Madame Scultati played well on the piano; and she was kind enough for our edification, to draw forth some of the wild strains of her native land, to which the younger members of the party danced. Finally, we were not permitted to retire till after repeated attempts had been made to shake our determination of departing on the morrow. But in this respect we were obstinate. It was agreed, indeed, that we should not go as we had originally proposed to do, at day-break, because Freystadtl was well worth seeing, and thither they would send us in their carriage; but as they saw that we were not willing to be delayed longer, they with perfect good breeding ceased to urge us. We then retired to our chamber, and slept soundly.

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We were up next morning about six, though not till our young host, whose chamber lay within ours, had himself been some time astir. I know not whence it arose, but I had conceived that the Hungarian method of breakfasting would resemble our own, rather than that of Germany. When, therefore, our friend stood by the bed-side to inquire what could be done by him or his people to increase our comforts, I unconsciously said something about the breakfast hour, which caused him to smile.

"Oh! I recollect," said he; "you Englishmen eat that meal together, and it is with you a substantial one. I am afraid we should never get my mother to understand the former of these arrangements, but in the latter it is very easy to indulge you." And before I could stop him, orders were given, to add to our coffee and bread, both meat and butter. Now, this mark of attention, if considered by itself, may appear a trifle; when taken in connexion with other matters, it is more than a trifle. It shows that in all the essentials of good breeding, a Hungarian gentleman falls not short of any member of his class throughout Europe; for I am bound to add, that as far as my own experience goes, Mr. Scultati is but a fair specimen of the order to which he belongs.

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We made a hearty meal on the viands that were provided for us; and the ladies being still in their own apartments, we put ourselves under the guidance of our host, and walked out. He conducted us to the garden, in all the arrangements of which, I found more and more to remind me of what I have read in old books, as characterizing similar establishments amid the glens of my native country. The walks, for example, overrun with long grass, could not be approached at this early hour except at the expense of wet feet. Everything, too, which a garden can produce, was abundant, even to the weeds; but I looked in vain for the neatness and order which distinguish those of our own country-gentlemen, as that class now exists even in the Scottish Highlands. In like manner, the stables, though perfectly weather-proof, were certainly not such as I had expected to find attached to the house of a Hungarian cavalier. For the Hungarian still retains this striking mark of his oriental origin, that he is passionately attached to his stud; and that there is no degree of economy which he will scruple to practise, so long as he can appear, on fitting occasions, well mounted and accoutred. Now though Mr. Scultati's horses were good,—and they stood there, six in number, each occupying

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its own stall;—the stable, and the yard before it, were precisely such as to render it next to impossible for the grooms to lead them forth to their work unsoiled, both in coat and pastern. The yard was ankle-deep in mud, and the stable differed from the bullock-shed to which it adjoined, only in this, that whereas the one had no breaks or divisions in its extent, the other was portioned off into stalls.

I have alluded elsewhere to the act of 1835, which gave, or seemed to give, to the peasants of Hungary, in the protection which it afforded them against the caprices of their superiors, something like political rights. I have discussed the effects of that enactment with many gentlemen in Mr. Scultati's station, and I never yet met with one who did not speak of it as eminently mischievous. Perhaps this is no more than we have a right to expect. Men, even though disinclined to abuse power, are seldom willing to part with it; and when it is taken from them against their will, they almost always anticipate results a thousand-fold more serious than usually follow. I have been told, for example, that one consequence of the law of 1835 has been, to sow the seeds of never-ending jealousy between the gentry and the peasants. "It is quite impossible that we

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can stop where we are," is the sort of language to which I have listened scores of times. "We have given these people certain privileges. We have delivered them from the rule of their natural superiors, that is to say, we have taken away from their superiors the power of punishment when it has been merited. Yet in all essential respects, they continue to be exactly what they were within the memory of man. On my own lands, for example, I am all but supreme. Nobody can open an inn without my license. Nobody can bring within the limits of my territory a flask of wine, or any other article not raised or manufactured there, till I have sanctioned it. If I am reduced to the dire necessity of selling my estate, my people go with it, and any one of these presuming to quit the demesne, except with the sanction of the owner, is guilty of a crime. But I may not now check the progress of any irregularities among them, except by the slow process of an appeal to a regular magistrate. Do you think this is possible? Do you suppose that the nobles either can or will obey an edict in itself so preposterous? We do not obey it. We do punish in the face of the law, and some of our people know, while they submit, that we are acting illegally. Can this continue?

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Surely not. Depend upon it, that Hungary is on the eve of great changes, and what the consequences may be, time only can determine."

As often as this language has been held to me, I have smiled,—not because I think that there is nothing in it, but because it bears so close a resemblance to the predictions which, a few years ago, were everywhere heard in our own country, and of which not one has been, or is, I trust, likely to be, fulfilled, that while listening to it in a foreign tongue, and standing on a foreign soil, I had some difficulty in persuading myself that I was not in a dream. Whether the results are to be the same in Hungary as in England, I cannot pretend to guess; for where all men anticipate evil, evil generally comes. But it will, I think, be the fault of the Hungarians themselves, if any violent revolution overtake them. They must go on in the work of amelioration, slowly to be sure, but steadily. Of the evils of the present system, there are few among them who seem not to be aware; they must meet these evils boldly, and their very boldness will save them. Meanwhile, it is certain that the feeling of insecurity, the dread of some mighty crisis at hand, is universal. When I took leave of my kind host, for example, we exchanged cards; that is to say, he wrote his

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name—Coloman Scultati—on a slip of paper, and gave it to me.

"What title shall I prefix," said I; "is it Graff, or Baron, or what?"

"Oh no," was the answer; "plain Monsieur. I am as yet a poor Hungarian eidelman; what I may be a few years hence, heaven alone can tell."

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CHAPTER III.

FREYSTADTL.—THE GRÄFINN ERDEDI.—WALK TO PISCHTIAN.—THE STATE OF SOCIETY.—NEUSTADTL.—THE FORSTBAN.

It was about eleven o'clock when Mr. Scultati's carriage drove up to the door, and in spite of our avowed preference for walking, we were obliged to take our seats in it. "You must visit Freystadtl, let come what will," said our host; "and as it lies out of the direct road to Pischtian, my conscience will not permit me to consent to your visiting it on foot. Besides, you came here out of your way, to oblige me; and I am bound at all events to set you right again." There was no resisting such arguments, so we jumped in, and the vehicle set forward.

A considerable portion of our morning's drive carried us through Mr. Scultati's territory. It was everywhere in the highest state of cultivation, and the crops were enormous; but, as the owner had justly observed, while alluding to the fertility of the soil overnight, of what value can such crops be to him? There are no markets in Hungary itself, to which the grain

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can be sent; and the restrictions imposed by the government on foreign exportation are terrible. And were the case otherwise, till the roads are improved, and the navigation of the Danube rendered much more commodious than it is at present, all this exuberance of bounty on nature's part, must be next to wasted. For, except by way of Fiume,—a Croatian rather than a Hungarian port,—there is no other communication between Hungary and the sea, than through that great river, of which the channel is still encumbered with numerous shoals, and the debouches, as I need hardly state, are in the power of the masters of Constantinople. The consequence is, that while their corn and wine accumulate perpetually, and their flocks increase, and their wool is abundant, the Hungarian landowners everywhere complain that they are poor. On the other hand, the Hungarian landowners not only want for nothing, but they possess all the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life in profusion. They have meat of every sort, bread excellent, wine superior to any which I have tasted either in France or elsewhere. Fruit is so abundant that it often rots upon the trees; and milk and butter, and all else which the farm can produce, are in excess. Still they have no money; and without

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money, though they may live sumptuously at home, they can neither stir beyond the limits of their respective provinces, nor even within these limits enjoy the pleasures of social life as they are enjoyed elsewhere. Such, at least, is the tone of their own conversation, as often as it happens to turn upon the condition of their country, and there is no disputing the point with them. But though they may lack the means of indulging it, there surely never lived a race of persons more strongly imbued with a taste for expense. I shall have occasion to speak of them by-and-by, as they show themselves crowded together; and it will then be seen, that their poverty, if it press at all, is carefully concealed from the gaze of the world.

Fryestadtl is an open town, very prettily situated on the left bank of the Waag, and surmounted by the chateau and magnificent grounds of the Gräfinn or Countess Erdedi. We crossed the river by a long wooden bridge, at either extremity of which is a toll-house; but as we came in an eidelman's carriage, no demand for toll was made; that being exacted, as I have elsewhere explained, from the peasants only. This done, we turned sharp to the right, and entering the gräfinn's domain by a side gate, took a hasty survey of its beauties. They

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were exceedingly striking. The house,—a modern building,—stands on the slope of a hill, the summit of which is crowned by the ruins of an old castle, and the grounds about it reminded me more of an English park than any which I had seen since my arrival at Hamburg. Of the town, again, I can say but little. It was very quiet, very neat, and of very moderate extent, depending for its existence on the will of the lords of the chateau, to whom, both in its edifices and in the persons of its inhabitants, it belongs.

The Countess Erdedi lives in great splendour, and is said to be enormously rich; but she is not much countenanced, except by the male portion of the community. The daughter of a hackney-coachman in Vienna, she went, when very young, upon the stage, where her extreme beauty, rather than any great merit as a performer, obtained for her a certain degree of celebrity. She resided for some years with the Count as his mistress, and in his old age he married her. Moreover he bequeathed to her, at his death, the whole of his possessions, including the castle and estate of Freystadtl; subject, however, to one condition,—for if she marry again, everything goes from her. But the gräfinn, as she was never very scrupulous

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when poor, so she seems to have no idea that scruples are at all necessary to her when rich. She has not married, but she has taken into her family an Austrian colonel, with whom she lives on the most intimate terms, and who manages all her affairs for her, exactly as if he were her husband. I had been told that we needed but to show ourselves at the castle-gate, in order to ensure an invitation for as long a period as it might be agreeable to reside there, —but I felt little disposition to avail myself of her hospitality. At the inn door, in the town, we dismissed our carriage, and once more resumed our progress, free men, and on foot.

Our point to-day was Pischtian, one of the most fashionable watering-places in this part of Hungary; and as it lay on the opposite side of the Waag from Freystadtl, we recrossed the bridge. We had more leisure on this occasion to look about us than had been afforded earlier in the day. We saw that the Waag was a broad and rapid stream; that his waters were whitish,—as if they had been mixed with milk; that plantations of giant willows overhung his banks; and that from an island, divided by a narrow channel from the lower part of the town, a sort of thin vapour or smoke was ascending. We inquired into the cause of this

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phenomenon, and found that the island in question contains a hot spring. No pains, however, have been taken to turn it to account, for hot springs are frequent in this country; and, for medicinal purposes, this is esteemed so inferior to the baths of Pischtian that it has not been judged worth while to lay out money upon it. But the countess has caused a sort of reservoir for the water to be dug; and thither her own people resort as often as the humour takes them.

We did not linger long to inspect an object in itself so little attractive; but, turning to the right, found ourselves upon an excellent road, which, for a while, conducted us in a direction parallel with the river. It introduced us likewise to scenery much more interesting than any which had as yet come under our observation; and of which the features became, at every mile that we compassed in advance, more and more bold and striking. The great plain of Hungary was now left behind, and we were in the mouth of the valley of the Waag,—one of those passes by which, here and there, the Carpatian mountains are intersected. As yet, indeed, the valley was both wide and fertile. From range to range the expanse could not measure less than twelve or fifteen miles;

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but the forms of the hills stood forth more distinctly and in bolder outline than heretofore, and the farther we proceeded the more their altitude increased. Moreover there were seen, on almost every detached crag and cone, the ruins of some baronial pile, the records of a time,—not in this country long since passed away,—when each separate chief held his own petty court within the halls where his father had held it, and armed men did his bidding, sometimes against the supreme government itself. Then, again, the magnificent river rolled his waters along between banks that either waved with an incalculable weight of corn, or spread forth a rich green herbage, over which numerous flocks and herds were roaming; and, which was scarcely less interesting, the population appeared to be more dense here than we had as yet seen it. Towns and villages lay scattered over the strath, homesteads from time to time saluted us; and the very bosom of the stream itself supported, here and there, a cluster of floating mills. I was beyond measure charmed with the combination of beauty and grandeur in the scenery with which our march to Pischtian made us acquainted; and formed anticipations concerning the future, such as must have been, in almost any other quarter of the world, disappointed.

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We did not reach Pischtian till a late hour, for a furious thunder-storm detained us; the effects of which, though exceedingly delightful to one sense, were not quite so acceptable to another. The reverberations of the peals from the nearest range of hills, were very fine; whereas the furious rain that attended them proved, in spite of cloaks and the shelter of a tree, much less agreeable. Thanks to Mr. Mackintosh's skill, however, we escaped better than we had any right to expect; and, so soon as the storm abated a little, the march was resumed. It continued till about seven in the evening; when a soldier whom we met, and addressed in German, pointed out to us the object of which we were in quest, and we made at once towards it. I must acknowledge that its general appearance both surprised and disappointed me. Having learned from our kind entertainers of the previous night, that Pischtian was one of the most celebrated watering-places in this part of Hungary, I naturally expected to find a growing and airy town, with shops, and marts, and the other accommodations which even the occasional presence of a crowd of fashionables elsewhere calls into being. In all this I had entirely miscalculated the chances. There were no shops, no marts, no airy

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and well-kept streets, but a parcel of huts, standing apart one from another, with their mud-walls carefully white-washed, and their conical roofs sheltered from the weather by thatch. In the centre of the throng, however, as if to cast its companions quite into the shade, uprose a large inn. It was built of brick, seemed to be three stories high, and covered a great extent of ground; and this, in point of fact, was Pischtian. For thither all the company, of all ages and both sexes, repaired, to eat and drink daily in the Great Hall; and here too, the more wealthy, or such as took the lead because of their rank, had their apartments. As for the rest, they hired, some an entire hut, others a portion of a hut, and so bestowed themselves pretty much as bees are bestowed in a hive, without the slightest regard to any other consideration than the securing as much space as would permit them to spread out their mattresses, and lie at length. Altogether the scene struck me as one of the most ludicrously singular which I had anywhere witnessed, and a more intimate acquaintance with the details of life within its influence, had not the effect of diminishing my astonishment.

We entered the inn; and, in spite of the extreme humility of our style of travel, were

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received by mine host with great urbanity. He conducted us to an apartment; not, perhaps, the most sumptuous in the house, but one with which, under all the circumstances, we had good reason to be content. Then followed the customary arrangements of the toilet, the completion of which found us quite ready for dinner; at the close of which, and it did not last long, we sallied forth to reconnoitre.

I have described the general appearance of Pischtian as it strikes you when you first enter the place. It must not, however, be supposed, that there is no order in the arrangement of its details. On the contrary, the huts are built in two long streets, which cross one another about the middle; and they all stand, like those of Hungarian villages in general, each at an interval of some yards from those on the right and left of it. The streets themselves not being either paved or macadamized, present, during a rain, but an unsatisfactory prospect to the pedestrian; while, in dry weather, the dust rises on every breeze that sweeps over them, to the great detriment both of the eyes and lungs of such as encounter it. But there is more to be examined here than these very primitive thoroughfares. Adjoining the inn, and under the management of the landlord, is a billiard-room,

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a ball-room, with several smaller apartments in which coffee and refreshments are served; while in rear of the suite is a sort of public garden, the favourite resort of the company after sunset. It was well filled when we entered it, and a body of musicians, who occupied a sort of bower in one corner, loaded the air with very sweet music.

There are not many points of resemblance between the Hungarian and the German characters; but in this respect they do approach one another,—that the natives of both countries are passionately fond of the sort of life which people lead at watering-places. I think, indeed, that in his fondness for this, the Hungarian goes beyond the German; and I know that, to enable him to sustain the expense of a few weeks' sojourn in one of these temples of gaiety, he frequently hoards up, without repining, the whole of his pecuniary resources for months. When he does set out, moreover, on his expedition of pleasure, the Hungarian noble moves like a prince. It is not with him as with a votary of fashion from St. James's, who throws himself into his chariot, and is whirled off, as rapidly as post-horses can carry him, to Brighton, or Lymington, or Cheltenham. The Hungarian carries with him his own carriages, his own

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horses, his own servants, his own beds and bedding, a retinue of servants as numerous as his circumstances will allow, and a great variety of his most picturesque and becoming dresses. If, indeed, he have far to travel, he transports, in addition to all these, his own cooking utensils, and he invariably trusts, wherever he may halt by the way, to his own cook, for the preparation of his viands. Nor would it be fair to set down all this business of preparation to the score either of vanity or misplaced pride. The inns are, for the most part, so wretched in Hungary, that means of accommodating a noble family are often wanting; and, where these chance to be sufficient, the filth is such that a lady cannot encounter it. Then, again, the watering-places being, like that at Pischtian, in nine cases out of ten, mere villages, it would be impossible for the company to lodge themselves at all, were they forced to rely upon such conveniences as the peasant landlords could supply. For, strange as it may appear, it is neverthless true, that attempts to improve the style of the ordinary habitations in such places, are very rarely made. The eidelman on whose property the bath may be, erects one large inn, which he furnishes according to the tastes of the time and country. This he

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lets out, at an extravagant rent, to a tenant; but with the dwellings of his serfs he considers it unnecessary to meddle, and the serfs themselves do not dream of taking upon themselves so serious a responsibility. The consequence is, that, caring very little for appearances, and trusting to their own stores for so much of comfort as they may require, strangers from a distance hire these huts, wholly or in portions; and as they live all day long either in the saal of the inn, or in the open air, or over the billiard-table, they are content to be as much straitened at night as the crowded condition of the place may render necessary.

If I were gravely asked how people spend their time at such places at Pischtian, I should be compelled to answer that I really do not know. They walk, they ride, they drive, they dine at one, and sup at nine o'clock; they have balls occasionally, music without intermission, and games, both of chance and skill, for such as relish them. Then there are the baths to be taken, the waters to be drunk, and the other points to be attended to, for which the orders of a medical man, or the tyranny of fashion, furnish a sufficient warrant. I have been told, to be sure, perhaps on too good authority, that these watering-places are not always noted for

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the correct behaviour of their visitants. It may be so; and doubtless if the tastes of the Hungarians tend to vice, better opportunities than are there supplied of doing outrage to the dictates of moral obligation cannot be imagined. But vice, however fashionable, is not universally practised anywhere; and to him who seeks not such means to relieve the tedium attaching to it, I can conceive no mode of life so wearisome, after the first blush of novelty has passed away, as that of the sojourner at a Hungarian bath. For myself I honestly declare, that though delighted at first with the glitter and bustle that was around me; though pleased with the varied costumes of the visiters, charmed with the animation of the crowded supper-table, and infected with the gaiety which seemed to pervade the throng, when jostling one another in the ball-room, or gliding through the alleys of the public garden, I became, ere long, so heartily tired of the whole matter, that I made up my mind to pass onwards as soon as possible. We delayed two whole days, and a portion of a third, in this abode of the merry; we then paid our bill, strapped our knapsacks on our shoulders, and went forth in search of other, and, according to our view, more rational sources of enjoyment.

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Our journey lay through a continuation of the same sort of scenery which had delighted us so much when approaching Pischtian. The further we proceeded, too, the narrower the strath became, and the more striking were the mountains which hemmed it in, both from their formations and adjuncts. It seemed as if we were about to enter the very land of romance, for ruined castles accumulated upon us at every step, and the situation of each appeared more imposing than that of another. Forests, also, spread themselves over the summits of the hills, the bases of which were clothed with vineyards; while the Waag held his course, rapidly and with great breadth,—now winding beneath one or other of the mountain ranges,—now bisecting the plain. It was, in truth, a glorious landscape, combining all that can be conceived short of the sublime, which is requisite to complete one of nature's fairest pictures. And seldom has it been gazed upon by wanderers better disposed to be affected by the influences which such scenery is doubtless designed to exercise. But we were, by-and-by, made to feel that highland districts, however much in other respects to be admired, are seldom favoured with the steadiness of climate which sheds its influence over the champaign. About

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ten o'clock a thick drizzle came on, which gradually merged into heavy rain; so that when we reached Neustadtl, which occurred at noon, we were very glad to find ourselves under the shelter of a roof.

Neustadtl is a town, containing perhaps twelve or fifteen hundred inhabitants, with two places of worship,—a Roman Catholic and a Reformed. It is governed, under the noble on whose land it is built, by a stadtrichter; a species of functionary, who owes his appointment to the lord of the soil, and is often, like the people over whom he presides, a mere serf. His authority in the place is, indeed, pretty absolute; for he can decide disputes, punish minor delinquents on the spot, and arrest suspicious characters; yet he himself may be sold, like any other of the lord's retainers, should it be necessary to make such a sale of the lands as the Hungarian law alone recognises. For it is a remarkable fact that, in Hungary, estates cannot, in strict propriety of speech, be sold at all. A man may burden his lands with mortgages to any amount, and if he fail in paying the interest, or satisfying others of the creditors' claims, the creditor may enter upon possession. But neither in this case, nor in the event of a special bargain, is the original

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owner supposed to forfeit, either for himself or his heirs, the right of recovery. A stranger purchases, in fact, but a thirty years' occupancy, and no more; at the expiration of which it is competent for the former proprietor, if he be alive,—or, in the event of his death, for his nearest of kin, to commence proceedings of retriever. But it is much easier to begin a suit in Hungary, than to obtain a judgment. The courts, which consist of the magistracy of each county, afford the utmost imaginable facilities to delay. They hear every statement on both sides; they pause long and often to weigh their relative plausibility; they send back the suitors again and again to amend their pleas; and when at length a decision is obtained, the party defeated may apply for a new trial, which is in no instance refused him. Finally, when all the quirks of this first tribunal are exhausted, an appeal lies elsewhere; till the case comes at last before the supreme court in Pesth, where years may elapse ere it be called on. The consequence is, that he who has once disposed of his property, because he was unable otherwise to sustain his credit, may, unless some extraordinary change in his circumstances befall, relinquish all hope of ever recovering it. His right may be admitted

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everywhere, ay, even in the courts before which it is necessary to establish it. But the sort of proof required is so strange, and the process of deducing it so tedious and so expensive, that more than the value of the property at issue is sure to be expended in the prosecution of the claim. I was told of several suits which had been pending for five-and-twenty years, and nobody appeared to anticipate that decisions would be obtained for five-and-twenty years longer.

Among other matters to which the stadtrichter is required to attend, there is one which deserves especial notice,—I allude to the providing what is called the forstban, for such travellers as have a right to demand it. The forstban is a privilege enjoyed by all nobles and government functionaries, of impressing the horses of the peasantry to drag them on their journey; which horses the stadt, or dorfrichter, calls in according to a regularly-kept roster, and for which the traveller pays at the rate, per pair, of two florins, or four shillings, for every station of ten English miles. Officers of the army make free and constant use of this privilege on all occasions; and to strangers, like ourselves, who may apply for an order in the proper quarter, it is very seldom refused.

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Now, oppressive as, according to our notions of things, such a custom may appear, I am not sure that I should be justified were I to speak of it, at least in Carpatia, as being looked on by the peasants in the light of a hardship. During harvest they are, indeed, extremely unwilling to leave their corn to the chances of bad weather, while they transport some eidelman or officer, whom they do not know, a couple of stages beyond their homes; but at other seasons, as their horses are numerous, and they have nothing in the world to do with them, even the poor remuneration of a florin per mile is coveted. It is true that, let them be as idle as they may, they never obey the summons promptly. Their cattle, if not engaged in the fields, are always turned out to graze; after the edict has gone forth, they must be hunted down; and this proves to be a task often of considerable difficulty where the pasturage includes a whole country side, and all men use it in common. But, independently of this, a Hungarian peasant never moves as if he were in a hurry. He will drive you, to be sure, at any pace you please, provided you either bribe or frighten him into a free use of the lash; and it is astonishing with what rapidity his small but hardy ponies whisk you over the

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plains, where the roads are mere tracks. But in making his preparations he is always slow, and not unfrequently sullen and ill-humoured. Poor fellow, he has not much reason to be otherwise; for a more degraded specimen of the human race is scarcely to be found in Europe, unless it be in Russia and Russian Poland.

Though we entered Hungary with the determination of accomplishing the greater part of our tour on foot, we had not neglected to provide ourselves with the proper warrant by means of which, if necessity should require, we might take advantage of our privilege of nobility. As was natural, however, in persons who felt themselves utter strangers in the land, we experienced some reluctance at the idea of taking a step, the consequences of which might, for aught we knew to the contrary, prove inconvenient; and though the continuance of the rain induced us to discuss the propriety of this measure, we had by no means made up our minds on the subject when we entered the town. Indeed we resolved, in the first instance, seeing that it was by far too early to halt, rather to make a bargain, if we could, with the innkeeper, and to get on a stage or two, by means of the boueren post,—in other words, by the

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help of horses and a carriage procured by private contract. For it is not in Hungary as it is in Germany, that even the regular posting is in the hands of the government. You are free, on the contrary, go where you will, to hire the horses of private persons; many of whom being decayed eidelmen, earn, on the great roads at least, a subsistence by letting them out. In such cases, however, you are entirely at the mercy of the natives; who are not, it must be confessed, very scrupulous as to the demand which they make upon you; and to conciliate whom, so soon as they have ascertained that you are a foreigner, is, in nine cases out of ten, a very hopeless undertaking.

With these projects in our heads, we picked our steps, as well as we could, through a street more than ankle-deep in mud; and having reached the square, or market-place, made for an inn, which was pointed out to us as the best in the place. It was kept by a Jew,—a race which appears to have pretty well monopolized this species of trade in Hungary, and whose influence, though not wantonly, or ostentatiously displayed, is in all the departments of Hungarian society, painfully felt. The Jews, in fact, are in Hungary even more than anywhere else, the sole capitalists within the realm. Money

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is their article of barter, and in doling it out, as they do, to a needy race of landowners, they reduce the borrower to a species of moral slavery. Every body, high and low, rich and poor, despises and hates the Jews. The peasants themselves affect to look down upon them; and before a noble they cringe to the dust; yet are they complete masters, in very many instances, of the comforts, the fortunes, I had almost said the lives, of the very men who appear thus to keep the foot upon their necks.

Among other privileges which he possesses, the Hungarian landowner enjoys the undisputed right of sovereignty within his own domain. No one may open a public-house, except by his permission, or carry across the march-line of the estate, any fermented or spirituous liquor. The inns are, in conseqnence, his exclusive property; and he may, or may not, according to his own free pleasure, authorize the persons whom he receives into them as tenants, either to distil spirits and make wine, or to provide both, if necessary, from some other quarter, and sell them to their guests. The Hungarian peasants are, however, great drinkers of alcohol, and a licence to accommodate them in this particular, is gene-

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rally considered as a sure source of profit to him who obtains it.

Accordingly, the Jew, when applied to for a loan, invariably stipulates with the needy eidelman for the exclusive privilege of tenanting the inns upon his estate, and of retailing wine and spirits to his people. Once established, however, in the enjoyment of these rights, and he holds both lord and vassal at his mercy. The former dare not move, lest the loan, with difficulty obtained, should be demanded back again; while the latter, a slave to his appetite, may be either won to anything, or deterred from it, by the promise of a dram, or the refusal even to sell it.

So far the power of the Jew is felt, and so far his privileges extend, but they go no further. A Jew cannot, for example, become the avowed owner of a rood of land. He may encumber the noble's estate so entirely, that the produce shall in fact become his own, or should the produce be inadequate to cover the interests of the loans, he may even force the debtor to sell his lands, and himself take possession of the purchase-money. But he may not, in his own person, enter upon the occupation of these lands and retain them. Let him, indeed, renounce his religion, and this disability passes away. His

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reception of the sacrament of baptism, puts him at once on a political level with other eidelmen; for it is curious enough that the descendants of Abraham, though utterly despised, are in Hungary treated as freemen. But so long as he continues to reject that, and to profess the faith of his fathers, the law has declared that the Jew shall acquire no permanent stake in the country. I remember, a few days later than this at which in my narrative I am now arrived, that there was pointed out to me a handsome residence on the banks of the Waag, of which for several years an Israelite had been in the occupation. "How is this?" said I to my guide; "I understood that Jews could not become landowners." "Nor can they," was the answer. "The proprietor of that castle hesitated for a while between his religion and his estate, but the estate proved, in the end, the more enticing of the two. Having kept it as long as he could, without submitting to the hated ordeal, he was forced at last to make his option; and though all the world knew that he believed not one word of Christianity, he preferred receiving baptism at the hands of the bishop, to rendering up his possessions. He makes no secret still of his total infidelity. Nevertheless, he has gone through the necessary forms, and there he

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is." It is fair to add, that instances of such gross hypocrisy are rare among the Hungarian Israelites; and that the individual in question was as coldly looked upon by his brethren after the flesh, as by the proud and fiery nobles among whom he had established himself.

We entered the hotel, took our places beside a table in the public room, dried ourselves beside the fire, and ordered dinner. Our host never for a moment appeared to doubt whether or not we were entitled to be treated with respect. The country people stared curiously at us, it is true,—and muddy as we were, and otherwise equipped for travel, I am not surprised that they should have been at a loss how to deal with us,—but Moses was more acute. He received our directions as to the provend, assured us that he would use his best exertions to procure a carriage, and left us to ourselves. We ate heartily, when, after an interval of two hours, some soup and boiled meat were set before us; and then, seeing that the rain had subsided, renewed our inquiries concerning a vehicle. Nothing of the sort was to be had. It was the beginning of harvest,—that is to say, the peasants were getting in their hay,—and no pecuniary offer could induce any of them to intermit the task for a moment.

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The idea of halting where we were till the morrow, more especially with the prospect of having similar difficulties to contend against when the morrow came, was not to be thought of for a moment. I therefore made up my mind to apply for a forstban; and having been directed to the stadtrichter's residence, I explained to him my wishes. They were promptly, and with the best grace possible, attended to. A sort of constable, or gendarme,—a personage arrayed in a hussar uniform, who wore a huge sabre by his side, and looked exceedingly fierce and self-important,—was despatched to bring in the necessary horses, while I returned to my place, in the great room of the inn, there to smoke my pipe, and exercise my patience, throughout a greater lapse of time than was at all agreeable.

A full hour expired ere the pandour (so the gendarme is called) returned, bringing with him a countryman, who reported that the horses were feeding, and would be ready in a few minutes. Where, however, was my carriage? I had no carriage. I depended upon the country to supply me with carriages as well as horses. They must go and provide some sort of vehicle also. There was, I thought, something like a disposition to murmur at this; but

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it led to no results, for the countryman departed as he was desired, regretting only that he had not been told how matters stood, in the first instance, because in this case some valuable time might have been saved. It came out, moreover, in the ordinary course of events, that I had reason to regret the circumstance likewise; for, as it had required a whole hour to get in the horses from the pasture, so another was consumed in fitting up the vehicle for our accommodation. At last, however, the announcement was made, that all things were ready, and we, having settled with our host, sallied forth. But the apparatus which greeted us, the sort of apology for a travelling equipage which awaited our approach at the inn-door, I shall not easily forget. The carriage was neither more nor less than a small four-wheeled wagon, made of rough boards, narrow at the bottom, spreading out slightly towards the top, and planted, not hung, upon its solid wooden axle-trees. Over it was drawn, because the sky appeared to lour, a canopy of coarse linen, bent round three or four hoops, and so rendered weather-tight; while a sort of arm-chair swung in the midst, each extremity being fastened to one of the wagon's sides, by thongs. Of the

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horses and harness, again, I need say no more, than that the former could not have measured twelve complete hands from hoof to shoulder, and that the latter, consisting simply of pieces of cord, not over-new, and very inadequately fastened to the collars, threatened, on the first severe pull, to give way, and thus to leave us in the lurch, where it might be highly inconvenient so to be left. It would have puzzled a heavier heart than that of my young companion to restrain its mirth, when the wagon, with its swinging seat, was exhibited as indicating more than an ordinary desire on the part of the authorities, to accommodate the travellers. I plead guilty to the offence of having been surprised into a hearty fit of laughing myself, in which, however, I was glad to find that both countryman and pandour joined me; and which was not converted into any less agreeable exercise to either, by the pieces of silver coin which I gave them as drinkgelt.

Our knapsacks were soon deposited in the bottom of the wagon, our arms arranged so that we could lay hold of them in an instant; and we ourselves occupying the arm-chair, the machine set forward. I had been told by persons to whom travelling in Hungary was fami-

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liar, that the only sure method of rendering it both safe and expeditious, was to keep the driver in a state of bodily fear. "Give him the stick," was the advice which I received, "and he will go like the wind. They are a miserable and abject race, these peasants, and everything like kindness would be wasted on them." I had never yet fallen in with that portion of my species on whom kindness was wasted; and I was not willing to believe that even the half-naked and savage-looking creature before me would form an exception to the general rule. I determined, therefore, to try whether or not he could be moved by hope as well as fear; so when we had cleared the town, and were proceeding at a very dull rate along a smooth road, I desired him to push on. The word for this is Riva, which I repeated several times. The fellow looked round disdainfully, and said something which I could not understand, but made no effort to hurry himself. Upon this, I took out my purse, put a couple of twenty kreutzer pieces into my hand, and showed them to him, ejaculating once more the word Riva, and I followed up the motion by lifting a stick, and laying it gently across his shoulders. The poor creature quite understood

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me. He smiled a very knowing smile, and setting up a halloo, and shaking his leathern thong, away we went at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour. I had no occasion to go further with my persuasives; the pace was kept up, long after it seemed to me that the jaded animals were capable of maintaining it.

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CHAPTER IV.

TRENTSCHIN.—THE RUINS.—TEPLA.—SCENE IN THE BANQUETING ROOM.—ILLOVA.—BEISE.—MR. DE BUTTS.—HIS QUARTERS.—SOBRI THE BANDIT.

THE point which I was desirous of reaching for the night was Tepla,—a watering-place still more fashionable than Pischtian, and at that moment filled, as our Jew landlord at Neustadtl had assured me, with the best company from all parts of Hungary. To accomplish this end, we passed more rapidly than I could have wished, through scenery which, in point of beauty and interest, left all that we had yet beheld in the shade. The valley, as we ascended it, grew continually more and more narrow,—the Waag, still broad, and though not limpid, certainly not muddy, assumed more decidedly than ever the character of a mountain-stream, while the mountains themselves, either because they came closer in upon us, or that their altitude had much increased, struck us as being bolder and grander than those of the morning. Moreover, about seven o'clock Trentschin, with the remains of its glorious citadel, frowned on

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us, as we approached the bridge by which we were to enter it. I have seen nothing like the ruins of this noble castle anywhere; and I shall therefore take the liberty of describing them more in detail.

Trentschin,—a fortification of very ancient date, of which a large portion was unquestionably built by the Romans,—stands at the foot of an enormous rock, which, overhanging the Waag at a point where the river well-nigh fills up all that is level in the valley, effectually blocks all passage to and fro, against such as the occupants of this stronghold may refuse to pass. The rock in question is entirely isolated, —that is to say, it stands out from the rest of the range, is not only not commanded by any of the eminences near, but everywhere overlooks them. Its height from the water's edge may be from five to eight hundred feet. Round its flat summit, walls and towers of enormous thickness are drawn, and on the slope which communicates with the town below, they are in an extraordinary manner accumulated. But time, the most certain of all innovators, has waged successful war even upon them. They are now but masses of ruins, prodigious even in their decay, but still ruins, and likely so to continue for ages. It seems, indeed, as if the

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authorities were not yet willing to give over to dissolution a pile which throughout so many ages has withstood the strife of the elements; for that portion of the castle which looks down upon the town, even now bears marks of being inhabited. We observed as we passed, for example, that the windows had iron bars in them, and that some of them were even glazed. But in all other quarters, the triumph of time has been complete. The old square dungeon stands in the centre of the pile, a monument of broken strength. In the solid walls, frequent breaches appear, the flanking towers have lost their proportions, and in many instances are bowed to the dust. As we beheld it that day, —with the sun throwing his beams upon it from the far west, I thought that I had never looked upon any memento of the labours of the mighty dead, more striking. There was a sort of reverential feeling upon me while I gazed up towards its site, which the veriest accident might, for aught I know to the contrary, have darkened into superstition.

I was too much occupied in examining the ruins of the castle, to pay much attention to the town which it shelters. I saw, indeed, that the general character of the one agreed well with that of the other; for Trentschin, in spite

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of the mineral springs that surround it, is falling rapidly into decay; but I had neither leisure nor inclination to examine it narrowly. The day was closing fast, and unless we made up our minds to halt here for the night, it was necessary to push forward. But a halt just then would have proved for many reasons, inconvenient, and we resolved, after a moment's hesitation, to avoid that inconvenience. I do not know that I lost much by listening to the whispers of prudence. Perhaps the view from the summit of the rock might have delighted us, and it is probable enough that, both there and in the town, we might have discovered some minute relics of the world's conquerors; but after all, would such discovery have brought them in a more imposing light before us, than the bold outline of their fortalice had already cast round them? I am sure that it would not, and therefore am I little disposed to lament even now that the deep and holy impression which was made upon me by contemplating their works in a mass, was neither diminished nor frittered away, even by a successful endeavour to trace them out in detail.

We continued our journey, having crossed the Waag by the bridge already referred to, and soon found ourselves in a new scene, of which

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I must not pause to speak in the terms which it merits. It was a rich fair strath, one neck of which extended between Trentschin and the hills opposite; while, of the other, we could take no further account, than that it seemed to lie at a great distance. Between these extreme points, again, the plain opened out into a sort of irregular oval, the edges of which were skirted by the mountains, while its centre was washed by the river. Of that plain, the fertility seemed to be prodigious. Corn, hay, buck-wheat, potatoes, grain of every sort, and various kinds of vegetables, overspread it; while the marks of care bestowed in order to rear them, were exceedingly slender. Moreover, there was much fine timber, chiefly along the gorges of the many glens which fell in upon it,—and the mountains from about mid-height, were clothed with it; while along their bases, and stretching towards the commencement of the forest, luxuriant vineyards were scattered. We saw, too, nodding, as it were, to Trentschin, another noble ruin,—such a ruin as would have excited our liveliest admiration, had not the greater and more majestic pile engrossed all of wonder, which on such subjects we had to bestow; while beneath it, about a gun-shot from the river's edge, stood a modern mansion, the resi-

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dence of the noble by whom the surrounding district was owned. I say nothing of villages or farm-houses. The latter do not exist anywhere out of England, and the former were here scanty enough; yet some there certainly were, lying wide apart from one another, and they added not a little to the beauty of the panorama.

Through this glorious district we passed, exceedingly grudging the departure of the light, which became every minute more and more scanty, till at last it sank into twilight. It was in the obscurity that fills up the interval between night and day, that we found ourselves at the mouth of a narrow glen, the road having bent gradually away towards the right, till it brought us quite beneath the mountains. Into this glen our driver turned, and we ascertained from his gestures, rather than from his words, that Tepla lay at the far end of it. Nothing could exceed the beauty of this portion of our drive, even as we beheld it through the gloom. A small but rapid stream washed the centre of the ravine; the road ran parallel with and close to its banks; the whole breadth of the pass could not exceed three or four hundred yards, and on either hand it was hemmed in by low but well-wooded hills. Not even the idea that

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these woods might be the haunts of dangerous neighbours, sufficed, for a moment, to interrupt our enjoyment of the drive. We felt about, indeed, in order to ascertain that our weapons were within reach, and fit for service; but we did not cease, even while making this investigation, to acknowledge the holy influence of the scene around us.

For a full hour we continued to hold our course by the side of the little stream, long before the termination of which even the gloaming had departed; and we were made aware, at last, of the vicinity of Tepla, by the glancing of lights from the windows. We passed a small bridge, halted for an instant at the further extremity, to inquire the way to the inn, and then drove into the heart of just such another overgrown village as Pischtian, with this difference, that Tepla is the larger of the two. Even in the obscurity of night I could ascertain that the houses were mere huts, built in the most approved style of Hungarian architecture. They seemed, indeed, to be planted more near to each other than in Pischtian, and a sort of covered market-place occupied the centre of an area, round which many of them were drawn; but their walls were manifestly constructed of mud, their roofs were thatched, and

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there were none which in point of height exceeded one story. It was evident enough, however, from the amazing bustle which prevailed, that be they commodious or the reverse, none of them lacked for occupants. A crowd of people was gathered together in the square, some lounging about, some passing to and fro, some gossiping in mere idleness, some hurrying as if to execute a given task, while every door stood open, and every door-way was partially filled by one or more persons, curious to ascertain the nature of the new arrival. Through this half-busy throng we drove; till having reached a house considerably larger than the others, over the door of which a swinging sign was suspended, we there stopped, and put the important question, "Can we be accommodated for the night?"

I had not ventured to hope for what might deserve to be called good quarters, but I did expect to find a place wherein to lay our heads. I was quite mistaken in my anticipations. There was not so much as a vacant bed in the house; but if we would return to the market-place, and inquire at the New Hotel, we might perhaps succeed in accomplishing our wishes. To the market-place I accordingly hurried back on foot, leaving the wagon and the knapsacks in

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charge of my companion; and a waiter acting as my guide, soon found out the desired domicile; but my further researches led to no satisfactory result. If I were to give twenty florins for a room, it could not be furnished. Not the hotels only, but all the houses in the place, were full to overflowing; and more than one distinguished family had been obliged to go elsewhere, because they had neglected in time, to bespeak their apartments. We were completely taken aback by this intelligence. The weather was too unsettled for bivouacking, and had it been ever so fine, a bivouac in the streets of a fashionable watering-place is not very desirable; while to pass on to another stage would be, not merely to prolong our night journey, but to cut ourselves off from the edification on which we had counted as likely to arise out of a brief sojourn in Tepla. Mine host, the landlord of both inns, saw the dilemma in which we were placed, and made an effort to set us free from it. We might have a portion of his own room if we pleased. To be sure, it was not very large; and in addition to himself, there slept in it, his wife, his wife's mother, four children, and two female servants; but there was space, he believed, for two other couches, and they should be got ready for us

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immediately. I thanked the kind Hungarian warmly for what was, in truth, a truly generous offer; but I could not bring myself to take advantage of it. Visions of all sorts of horrors rose into my mind; and let me do justice to myself, I was unwilling to run the risk of shocking the delicacy of the ladies; but of this latter objection, when I urged it, my friend made very light. "Don't say a word about that," was the reply: "the women all go to bed early, and rise early: they will be sound asleep ere you think of lying down, and long before you are awake, they will be up, and about their daily business." I admitted the full force of the argument, but was not swayed by it. "Then," continued mine host, "there is nothing for it, but to provide you with a carriage, and send you on to Illova. It is one post and a-half distant from this; but you may reach it soon after midnight; and as the hotel is large, there can be no doubt of your finding accommodation there." To this suggestion, I was forced, sorely against my will, to assent; so while the carriage was preparing, we removed our knapsacks into the hall, and adjourned to the Speisen Saal to supper.

The Speisen Saal, or banqueting apartment, attached to the New Hotel in Tepla, forms a

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distinct building by itself. It is erected in rear of the house, and standing in a garden, amid grove of trees, presented to our eyes at that moment a very attractive object. From the branches of these trees, a profusion of lamps hung down, the rays emitted by which guided us to the door, and a band of music, placed somewhere in the shade, cheered us with sweet sounds as we moved forward. And a very lively and interesting spectacle it was, which greeted us when we passed beneath the portal. The hall was large,—it could not measure less than sixty feet in length, by twenty or thirty in width,—yet was it filled, at all its innumerable tables, by ladies and gentlemen. Scores of lamps suspended from the ceiling, with a rich glass chandelier in the midst, shed a volume of light over the company, the whole of whom were engaged in eating, drinking, talking, laughing, and giving other evidence of a state both of body and mind altogether at ease. Then, again, the dresses of all were handsome, —of some even brilliant. The ladies wore such robes as we see in London, in Vienna, and in Paris; but of the men, many were arrayed in the picturesque costume of their country, having their moustaches well curled, their vests richly embroidered, their short cloaks made of

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velvet, and their swords handsomely mounted and furnished. Officers, too, were there, in their plain white uniforms,—gentlemanly looking persons, and, as it seemed to me, in high favour with the fair sex, whether because their manners were more gentle, or their faces smoother than those of the lay nobles, I cannot pretend to say. On the whole, the spectacle was as striking as anything of the sort to which I recollect at any other time to have become a witness; and we were not sorry that the accustomed tardiness of the Hungarian grooms gave us ample time and leisure to enjoy it.

We seated ourselves at a table where there happened to be some vacant places, and ordered supper. It came, and was eaten to the notes of the band, and amid the buzz of a ceaseless and animated conversation. The dishes were well dressed, the attendance was good, the display of plate would not have disgraced the Schwan in Vienna, and the wine was excellent. But the charge was that which surprised us more than anything besides; for it amounted barely to eighteen pence. We paid it, wondering how such splendour could be provided at such a cost per head, even in a place like this; and finding that the carriage was ready, quitted the hall. A couple of hours' travel

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conveyed us to Illova, where we found a large inn empty of guests, of which the landlord having been knocked up, beds were got ready, and we slept, as on such occasions we generally did, like tops.

We had been startled, when we first lay down, with the sounds of angry voices below stairs, which continued much longer than we cared to listen for them, and ended, I do not know when. On inquiring into the cause of the tumult next morning, we ascertained that such events were of almost nightly occurrence. The peasants, as I have stated elsewhere, being much addicted to drinking, hoard up their little earnings carefully, till they have saved enough to ensure a hearty carouse, and then they repair to the gasthof. They swallow large doses of alcohol, and their tempers, naturally choleric, becoming inflamed by the spirit, they brawl, quarrel, and sometimes fight, over their cups. I could gather, however, from my informant's tone, that fighting was more frequently threatened than begun. The Hungarians generally, high and low, are a fiery race; much addicted to take offence, and fond of boasting; but report belies them, if, when it comes to the point, they be as ready to deal a blow as to threaten one, except where they feel that they

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may deal it with impunity. So, at least, say their rivals in many things, the officers which the Austrian government quarters among them. My own observation, on the other hand, brought before me no evidences either for or against this theory. I found them universally frank, hospitable, and kind; and if there was a little of the Bobadil in the manners of individuals, I did not conceive that it was either offensive or out of place, in men, vibrating, as it were, between the extreme limits of modern civilization, and the barbarism of the middle ages.

We rose next day later than was our wont, having been fatigued by our overnight's vigil and travelling. The rain fell in torrents, and our prospects appeared sombre enough, for Illova is a poor village, and to quit it, either on foot or in an open wagon, in such weather, was scarcely to be thought of. We inquired whether a britschka could be procured, or any other vehicle with a covering; but we were answered in the negative. What could we do? We gazed from the window upon an unceasing plash of water; inquired as to the uses of an extensive building opposite; learned that it had been a convent till the reign of Joseph II., by whom it was suppressed, and that it is now the residence of a private person to whom the emperor

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granted it. Next we turned our eyes upon some stalls, beside which three women sat cowering, that they might sell their cakes to the passing peasants;—and were positively thankful when the retinue of a noble drove up on its way to the baths at Tepla. It consisted of not fewer than four carriages and a wagon; the first of which, drawn by four horses, contained the noble, his lady, and two children; the second, some maidens and children more; the third, what seemed to be the upper servants of the household; while the fourth, as well as the wagon, was loaded with mattresses, kettles, pots, saucepans, and all the other requisites for rendering a lodging-house habitable. But even this source of amusement was soon withdrawn, for the cavalcade rolled by, and we saw it no more. There was no enduring such a state of things beyond a given interval. We ordered a forstban at last, and, about noon, setting wind and weather at defiance, took the road to Biese.

The elements proved much more kind than we could have anticipated, for we had suffered but little inconvenience from the storm, when the rain ceased, the mists cleared away, and the noble landscape unrolled itself before us. In all its principal features it resembled that which we had passed on our progress to Tepla.

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There was the same open and rich strath, the same noble river, the same mountains growing continually bolder; while the little towns of Bellus, Vag Besztereze, and Predmir, each, as we came to it in turn, offered some novelty to rouse, if not to charm. At last our place of destination was pointed out, when it stood on the opposite bank of the Waag, and our wagon having driven down to the water's edge, we awaited there the return of the ferry-boat. It came at length; we were transported to the further shore; and about seven in the evening had possessed ourselves of a chamber in a sorry inn; the best, however, of which Biese could boast, though kept, like that at Neustadtl, by one of the descendants of Jacob.

I have nothing but civility to record of the Hungarian innkeepers. Their houses were often filthy enough, and their accommodations wretched; but in themselves I always found them willing and anxious to meet the wishes of their guests to the utmost extent of their means. The first question on arrival naturally was, "Whence come ye, and what is your business here?" But the answer, "We are English, and travel merely for amusement," was in no instance doubted. To-day, for example, our host put the accustomed inquiry, and we met

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it; upon which he hastened to inform us, that there was quartered in the town a countryman of our own, who held rank as a lieutenant in a regiment of Austrian cuirassiers. I lost no time, so soon as our own toilet was completed, in writing a note to this gentleman, and in requesting that he would do us the favour to be our guest at supper: and we were much gratified, as on every account we had reason to be, when he kindly accepted the invitation.

We found Mr. De Butts a scholar, a gentleman, a soldier, and a man of very extensive information. He was well read in the literature both of his own country and of Germany; and he appeared to have taken great pains in order to make himself acquainted with the history and usages of the people among whom he now lived. I obtained from him, in consequence, a great many valuable hints, such as were of infinite use to me in the prosecution of my further inquiries; and I always found that the statements which he had made were correct to the letter. But it was not in reference to the graver points of national usages and manners alone, that his conversation proved to me highly interesting. He knew the histories of all the ruins far and near; and could repeat many of the legends that were connected

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with them; and for the tales that were current touching gypsies, brigands, and other wild animals, his memory appeared to have become a storehouse. I am not going to swell the amount of these pages by retailing one-half of the anecdotes to which I listened. But a specimen or two of the legends that refer both to the olden time, and to days of more recent date, may be given with advantage, inasmuch as the habits of thinking among a people are never more clearly set forth than in the tales with which they delight to cheer the circle at their own fire-sides.

Mr. De Butts having spent this evening with us, insisted that we should breakfast with him in the morning; and defer our journey another day, in order to visit, in his company, some objects that would reward us for the exertion. We readily consented; because our business in penetrating into Hungary at all was not that we might be able to boast of having traversed it from end to end, but that we might carry back with us, when we quitted it, some knowledge of the country, of the people, and of their modes of thinking and acting. Accordingly, about eight o'clock next morning, we picked our steps through the mud of what must, I presume, be called the streets, and

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arrived at his quarters. Let me describe them; that our lieutenants of cavalry may compare with their own style of home service, the sort of life which is led, even in times of peace, by a subaltern in one of the crack regiments under the Austrian crown.

We found out Mr. De Butts' house by observing where a sentry kept post. It was a thoroughly unassuming mansion, fronting the sort of place, or square, which is to be found in all Hungarian towns however small, and stood, if I recollect right, two stories from the ground. We entered beneath an arched passage, and taking to the right, ascended a flight of wooden stairs, and arrived at a landing-place. Two or three troopers, in their stable-dresses, were standing there, who, on our inquiring for their officer, directed us towards the door of an apartment which we pushed open. We found ourselves, on crossing the threshold, in a large room, round the walls of which the bridles, saddles, cuirasses, and helmets of eight or ten soldiers were suspended. The beds, rolled up, occupied the far corner, and the men themselves were seated on benches, furbishing up their accoutrements. "Which is Lieutenant De Butts' quarter?" said I. "There, sir," was the answer, while a corporal pointed to-

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wards another door. "If you want to see him, you have only to knock; for the morning was rainy, and he has not yet come abroad." I did knock, and our friend's ready invitation to enter, replied to the signal.

We pushed open the door, and the officer, in the retirement of his soldier-like home, was before us. The room was small, uncarpeted, and I might almost add, wholly unfurnished. At one extremity was a rude bedstead, constructed of deals, whereon, as yet in his night gear, reclined our countryman. He had treated himself, in consequence of the rain which fell at dawn, to the luxury of a long rest; and he made the most of his idle time by reading as he lay. At the other extremity was a window, a small and most inconvenient casement. There was a chest of drawers,—his own property,—against the wall;—a deal table, three or four stools, a canteen, a portmanteau or two, and a large chest. Such were the contents of a room, of which the walls were barely plastered, the roof unceiled, the wood-work unpainted, and which could not boast even of the convenience of a fire-place. But, as if to make up for these rudenesses, the soldier's arms, —in the best order for service,—lay all within reach. Over his head hung his pistols;—half a

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dozen swords, of various shapes and value, were tied up together in a bundle in the near corner; while the weapon which did duty on occasions of parade, was equipped with belt, sword-knot, and slings. His helmet and cuirass, likewise, had each its appointed place; and boots, and coat, and other articles of personal equipment, were all so arranged as to be immediately attainable even in the dark. In a word, my friend's country billet reminded me of my own quarters long ago, when, being attached to an army in the immediate presence of the enemy, I was fortunate enough to procure a quarter. Everything about it savoured much more of war than of peace; of the habits of one who is prepared, at any moment, to engage in mortal strife, rather than of your carpet knight, who fares delicately all day long, and sleeps, when day is over, upon eider-down.

"You see how we rough it," said the soldier, rising, and addressing himself to his most military toilet. "Half my squad are in this house, and all the horses stand in the stable. I like to keep the men well together; for we can never tell, in this wild region, how soon we may be called to act as a body."

"Indeed!" said I. "Are the people discontented, or is it in consequence of the banditti,

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of whom I heard something at Presburg, that you are always on the alert?"

"As to the banditti," replied he, "they are often heard of, but rarely seen. Though we certainly have had some strange fellows among us, they never gave us the slightest trouble. Neither, indeed, do we apprehend much from the people. Contented they certainly are not for they still think that the act of 1835 set them free; and the period is not very distant since a large portion of this country was under martial law. But all that is over now. When a village becomes refractory, as it sometimes does, the lord has only to report the circumstance at head-quarters, and down comes an order to station a troop, or half a troop of horse among the peasantry, who are compelled to supply them with every thing which they require without receiving any compensation. It is astonishing how soon people return to their senses when fifty or sixty men and horses are turned loose on them to live at free quarters."

"Why, then, are you so continually on the *qui vive?*"

"Because such are our instructions; because if there occur a fire, or any other general calamity in the neighbourhood, we are expected to hasten to the assistance of the sufferers; and

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because our vigilance is often put to the test by the arrival of sudden routes. It is no uncommon thing in our service that we are roused up at midnight, and marched off, bag and baggage, merely to effect some change of station."

"And is it always so with you?" demanded I.

"Always as you now see it," was the answer; "except for two months in the autumn. Then the regiment, which is at present scattered in detachments through the villages, will concentrate; and after having practised for a while by itself, it will form brigade with another regiment, and we shall manœuvre together. At other seasons, we shift for ourselves, each captain, each lieutenant, and indeed each officer, having his division, more or less numerous according to his rank; for the maintenance of discipline in which, as well as for its general efficiency, he is responsible."

A good deal more of such conversation passed between us, while Mr. De Butts was dressing; but I need not refer to it now, because a better opportunity will offer in the sequel. Rather let me state, that so soon as his toilet was completed, we turned our attention to the affair of breakfast; and that it was prepared with all the despatch, and something of the rudeness,

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which mark the progress of a similar meal in camp. Some coffee was put into a portable biggin; a lamp, with burning spirits of wine, was placed under it, a few light cakes were distributed, and our morning repast was before us. We discussed it in five minutes, and then sallied forth.

Our friend now suggested that we should return to Predmir, where the head-quarters of his troop were established, and dine there, at a nice clean little inn, with himself and his brother officers. This done, it would be competent for us, should the weather permit, to visit the pass of Sullov, one of the most remarkable things of the kind throughout the whole valley of the Waag. We were, of course, at his disposal, and he sent accordingly for a forstban, by means of which we might reach our post, while he, and a young cadet, who did duty with his squad, performed their excursion on horseback. Again was the ferry crossed, and again were we taught how broad the line of distinction is between gentle and simple in this free country. A body of peasants were charged toll for the transport of their wagons, while on us and our military escort, no demand was made. We did not, it is true, take any unfair advantage of the privilege, for it is customary among military

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men, and especially among the English officers in the Austrian service, to disregard it; indeed they are favourites everywhere with the keepers of tolls and ferries, because they give them, in the shape of donations, much more than custom authorizes them to demand; but the fact itself was forced upon our observation, as well as others which had no tendency to make us in love with the Hungarian institutions. A sharp word from a man in uniform makes a Hungarian peasant shrink into nothing. He cringes and fawns like the veriest slave before an angry master; indeed, he seems incapable, such is the force of long and continued oppression, of being stirred out of the stupid indolence which is his natural disposition, except by the force of fear.

We arrived at Predmir about noon, and proceeded at once to the hotel. Though kept like that at Biese by a Jew, it really merited all the praise which Mr. De Butts had bestowed upon it; it was clean and tidy, and did honour to the domestic habits of the fair daughters of Jacob, who waited upon us, and ministered to our wants. Here we were joined by another lieutenant and another cadet, and at one o'clock our dinner was laid upon the table. It bore little resemblance, certainly, to the mess, even of a detachment in the English service. Yet

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was it a good meal, notwithstanding, and the wine was excellent. But there is no sitting late in this country, at least after dinner; so in an hour, or something less, the fragments were cleared away. Then followed the pipe, without which neither German nor Hungarian could exist, and we were ready for our excursion.

"You asked me a question respecting banditti," said my companion, as we sat together on the rough hay couch which filled up the further extremity of the wagon. "Have you ever heard of our Hungarian Robin Hood, Sobri, with whose exploits all the empire rang not long ago?"

I answered in the affirmative, but added, as the truth required, that my acquaintance with the bandit's history was very vague.

"Well, then, if you please, I will give you an outline of the tradition which passes current for fact all over the country; and the tale will probably interest you the more, that it represents the man himself, as in some sort a brigand upon principle. There has never been a time when Hungary could be said to be free from banditti. The great extent of its plains, its enormous forests, and the scantiness of the population, all contribute to render concealment easy; and so destitute are our peasants

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of the means of subsistence throughout the slack season of the year, that they are often driven, as a resource against starvation, to plunder. Almost all the fellows whom you see keeping pigs and cattle on the commons, become robbers as soon as winter sets in, and even now, I don't think that it would be prudent in any person, not in uniform, to join himself to their company. But that has nothing to do with my story.

"Sobri, who acted his part upon the stage so recently as twelve months ago, was, as my authorities declare, by birth a peasant. His father, however, who had contrived to accumulate some little property, was ambitious of rearing him to the ministry in the Reformed church; and, after giving him as good a school education as circumstances would allow, he sent him to Pesth for the purpose of qualifying him for orders. But the more Sobri studied, the deeper was the chagrin which he experienced while contemplating his own degraded state, and that of his family. It is whispered, that the noble under whom they lived was apt to stretch his power to the utmost. But, however this may be, it is very certain that Sobri went to college a bitter enemy to the feudal institutions of his country,

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and that he soon began to inculcate his peculiar views upon the young men with whom he principally associated.

"From the utterance of complaints, these young enthusiasts proceeded, by degrees, to concert schemes of reform. They must regenerate their country; and as it was vain to think of operating on the patriotism of the rich or the reasoning faculties of the poor, they must appeal to the fears of the former class and the gratitude of the latter. They would go forth, and fight the battle of equal rights against all who should resist them. And forth they went, not to lift the standard of revolt and to rally round it men imbued with the same spirit which animated themselves,—for they knew that such were rare in Hungary, where the serf, hating his bondage, is yet incapable of making any serious effort to break the chain,—but to earn a livelihood for themselves by the sword; to rob the rich as often as an opportunity offered, and to minister, out of the abundance which they might thus acquire, to the necessities of the poor. In any other quarter of civilized Europe, such a device must have ended in the speedy destruction of the contrivers. In Hungary it fully answered its purposes; and its authors for some years prowled

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about, at once the terror and the admiration of the districts through which they roved.

"There is no end to the tales of Sobri's gallantry, Sobri's skill, Sobri's disinterestedness, and Sobri's humanity. The women all assert, that he was the handsomest man that ever was seen; and his age was precisely what it ought always to be in a romantic brigand. When he first took the field, he was about two-and-twenty; when he died, for he fell at last, he had not completed his twenty-ninth year. His band, likewise, was trusty, and obedient, and devoted. It is represented as varying from about an hundred and fifty to fifty men; and like the band of our own bold outlaw in Sherwood, it had the faculty of ubiquity. People heard of Sobri's followers having robbed some castle, or waylaid some rich traveller, near Pesth; and next day some similar exploit was performed in the vicinity of Presburg. But it is time to enter into detail.

"There was no class of society which lay more open to Sobri's hostility than the Roman Catholic clergy. The dignitaries, be it observed, of the Romish church, in Hungary, are very rich; and a rich churchman was a nuisance not, in the bandit's estimation, to be tolerated; so he made upon them incessant war, and invari-

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ably with equal address and good fortune. As a specimen of his mode of levying contributions, take the following. There was a certain wealthy dean, resident not far from Graan, before the door of whose house there one day stopped a carriage, from which two gentlemen in military attire descended, that they might claim from him the rites of hospitality. One was a general, the other his aide-de-camp, and both were on their way to Vienna; and as the inns on that road are very poor, they made no scruple about breaking in upon the good dean's domestic quiet. They were received, of course, with the utmost urbanity, sumptuously entertained at dinner, and urged to stay all night; but the calls of duty were urgent, and they must needs go. The dean's conversation, however, had so charmed the general, that he was very unwilling to lose it; so he proposed, as there was ample room in the carriage, that the divine should take a seat there, and accompany him and his aide-de-camp as far as the dwelling of another priest, between whom and the dean a strict intimacy subsisted. Such a proposal was by far too flattering not to be at once acceded to. The dean placed himself beside the agreeable general, and the carriage drove off.

"The country about Graan is, like other

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districts, very thinly peopled. There was, therefore, no occasion to travel far; indeed, at the first wood which they encountered, the carriage stopped; and lo, the pretended general cast aside his disguise. Throwing open an outer garment, he exhibited a profusion of pistols and daggers about his person, and then coolly said, 'I am Sobri.' The dean trembled from head to foot, and entreated that he might be spared, on which the bandit laughed heartily, while he replied, 'I entertain no design whatever against your life. If I had wished to kill you, I should have done so at your own table. But you are wallowing in wealth, while crowds of better men are starving. You have probably nothing about you at present which it would be worth my while to accept; but mark! you must have ready for me against this day month, five thousand florins. See that you don't fail in this, for I shall certainly call for it; and if it be not handed over to me, I will put you to death, aye, though all the members of the legislature should be beside you.' So saying, the bandit coolly desired the dean to alight, and when this was done, drove off.

"Sobri's words rang in the poor dean's ears day and night. Now he determined to disregard the injunction, and by extreme vigilance

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to defeat the designs of the threatener; now he remembered the many instances in which the brigand had accomplished greater marvels, and his courage failed him. At last he resolved to adopt a middle course. His tenants were called upon to pay up their arrears, heavy fines were levied on defaulters, and a purse containing the stipulated number of florins was laid up in his escrutoire. At the same time, however, he was resolute to save his money if he could. With this view, he acquainted all his neighbours, both far and near, with the strange adventure that had befallen him, and expressing his belief that Sobri would at least attempt to carry his threat into execution, he invited them all to pass the appointed day under his roof, where he made ample preparations to entertain them. They came true to the season fixed upon, and as each noble brought with him a retinue of armed servants, the consumption of viands was prodigious. At length the guests sat down to dinner, and the dean was already congratulated on his escape from the violence which he had apprehended, when a carriage drove into the court-yard. It contained a venerable bishop with two of his chaplains, who being on their way to take possession of a diocese which had been some time vacant, could not, of course,

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think of passing the dean's gate, without paying their respects. In an instant, the dean was at the door of the carriage. He would never recover the mortification, should his lordship refuse to honour his poor dwelling with his presence, more especially on such a day as that, when all his neighbours were met together to do him honour. The bishop hesitated; but what could he do? It would have been cruel to leave a brother churchman in sorrow; so, attended by his chaplains, he alighted, and the whole were ushered into the banqueting-room.

"The prelate was led, as a matter of course, to the seat of honour; and the feast went on, not without many sharp cuts at Sobri's insolence, and sneers at his lack of power to act as he had threatened. But the bishop could not stay beyond a certain hour. He had far to travel, and fearing lest he too might fall in with this Sobri, he was anxious to reach his stage ere daylight departed. Before he went, however, he would communicate with the dean in private, and give him his blessing. The dean rose, the bishop's chaplains did the same; and the whole four withdrew into a chamber apart. The result need hardly be stated. 'You see I have kept my word,' said Sobri, opening his

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episcopal habit, and making a display of the weapons that were under it. 'Now give me the five thousand florins, or you are a dead man.' The dean looked round. On each side of him stood a chaplain, with a pistol in his hand, and he saw that his case was desperate.

"'So far, so good,' observed Sobri, as he put up the purse with its contents in his pocket; 'but now you must be our safeguard beyond the risk of pursuit. You shall apologize to your company for putting me a mile upon my way: and take care that you do so naturally; for if, either by accident or design, you lead them to suspect that I am not what I appear to be, you die on the instant.' The unhappy dean had some difficulty in restraining the violence of his terror; but the apparition of the two chaplains,—one before, and the other behind him,—as he paced through the hall, had an astonishing effect upon his nerves. He made his apology, walked with the bishop to his carriage, entered it in a state of mind which the imagination must describe, and was carried about a post from his house. There Sobri released him; and he returned to tell how faithfully the brigand's pledges had been redeemed, and to impress those who listened to his story,

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with a strong conviction that some power more irresistible than belongs to humanity had taken the bandit under its care.

"Such was one tale, illustrative of the coolness and talent of that remarkable brigand. Another I may venture to give, as exhibiting both the sort of control which he was accustomed to exercise over his own people, and the degree of terror in which his name was held by the constituted authorities.

"It happened, once upon a time, that a travelling mechanic,"—[one of that class of persons of whom I have elsewhere spoken, as traversing Germany with their wares, and who follow the same practice in Hungary,]—"was pounced upon while skirting a wood, and robbed of all his little property. The men who plundered him, took away likewise his pass-book,—in other words, the certificate as to character which he had received at the police-office, and without exhibiting which, duly viséed from his last station, he was liable, on entering any town, to be arrested and cast into prison. The loss of his goods affected him very much, but the loss of this document was even more serious. The first might be replaced, the last could not; and he wept bitterly at the thought of the probable consequences to his person and his

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liberty. He was thus mourning his evil fate, when a cavalier, well mounted and handsomely dressed, met him. What was the matter? why did he shed tears? The poor fellow explained the nature of his misfortune, and the cavalier seemed affected by it. 'Do you think that you should know the men who robbed you, if you were to see them again?' demanded the stranger. 'I have no doubt of that fact,' was the reply. 'Will you, then, come back with me? We will try to discover them, and make them restore your property.' The poor mechanic, who believed that he had seen quite enough of such acquaintances, protested against the proposed plan, and entreated his generous champion to recollect the risks to which he would himself be exposed, 'Oh, never you mind all that,' replied the cavalier, 'that is my concern, not your's. Only come back with me, and I have no doubt we shall recover your effects.'

"They turned back, accordingly, and the stranger having been informed of the exact spot where the robbery was perpetrated, stopped there, and whistled thrice. Two men came immediately from the thicket, whom the traveller recognised as his tormentors. 'How could you,' cried the stranger, 'so far forget yourselves, as to rob a poor fellow like this?

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Are we become common thieves? shall we take from them who more require that we should give?' He whistled again, and more people arrived, whom he commanded to seize and flog the perpetrators of the vile deed. This done, he caused them to disgorge their ill-gotten booty, and adding something considerable to it from his own purse, he restored all, the pass-book included, to the mechanic. 'Now go,' said he, addressing himself to the astonished traveller, 'go and tell wherever you arrive, how it is that Sobri deals with his men, when they forget what is due to his orders, and their own character.'

"The astonished mechanic did not know what to make of the extraordinary adventures that had befallen him. He accepted Sobri's bounty, and repaired, with a glad heart, to the nearest town, where, in the exuberance of an overflowing spirit, he spoke, in the coffee-room of the inn, concerning the occurrences of the day. The authorities heard of it, and he was commanded to appear before them. 'You have seen Sobri?' was the substance of their address to him, 'and you will know him again? He is the terror of this neighbourhood. We offer you a reward of an hundred ducats if you will direct our officers where to find him.'

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The poor fellow was taken all aback. One hundred ducats would have been a fortune to him, but then he could not bear the thought of betraying his benefactor, and he told the magistrates that though he should certainly know the brigand again, he was entirely ignorant of his haunts.

"'That may or may not be,' answered they; 'but we have certain information that he is at this moment prowling about the town or its outskirts, and if you refuse to assist us in apprehending him, we will commit you to prison as a participator in his crimes.' The magistrates in Hungary have a strange notion of law and justice, and these would have certainly kept their word; but the youth, who knew this, dissembled with them. 'Well, then, as I must seek a home elsewhere, when this deed shall have been done,' said he, 'you must make the reward more than an hundred ducats.' They did not object to this, and promised him one hundred and fifty.

"From the presence of the authorities the mechanic went forth, an alarmed and anxious man. Instead of wandering through the streets, he withdrew at once beyond the limits of the town, and was walking on, the reverse of joyously, when a person met him, whom he would

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have passed. 'What!' demanded the stranger, 'don't you know me? Have you already forgotten the cavalier who recovered for you your property?'

"'No,' replied the poor fellow, 'I knew you the instant you appeared; but I was willing to make as if I knew you not, for there is a price on your head.'

"'I am aware of that,' answered Sobri, 'and it is in order to obtain that price for you, that I am here. Go back immediately to the authorities; tell them where you have seen me, and say that I am sure to be in the same place at the same hour to-morrow. You need not add, unless you please, that I shall come attended by fifty of my men. Whether they give you the reward or not, they will not venture to seek me. Come you, however, and I will show you, that Sobri knows as well how to reward good faith in a stranger, as how to punish bad faith among his own people.'

"The mechanic did as he was desired, but no portion of the hundred and fifty ducats were handed over to him. It would be given to him only when the ruffian should be secured; they could not throw away such a sum at a venture. No attempt was, however, made to establish his claim on their beneficence, for they

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never ventured to court a meeting with the robber chief. But the mechanic met him, and received at his hands a purse containing a thousand florins."

These are but two out of the many tales, which both now and at other stages in our wanderings, were told us of Sobri. He was described by all who spoke of him, as a bold, cool, and in some sort, a chivalrous man. Even when engaged in acts of violence, his urbanity of manner never forsook him, and he became in consequence, a prodigious favourite with the fair sex. To one lady, whose house he robbed in the absence of her husband, he returned all the silver spoons, because she begged only for the pap-spoon with which her infant was fed. On another occasion, a little girl wept because he had taken a gold watch which belonged to her godmother, and he restored it. But it was his policy, in sharing with the poor, the plunder which he collected from the rich, that obtained for him the unbounded love of the peasants. Not only could they never be persuaded, either by the promise of reward, or the threat of punishment, to betray him; but he was regularly warned as often as danger approached, and furnished with every facility to evade it. Even now, it is uncertain what his

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fate may have been. I believe, indeed, that he was killed in a skirmish, some time in the spring of 1837; when being overtaken by a detachment of lancers, he turned to bay: but this is by no means certain, inasmuch, as the sole evidence for the fact is, the statement of one of his followers, by whom a body was pointed out as his, after the affair had ended. Now if there existed for him, as the head of the band, the romantic attachment of which I heard so much, why should not this man have purposely deceived the troops, in order that pursuit might slacken, and the hunted chief escape? But however this may be, Sobri's horde has long been broken up. Here and there, parties of four or five are still heard of, as infesting the roads, and roaming through the forests. But the nucleus of the force, which was in its own peculiar way to regenerate Hungary, has disappeared.

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CHAPTER V.

GLEN OF SULLOV.—PROTESTANT POPULATION.—SILLEIN.—FISH THE WAAG.—CASTLE OF BUDATIN.—MARCH UP THE VALE.—OVAR CASTLE.—TORPINDA SETTLEMENT.

It was our business after quitting Predmir, to visit the glen of Sullov; and we accomplished it. The scene was wild throughout; and at the farther extremity, almost terrific. When you first enter the defile, there is a considerable breadth of level country, which grows, however, at each step, more narrow; till in the end, the rocks appear to close round you, and the road by which you have advanced, is all the space not rugged and broken that remains. By-and-by you find yourself walled in, as it were, by precipices; and you turn anxiously to the peasant who has guided you, and demand whither you are about to be conducted: for there seems to be no outlet to the fissure. A bald, bare, perpendicular crag is before you, and there the very road appears to terminate. The guide is prepared for your question, and smiles while he conducts you round this granite buttress, and

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shows you the same road sweeping into another vale, at once more extensive and better peopled. We were exceedingly delighted with the drive; and turned our backs upon the romantic spot not without regret.

There are a good many Protestants scattered through Hungary, and in these mountain districts they abound. The vale of Sullov, for example, is principally peopled by them, and their presence is marked, both there and elsewhere, by a more than common display of the traces of industry around them. It is said, too, that they are in general more moral than their Romish neighbours, and it is certain, that they are better educated; indeed, education among the Catholic portion of the Hungarian peasantry is entirely neglected. But I am bound to add, that from the Catholics, though the dominant party in the state, the Protestants receive no annoyance. The most perfect harmony, on the contrary, prevails; for no person considers it necessary to fall out with his neighbours because of differences in their creed; and the very clergy of the rival churches, exercise all the rites of hospitality one towards another. As I shall have occasion to revert to this subject by-and-by, when it will fall in more naturally with the order of my journal, I must for the present

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content myself with remarking, that the spirit of tolerance is more conspicuous among the Romanists, than among their rivals. I never heard a Catholic speak with a sneer of the faith of the Protestants—I never heard a Protestant speak otherwise than contemptuously of the ignorance and superstition of his Catholic neighbour.

From the vale of Sullov we passed to Sillein, about ten miles nearer than Beise to the source of the Waag, and twice as much in advance of Predmir. Mr. De Butts was still our companion; and the quarters which he found for us, though not much to be commended on the score of cleanliness, were as comfortable as the place could afford; for it would be hard to imagine a picture of more perfect desolation than this miserable town presented. Like others which we had passed, it had walls and gates; the former in ruins, the latter torn from their hinges; while the streets and square offered no inappropriate representation of a place over which the tide of war has recently swept. The very houses were many of them crumbling to decay. On the other hand, the situation was magnificent. The nearer we approached to the frontier of Galicia, the bolder and more majestic grew the mountains, while the valley, though it had not for some time

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narrowed in any perceptible degree, was manifestly drawing to a close. And then the Waag; —he was a fine river when we first made his acquaintance; broad, yet not sluggish, and discoloured in his waters, only because of the deposit which came to him from the fertile lands through which he flowed. But now his character was that of a highland stream of the most majestic class. Without having lost any thing of his width, he swept past Sillein, over a bed of gravel; brawling and noisy as the ear of the poet could desire, with just such pools and streams and rapids, as the angler loves to see, and the best and largest fish delight to frequent.

We slept well, after an indifferent supper; and starting betimes on the morrow, took counsel with our countryman as to the route which it might be judicious to follow, and the objects which it especially behoved us to visit. From a variety of sources, and by many different means, we had gathered, as we came along, that our passport not being so expressed as to sanction the proposed visit to Cracow, there was slender probability of our being able to reach that point. For the citizens of Cracow had exhibited symptoms of uneasiness of late, and there were three foreign armies, a Russian, a Prussian, and an

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Austrian, gathered round the place, with a view to preserve tranquillity. Now as it forms part of the tranquillizing system on which the great powers uniformly act, that a city or province suspected of entertaining liberal views, shall as much as possible be guarded from an influx of strangers, any attempt to penetrate through the line of demarcation which they may have drawn, devoid of a passport, or in defiance of established regulations, is not only an act of folly, for which no excuse can atone, but may be attended with very disagreeable consequences. This is a rule which holds good in all cases, but in reference to the question now under consideration, it was doubly binding, because Cracow laboured under disadvantages even more palpable, than affect the condition of other northern towns which may be charged with liberalism. In the first place, it was known to have been the resort of many fugitives from Warsaw, an offence which the Czar could not possibly forgive. In the next place, plots were understood to have been concocted within its walls, for the restoration of Poland to its place among the nations of Europe; and last, though not least, each of the powers which observed it, looked with an eye of as much suspicion upon the other two, as upon the delinquent republic itself. Hence a

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passport granted by one would have availed little, provided the counter-signatures of the other two were wanting: for Russia, though ready to overthrow the liberties of the republic, was not willing that it should pass under the dominion of Austria; Austria was as little disposed to acquiesce in its absorption by Russia; and Prussia would by no means consent, that either Austria or Russia should obtain by its occupation, so large and valuable an addition to its already overgrown territories.

Having well considered this matter, we came, though reluctantly, to the conclusion, that it would be judicious not to persevere in the design of visiting Cracow. We had learned, from our experience of the Austrian police elsewhere, that neither by reasoning nor entreating are they to be moulded to a traveller's purposes; and we could not hope to find them more pliable in Galicia than they had shown themselves either in Moravia or Bohemia. Besides, what was there to be seen in Cracow? The exterior of things, doubtless;—the streets, and squares, and churches,—but nothing from which any idea might be formed either of the state of society in the town, or the system of education pursued in the university. For at this time the class-rooms were all shut up; of

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the professors some had gone into banishment, many of the students were under arrest, and the strong arm of power caused its weight to be felt even in the domestic circles. Under all these circumstances we judged it more prudent to relinquish our purpose voluntarily, than to run the risk of finding ourselves turned back from the gates of Cracow, or possibly treated there as spies and political adventurers.

Our determination, though a wise one, brought this evil consequence along with it, that our whole plan of campaign was deranged, and, at a moment's notice, the necessity was imposed upon us of devising another. An accident, if I may so express myself, settled for us a question which might have otherwise perplexed us greatly, and resulted in disappointment. We were strongly advised not to pass the Hungarian frontier. Throughout Galicia, we were assured, that we should meet with nothing, either in the habits of the people or the aspect of the country, to repay us for the extreme inconvenience which would everywhere attend our mode of travel. There were no peculiarities of national manners to be studied; there was little in the scenery which would endure a moment's comparison with what we had already seen, and might yet

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expect to see in Hungary. The people were all wretchedly poor; there were no resident gentry; the police regulations were even more vexatious than in any other portion of the empire; and the inns, kept by Jews, were intolerable. All this, it must be admitted, was uninviting enough, yet I question whether we should not have faced it, had not another reason been advanced why we should restrict ourselves, at least for awhile, to the Hungarian territory. We learned that, further to the right, along the valley of the Graan, the regiment of Walmoden cuirassiers was stationed, and that we should find among its officers several of our countrymen; from whom, or from their messmates, a good route might be obtained. We accordingly made up our minds, instead of crossing the Waag, and so pushing by the great road over the border, to follow the ascent of the stream; and to take our chance of finding some mountain-path which might conduct us, should the desire continue in force, into Galicia.

It was a clear bright morning, when, still attended by Mr. De Butts, we quitted Sillein. He had proposed overnight that we should accompany him to the chateau of Count Pomgrätz, a hospitable mansion which lay a few

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miles out of our road; and either dine there, or remain all night, according as might best accord with our own wishes and arrangements. We had fallen in with his suggestion when he made it; but now a strong inclination to try whether the Waag would render up to our English tackle any portion of its finny race, came in the way; and the certainty of enjoying at least one pleasant evening in society, was relinquished for the hope of a good day's sport. We screwed up our rods, and set to work. But from the first I did not anticipate much, and the result answered to my anticipations. The waters of the Waag are too white,—too much impregnated with the phosphate of lime, —to answer the purposes of the fly-fisher. We had no success at all; though we persevered so long, as to take away from us all power of reconsidering our decision touching Count Pomgrätz, and had nothing left but to push, as fast as we could, for St. Martin.

While we were flogging the water, our countryman lingered near, and pointed out, just across the stream, a chateau, of which the modern parts were gathered round a square tower of enormous thickness. It was the castle of Budatin; and, like every other in this land of romance, had various legends attached

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to it. "At present," said our intelligent companion, "it is inhabited by a widow lady,—a very charming person,—the Countess Csaky; but its original owners were the Graffs Surrok, —from generation to generation the most ferocious barons of this country. As the circumstance which brought it, and the extensive property which belongs to it, into the family of the Csakys, is a curious one, it may, perhaps, amuse you if I state it.

"You see that enormous tower in the centre of the pile. I cannot say when it was erected, but it is of great antiquity; and the walls are so thick and solid that, though all within was consumed by fire six centuries ago, they remain without rent or crack, or any other evidence that time is working its accustomed effects upon them. If you had leisure to visit the spot you would, moreover, see in one of these walls a niche, within which I have often stood, and which is intimately connected with the little history which I am going to relate to you.

"At the period of the first crusade, or, to speak more correctly, ere Peter the Hermit had gone forth on his warlike mission, the castle of Budatin was owned by a Graff Surrok, who, bold and fierce, and proud and ambitious, was at feud, more or less deadly, with all his

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neighbours. He had been married many years, during which his wife had brought him several children, but all had died in their infancy, save one daughter, whom they reared with difficulty, and to whom, as might be expected, they were much attached. It chafed the stern lord's soul, to be sure, that a maiden should succeed to his possessions, and transfer them, with her hand, to some other stock, less noble, perhaps, than his own; but the feeling, though bitter, was not sufficiently powerful to overmaster his strong affection for his daughter, whom he loved with all the ardour of which his nature was capable.

"Many suitors sought her in marriage, when she grew to woman's estate,—but they were all rejected. They were neighbours, and as such, little to the proud lord's taste; and when at length the banner of the cross was uplifted, and he made up his mind to follow it, Leonora seemed as far as ever from becoming the bride of any one.

"The graff went his way, and was absent several years,—during which the spirit of hostility which had heretofore agitated the valley of the Waag, died out. It appeared as if the wizard, at whose bidding it rose, was gone, or had lost his influence, and friendly communications and kind greetings began to pass among

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the several families. In particular there ceased to be wrath between the rival houses of Surrok and Pomgrätz; and visits of ceremony soon led the way to more intimate and confidential correspondence. At last, the young Count Pomgrätz declared himself the lover of Leonora, and was by her accepted. The lady mother, too, despairing of her lord's return, opposed not the suit, and the day which was to render the young people happy was fixed. It came,—and brought with it all the appliances of a wedding-morn in that chivalrous age. The bishop was in the castle of Budatin; its halls were filled with guests;—wine and wassail were everywhere abundant; and the church was preparing to bless the union, when the arrival of two strange knights marked with the cross on their shoulders, arrested the ceremony. They were covered with dust, and toil-worn as with much travail; yet they refused for a while either to speak or to unhelm,—but stood, silent and rigid, regarding the scene before them as if with scorn, and casting over the assembled crowd a gloom which was quite mysterious. At length one of them lifted his vizor, and displayed the well-known features of Count Surrok. He was furious with rage; he drove the bishop from his presence, he commanded

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Count Pomgrätz to flee for his life, and put a very effectual stop to all the festivities, as well in ladies' bower as in the hall of the retainers.

"Though Count Surrok had not been very regular in his correspondence, (it is not quite clear that he had ever learned to write,) he had done his duty, and struck many hard blows among the infidels. Neither had his banner been borne to the earth, save once, and then he fell with it. But when the sword of the Moslem was lifted to strike, a Christian warrior succoured him, and his pennant fluttered once more triumphantly in the air. To that knight he promised, in the exuberance of his gratitude, the hand of his daughter Leonora; and the father and future husband were now come to see that the promise was fulfilled. It was to no purpose that Leonora and her mother pleaded a prior engagement. Count Surrok did not know any right which either wife or daughter had to contract engagements, and the Lady Leonora was commanded to accept, on the instant, Count Czaky for her husband.

"There was much weeping, and fainting, and complaining, of course, but the graff continued inexorable; and the altar being dressed once more, Leonora, with her new lover, stood before it. The priest put his question, 'Would she

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have this man for her husband?' and, with a courage worthy of her lineage, she answered, 'No!' The book was closed; but the count, furious with rage, dashed the delinquent to the earth, and swore, by all the saints, that she should obey him or perish. She was his only child,—but what of that? Graff Surrok would not be thwarted even by an only child, so he caused a niche to be hollowed out in the wall of the keep or dungeon, and into that he thrust her. A loaf of bread and a pitcher of water were placed beside her, and the niche was then built up. 'We shall see,' exclaimed the soldier of the cross, 'whether this obstinacy be or be not unconquerable. Thou shalt not come out of thy narrow prison till thou hast consented to wed thy father's preserver, and not one morsel more of food or drink shall be given thee!'

"It was a barbarous deed, and having been done openly, it caused a great sensation in the valley. Young Count Pomgrätz heard of it; and, arming his followers, he came upon Budatin that night by surprise, and, after a stout resistance, won it. The lady was released, the tower was burned, and all things appeared to have fallen into a right course. But Count Pomgrätz, though he had delivered his mistress

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with the strong hand, was yet unwilling to break entirely with her father,—so he lingered amid the ruins two hours, in the hope of softening the proud man's ire. Time was thus afforded to Count Czaky, of which he made good use; and when the lovers went forth to seek a home in the castle of Ovar, he was ready, with an overwhelming force, to intercept them. What could valour, even when animated by despair, effect, against superior numbers, and experience in battle? The brave young cavalier fell covered with wounds, and Count Czaky remained master of the field. I wish that a regard to the truth of history would permit me to say that the Lady Leonora died with her lover, or that, true to his memory, she shut herself up in a convent, and devoted her remaining years to saying masses for his soul,—but it was not so. On the contrary, the man of her own choice being slain, she ceased to oppose herself to her father's wishes, and becoming the wife of Count Czaky, brought into that family the possessions which they still retain,—of which the present countess is but the administratrix for her son, who is a boy."

We listened to this legend with great interest, and would have willingly visited the old tower, but that time and opportunity were

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alike wanting. There was no ferry within several miles of us, and to have wandered back after reaching it, would have been to borrow too much from a day, for which more than adequate employment was already cut out. For our friend, among other pieces of useful information, had not only explained to us the real character of the Torpindas, but had delighted us by the intelligence that on our route to St. Martin we might, if we were so disposed, visit one of their settlements. "They are an exceedingly curious tribe," said he, "but they are not gypsies, though their habits be, in every respect, different from those of the peasants whom as yet you may have encountered. They live entirely by themselves, and work for no masters. They inhabit glens among these mountains, a superiority over which is asserted, indeed, by one or other of the neighbouring nobles, but no man living thinks of disturbing these Torpindas in the seats which, from time immemorial, they and their forefathers have occupied. On the other hand, the Torpindas pay for their right of occupancy, a tribute in money to some lord. Their mode of raising the wind is as curious as anything else connected with them. You saw them in Bohemia, offering for sale brass pipe-pickers, and other nic-nacs. These they

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fabricate at home during the winter, and in summer, as soon as the seed is sown, they quit their villages, and wander far and wide in search of a market for their wares. If you go to any of their settlements, at the present moment, it is a chance if you find there a single male above thirteen or fourteen years of age. All the men and lads are abroad, and so they will continue till winter sets in, or they have disposed of their merchandise."

"And the women, are they left at home?"

"Yes, regularly. The women and children never quit their valleys; and what is more, should the husbands and sons of any settlement in particular be late of returning, their neighbours, who may have been more expeditious, or had better luck in trade, come and gather in their corn for the absentees. I strongly advise you to take a look at one of their villages, should you stumble upon it,—for they are a very curious people."

We thanked Mr. De Butts for all the information which he had communicated to us, and for this not less than for other details; and packing our rods in their cases, made ready to act upon his suggestion. He walked with us as far as the ferry, shook hands with us affectionately at the water's edge, and there we

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parted. The last we saw of him was when his boat had gained the middle of the stream, for then we rounded the edge of a hill, and the next step placed between him and us a screen which will not, in all human probability, be lifted for ever.

Our walk this day was, without exception, the most interesting, in every point of view, of all to which my recollections of this Hungarian excursion, point. In the first place the scenery far surpassed, in grandeur and in beauty, even the finest of the landscapes which had previously greeted us. We had won the upper extremity of the valley, and found ourselves closing upon mountains,—not perhaps quite so lofty as those which surround Innspruck, in the Tyrol, but very little inferior to them even in point of altitude; and in other respects, at least, their equals. I never beheld forests more glorious than those which covered them to more than half their height. I never looked upon crags and rocks, more beetling, more rugged, more thoroughly majestic, than those which interrupted the gloom of these forests, and overtopped them. And for the rest, peak and bald brow were rolled one over the other, like the billows of a troubled ocean, ever varying in their shapes and outlines, yet ever bring-

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ing before us some new forms of beauty. Such was the picture with which each step that we took in advance brought us more and more in collision; while behind, and on each side, lay the plain, the noble river, the towns through which we had passed, here and there a village, and finally ranges of bold hills shutting all the rest in, as if with a frame of adamant. Not in all my wanderings,—and I have worshipped nature in many lands,—has my eye rested on a panorama more perfect in its degree than this. We held our very breaths as we gazed upon it, and resumed our progress with an energy which never comes, except when the imagination has been reached through the medium of the senses.

There was a road, and a good one, of which we took advantage. It ran in some sort parallel with the Waag, except that it cut off one or two enormous curves which the river makes in this quarter, and it brought us into acquaintance with more than one particular object which put in strong claims upon our notice. We saw, as we trudged along, an eminence, crowned, here and there, with a gallows. There were no dead bodies, to be sure, swinging in the air; but we recollected what Mr. De Butts had told us concerning the recent prevalence of

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martial law in the country, and we concluded, as it afterwards appeared not without reason, that here numerous executions had taken place. By-and-by we gained a point where the plain ended altogether, and mountain piled upon mountain alone met the gaze. No power of language could do justice to the scene. We stood at the summit of a swelling hill, which we had won, not without considerable exertion. Beneath us the Waag poured on his troubled waters, hemmed in, on either hand, by banks which left little of open space between him and the rocks that formed the roots of the giant mountains through which he made his way. But this was not all. On one side a straggling village seemed to follow the course of the stream; and was overlooked, at its upper extremity, by the ruins of a fortalice,—a bold baronial-looking pile; not, indeed, very extensive, but so planted on the crest of a detached rock, as to render it perfectly secure against the attacks of an enemy who might not care to reduce it by the slow process of famine. It was all that remained of Ovar Castle, the ancient hold of the Pomgrätzes; a family which traces itself down from the Roman general Pomgranitus, and claims to be accounted one of the oldest among the nobility of Europe. I

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cannot pretend to offer so much as an opinion touching the justice or injustice of this claim. I only know that the remains of the keep are very striking, and that there is a rather curious story attached to them.

Within distinct view of the ruined castle, though lower in the vale, and having the Waag spread between, is a village called Stretschin, an inconsiderable place, remarkable for nothing except the circumstance of which I am now going to make mention. In the church of that village there is a tomb, and beneath the tomb there is a vault, where the dust of the Pomgrätzes has for many ages been accumulated. Among the decayed and decaying relics of humanity which occupy the niches of the vault, there is pointed out to the traveller a leaden coffin; the lid of which being raised at his bidding, the corpse of a lady meets his eye. There are no signs even of incipient decomposition about it. It lies with a pale cheek, doubtless, and a white and livid lip; but the skin is pure, the long dark hair luxuriant, and the features, which are cast in a mould of extreme beauty, have neither collapsed nor lost their proportions. And so it has lain for two hundred and fifty years, and though no process of embalming was ever

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adopted towards it, its condition remains exactly what it was when first they committed it to the grave. When you stand beside the coffin, you look down upon the mortal shell which once contained the spirit of a true and tender-hearted woman, whose devotion to a worthless husband went not unrewarded even in life, and the memory of whose piety the Virgin has deemed it right thus to perpetuate among men.

" Somewhere about the middle of the sixteenth century, says the legend, Ovar Castle was inhabited by a Count Pomgrätz, whom neither the beauty nor the gentleness of a fair and gentle wife could reclaim from his profligate habits. They had not been married three months ere his attentions to his bride began to be intermitted; and before the expiration of the year he deserted her altogether. Rarely, indeed, did he visit his home at all; and when he came, it was usually by stealth, for he preferred a career of guilt among his lemans and loose flatterers, and indulged his humours freely at another of his mansions across the river. The lady mourned in secret over her wrongs, yet she never grew cold in her love for the wrong-doer. On the contrary, she repaired nightly to the chapel, and prayed to the Virgin that her lord

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might be restored to her; and, as the Virgin is exceedingly considerate in such cases, her prayers were in due time answered. As she stood before the altar on a certain occasion, she beheld a bright vision of Mary, who told her that her petitions had been accepted, and that, ere the morning dawned, the count would be brought back to her more tender and more true than he had been on the morning of their marriage. A grateful heart was that which the countess bowed before the benignant saint, and though the means by which so blessed a communication might be effected were to her a mystery, she doubted not that the result would verify the saintly promise.

"The countess withdrew to her chamber to watch and weep. It was a night of fearful storm. The wind roared, and the rain fell, and the thunder bellowed through the ravines, while the Waag, swollen to more than twice his customary size, swept beneath the castle walls one mass of foam. The lady looked out from her casement, and during a lull in the tempest she heard a shriek, as if from some one who struggled with his fate in the midst of the stream. An inexplicable impulse was upon her. She rushed into the hall, commanded her vassals to attend her, and flew with the rapidity of thought

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to the river's brink. There is a ferry still at the point where she halted,—and caused a boat that lay high upon the beach to be launched. But who would venture to face that roaring river? The vassals shrank back, till the countess herself sprang into the boat, and then four of the bravest followed. They battled with the torrent nobly, and though often on the brink of destruction, they succeeded in reaching the object of their search. A boat, keel uppermost, came drifting towards them, and a solitary human being clung to it. He was rescued from his perilous situation, brought safely to the castle, and proved to be—the faithless count. I need not go on. Utterly confounded by this display of courage and devotion, on the part of the countess, he became from that hour a new man; and they lived together for several years afterwards, in peace and harmony. But the legend is not yet ended. The grateful lady failed not, regularly as the anniversary of that night came round, to offer on the Virgin's shrine some costly gift; and the Virgin marked her sense of the donor's liberality, by giving to her body a faculty of resistance to decay. Hence, after an interval of two centuries and a-half, her outward frame retains the aspect of life, and lies in its repose the fair and even attractive

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thing of which the people of Stretschin still make their boast."

We ascended the steep rock on which the castle is perched, by a narrow winding path, and looked round. The clouds, which had been gathering for some time in the sky, closed on the tops of the mountains, and rolled down enormous waves into the valleys that here and there intersect them. The forests, black, and deep, and as it seemed, interminable, waved not a bough. The air was so still, that though many hundred feet above its bed, we distinctly heard the Waag chafing on his course, till having escaped from the restraint of the ravine through which he passed, he gained the open country, and there spread himself out, as if to repose.

On his further bank, at a point where the stream was divided into two channels, stood Stretschin, nestled, as it were, in a curvature of the mountain-range. Nearer, and on our side of the river, was the village of Ovar, at the very extreme edge of the plain, while in front we saw only a long and tortuous path,—the road which we were to follow, and by means of which we were to be conducted over a ridge several thousand feet high, to descend we knew not where. Nor may I omit to mention another

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object which attracted a large share of admiration,—a ruin considerably more extensive than that amid which we lingered, and planted, as if in rivalry of the strong hold of the Pomgrätzes, on a detached cliff exactly opposite. It was altogether a glorious scene, the effect of which was certainly not diminished by the chequered light and shade which the growing storm cast over it; for even the mountain-tops were not all shrouded together, and upon the open vale which we had left behind, bright sunbeams were streaming. We sat down, and unbuckling our cloaks, threw them on. It was well that we did so; for the next minute a thunder-cloud burst with a crash, and the rain fell as if once more heaven's windows had been opened. I cannot attempt to describe the sensations produced upon us as we watched, from beneath the broken shelter of a buttress, the storm work itself out. The flashes of lightning which followed one another with rapidity, displayed from time to time mountain, and forest, and rock, while all seemed to disappear again in the gloom which followed; while the thunder, reverberating from corrie to corrie, sounded as if there had been no interval between the peals.

The storm continued about half an hour, when the clouds broke away, and the sun shone

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out with a splendour which was quite overpowering. I had imagined, while the mists were collecting, that I had never looked upon so magnificent a panorama; I now felt that I had deceived myself. A thousand minute objects which had escaped observation amid the gloom were now visible. I saw where, in the mighty forests, small clearances had been made. I beheld, far, far above me, a cottage planted here and there, upon a sort of hanging terrace. The rocks that overhung the woods, and broke in upon their majesty, were more varied and more picturesque in their forms than I had imagined them to be; and above all, the line of perpetual snow was visible, for some of the mountains in the back-ground of this Alpine district, were white to a considerable distance beneath their peaks. I plead guilty to the weakness, if such it be, of being swayed amid scenery like this, to feelings that set all effort to delineate or explain them, at defiance. In the temple built by hands, worship may be devoutly offered up; and the good man prays as earnestly in his own closet as in church; but the sentiment which is called into operation by communion with nature, when she puts on such a garb as she wore this day, seems to me far holier, far purer, far more elevating and

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ennobling to the human soul, than even that which the deep tones of the organ draw forth, or the words of the Liturgy,—however solemnly uttered, can awaken. No wonder that the men of old, undirected by the light of revelation, should have erected their altars, whenever they could, on the high places, and in the groves. In the intercourse which he holds with mountain and forest, man feels his own perfect weakness, and is glad to look round even in the wilderness, for beings more potent than himself on whom he may lean for support. How much more active, then, how much more intense, must be his devotional feeling now, that he has learned to acknowledge that God is everywhere; and that the deep solitude, as it hides him not from the eye which never sleepeth, so can it expose him to no hazards from which there is not a power at hand competent to deliver him.

We waited till the last burst of the storm had expended itself, and then with frames refreshed by the halt, and minds hallowed by the influence of all that was around us, we resumed our march. It was abundantly toilsome; for throughout two good hours we continued steadily to ascend. Yet was it delicious, too; and when, having won the ridge, we found our-

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selves standing above a valley, deeper, lonelier, and more narrow, than any we had yet seen, we were incapable of giving utterance even to the common-place exclamation, "How magnificent!" On, however, we went, the woods now closing over us, now falling back, as if on purpose to afford us a glimpse of all that lay beyond them;—the river, diminished to a silver thread, and stealing through the depth below; —above him, mountain upon mountain, lone, and sad, and hoary; while we ourselves were all the while traversing the side of a range, so bold and sheer, that in many places it hemmed us in like a wall. And then the perfect solitude that was around. Of human habitations, or the work of man, there was not, except in the road which we traversed, anywhere a trace; nor did we encounter a living creature till we had descended well-nigh to the bottom of the abyss.

We had gained a point in the road where it makes a sudden turn to the left, and were in the act of gathering some wild strawberries which grew in great quantities along the hill side, when a strange wild cry, something like that with which every traveller in Switzerland must be familiar, attracted our attention. It came from an eminence over head, and was answered

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from some recess far below, the answer being taken up and repeated at three or four different points; a very satisfactory proof that, though not yet visible, beings of like passions with ourselves were not far from us. Our curiosity was roused, and we determined to gratify it; so pushing in the direction of the height from which the first whoop proceeded, we found ourselves in a moment at the gorge of a glen, which but for this accident, would have escaped our notice. We entered it without scruple, and after traversing a rude path that had been cut out in the jungle, we emerged from beneath its shade, and lo! an inhabited strath was before us. It was a long, but narrow glen, studded at intervals with some twelve or fourteen huts of the most primitive architecture, and laid out, throughout its recess, in fields of rye and buck-wheat. We moved on, and presently a whole troop of dogs rushed barking and furiously towards us: this was not exactly the sort of reception for which we would have bargained, for even the common sheep-dog of Hungary, and these were nothing more, is a very savage beast; but we put a bold face upon the matter, and levelling our rods kept the enemy at bay. We were not, however, left to maintain, without support, what might have proved, in the end, so unequal a

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combat. From the nearest of the huts, several women came forth, and, the dogs being called off, we were permitted to move forward. We looked round and round, but saw no men. Women and children there were in abundance, but their fathers and brothers seemed all to be absent; and we came to the conclusion, that chance had conducted us to one of the settlements of the Torpindas. We were not deceiving ourselves, this was a Torpinda settlement; and in everything within and around it, in the order of its society, the condition of the individuals of whom it was composed, it agreed entirely with the description which Mr. De Butts had given.

As was to be expected, we were quite as much objects of curiosity to the inhabitants of that glen, as they could be to us. At first, indeed, they seemed somewhat afraid of us; for after calling off their dogs, they withdrew to their own doors, and continued to stare at us without making any advances towards acquaintanceship. Our gallantry of course took the alarm; and by a variety of signs we endeavoured to convince them, that we came with no hostile intention. The women appeared to understand us, but the children clung about their mothers' knees as we advanced, and the

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dogs were by no means inclined to deal kindly by us. In spite of the hostile demonstrations of the latter we moved on; and were soon within conversational distance; but alas! conversation, except by gestures, was out of the question. Not a word that we uttered was by them understood, nor were their words one whit more intelligible to us. We were desirous of entering one of the cottages, and accordingly pointed to our mouths as if we had been hungry. The person to whom we addressed ourselves evidently guessed at our meaning; for she turned round and said something in a loud voice, which brought to the door another woman, a good deal older than herself, and a brief consultation appeared to take place between them. The result was, that they beckoned us to come in, and we passed the threshold.

The hovel into which we thus introduced ourselves, though very poor and very filthy, was at least equal to many which I have seen, both in Ireland and in the Highlands of Scotland. The walls, to be sure, were made of the branches of trees, plastered over with mud; the floor was earth, and the roof thatched; but the windows, and there were two, though very small, had glass in them; and there was a fire-place with a chimney at one of the extremities. The

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furniture consisted of three rude beds, two settles or forms, one longer than the other; a huge chest, and a couple of stools. There were some shelves under the roof, on which stood various articles of crockery, some brown, others a dingy white; and a churn in the far corner seemed to indicate that the occupants kept either cows or goats, and knew how to make butter. That they were rich in milk, was indeed made manifest by the production of a pitcher full; which the younger of the two women placed, with a loaf of black rye bread before us; and both her own manner, and that of her companion, satisfied us that they were not anxious to spare it. We ate and drank a little, rather to gratify them, than because we were in need of refreshment; and were well pleased to observe, that their only wish seemed to be that we would eat and drink more.

We had observed, while we were conversing by signs in the open air, that there had been a great stir in the settlement. The inmates of every cottage came forth, and now one after another they poured in, till the room was inconveniently crowded with them. We were much amused with the grotesque group before us, and particularly struck with the change which advancing years seemed to make upon the indi-

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viduals composing it. The children, for example, were generally pretty; dark, indeed, and sallow in their complexions, but healthy-looking. Of the younger women, the appearance of some was tolerable; but all those who had attained to middle age, or passed it, were hideous. Their dresses again, seemed not to vary either in form or material, after they attained to early youth. As infants, and for a few years beyond infancy, only a few rags of coarse linen covered them; as women, whether young or old, they wore short woollen petticoats, jackets of the same, and their hair wrapped up in handkerchiefs; but they were universally squalid and filthy.

We were amused, as I have already said, by the grotesque groups that faced us; for the children came with their mothers, and old and young appeared animated by the same feeling of eager curiosity to examine us; but a sense of the ridiculous gave place, ere long, to satiety, and we rose to depart. A few small silver coins, which we gave to the younger branches of the family, were accepted with a lively demonstration of gratitude. I do not believe that such a compensation for the bread and milk was expected; indeed, at one time, I thought that the women would have declined to receive it; but the Torpindas are a money-loving

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race, and their reluctance, if they really experienced such, to be paid for the hospitality which they had dispensed, was not proof against the glitter of the precious metal. They kissed our hands, by way of thanking us, and we left them.

Our conversation, as will readily be imagined, turned almost exclusively, during the remainder of our walk, on the condition and mode of life of the remarkable people, whose homes we had just quitted. What are these Torpindas? How comes it about that they have not passed, like the rest of the peasants of the hills, into a state of vassalage; and under what system of government, if under any, do they live? These were questions which we could not then answer, and with the means of answering which, some time elapsed ere we were supplied; but as the subject is before us, it may not be amiss if I state here, in few words, the substance of what was at a later period communicated to me. The Torpindas, it appears, are not descended from the same stock with the common peasants; and are of much longer standing in the country. They are of Slavonic origin, doubtless; but their language, though radically the same with that of the people of Modern and Beise, differs from it in so many minute points,

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that a Torpinda and a Slavac can scarce carry on a lengthened conversation, at least without much difficulty and some confusion on both sides. It is accordingly surmised, that if there be such things in Carpatia as aborigines at all, the Torpindas deserve so to be esteemed. Be this, however, as it may, the opinion appears to be well supported, which assumes, that driven back by the Slavonians out of the richer valleys, they long ago took refuge in these glens; and that the Hungarians when they overran the rest of the country, left them in quiet possession of their settlements. I found, too, that in another and very important respect, the condition of the Torpindas is different from that of the Slavacs around them. Though not pagans, in the proper acceptation of the term, they can hardly be said, even now, to have embraced Christianity; for there are no places of worship nor resident clergy in their villages; and I do not believe that they ever come down from their fastnesses, in order to participate in the rites of the church. With respect again to their system of government, though it be in name, what the Hungarian legislature has established, I cannot find that they greatly trouble themselves by making appeals in case of wrong received, to the constituted authorities. Each

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village, on the contrary, forms a sort of republic within itself, of which the affairs are managed by the heads of families; while between the several settlements only so much communication is kept up, that the occupants of one are ever ready to assist the occupants of another in case of need. In a word, the condition of the Torpindas resembles in many respects that of some of the Indian tribes of America; with this essential difference between them, that whereas the Indians subsist chiefly by the chase, the Torpindas are at once, an agricultural, a pastoral, and a mechanical people.

I do not recollect that there occurred, after we quitted the Torpinda settlement, any adventure which deserves that I should pause to describe it. We dipped down into the glen; ascended another, through a humbler range of hills, and beheld before us a new valley, similar to that which is watered by the Waag, but considerably wider. Into this we penetrated; and having committed fewer blunders than from our ignorance of the language might have been expected,—we arrived about six o'clock at our station for the night, the village, or rather, town of St. Marton.

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CHAPTER VI.

ST. MARTON.—CURIOUS CUSTOMS.—PURSUE OUR WALK.—THE HUNGARIAN PEASANT.—STATE OF PROTESTANTISM.—OF AGRICULTURE.—MOSSOCS.—TOILSOME MARCH.—KREMNITZ.—PROCEED TOWARDS NEUSOHL.—RECALLED.—THE GYPSIES.

THE Hungarian,—or, to speak more correctly, the Slavonian villages,—are nowhere remarkable for their cleanliness, but anything to approximate the filth of St. Marton I never beheld. The streets were literally masses of mud, with here and there a narrow lane cut through the impurities, whether by the spade or the feet of passers to and fro, I cannot tell. It is a place which, containing from twelve to fifteen hundred inhabitants, can boast of its court-house and two churches. There are two inns, one kept by a Jew, the other by a Christian; and of the dwellings, some, in their external appearance at least, might pass muster anywhere; yet, take it for all in all, I remember it as the most perfect sink of abominations into which my evil fortune has ever led me. For not the exterior of things only, but in the interior also,

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at least in the cabaret which afforded us shelter for the night, confusion reigned supreme. In the strength of our bigotry or the ignorance of our hearts, we established ourselves in the Christian hotel; and were immediately taught that a man's tastes for the elegancies of life are little operated upon by his religious belief. The most swinish Israelite that ever eschewed pork, could not have inhabited a more perfect sty.

Having prevailed, by dint of much coaxing, to get our apartment purified from some of the deposits which previous occupants, including a swarm of cocks and hens, had left there, we inquired for the detachment of Walmoden cuirassiers, to overtake which formed one of our objects in visiting St. Marton at all. We found, to our regret, that it had marched two days previously, and that our countryman, Mr. Crawford, was understood to be in quarters at Hoy, a village some sixteen or eighteen English miles distant. There was nothing for it, under such circumstances, except to summon our philosophy to our aid, and to make the most of things as we found them. I cannot say that during our brief sojourn here much was added to our stock of useful knowledge; yet we did see something which amused, if it can hardly be

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described as edifying; and though not the people, but the animals, were the principal actors in the scene, I may as well describe it.

We were sitting beside the open window, the sun having gone down about an hour, when all at once there came pouring along the street a whole mob of pigs, cows, and geese, grunting, lowing, cackling, and careering full tilt, to the palpable discomfort of every biped whom they encountered. It was curious to observe the sagacity with which the creatures, one after another, broke off from the throng, and made each for its own domicile. Here an enormous sow went splashing through the mud, down some filthy lane, till she reached her sty; there a couple or two of geese, with wings distended, skimmed over the earth's surface, towards their roost. On the whole, the movements of the cows were the most decorous, though they, like their companions, travelled entirely free of control. We remembered, as we watched the antics of these animals, what had been told us of the custom, in reference to such matters, in Bohemia; and we came to the conclusion that here also the cattle belonging to each village were fed in common. We were not mistaken in drawing this inference; and we had the good fortune,—for so, amid much laughing, we ac-

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counted it,—to witness next morning the process of muster as it went on. The first streaks of dawn were just coming in, when a long, and loud, and peculiar blast of a horn awoke me. I jumped up, and saw, standing beneath my window, a peasant, with a sort of trumpet at his mouth, made, as it seemed, of the bark of a tree, and not less, at a moderate estimate, than five feet long. With this he blew a flourish at intervals, passing on after each, about thirty or forty yards; and he was answered by the outpouring of cattle, geese, and pigs; each coming, as it had gone on the previous evening, entirely unattended, and all joining in a concert more audible than harmonious. I defy the gravest of mortal men, when beholding that spectacle for the first time, to suppress his laughter. Yet the scene, though ludicrous to us, was regarded by the principal actors in it as an affair of great moment. The peasant continued to wind his horn till all the beasts of the village were assembled; and then, being joined by two or three others of his own class, the whole assemblage went on their way, amid the cracking of whips, the hallooing of men, and the not less musical combination of sounds which the four-footed actors in the drama emitted.

We did not think it necessary, early as the

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hour was, to lie down again; but completed our toilets, and ordered breakfast. This done, we prepared to resume our march; and having marked on our chart, as a convenient halting-place against noon, the town of Mossocs, towards it we turned our steps. Our progress was very delightful, for the air was mild, the sky dappled with clouds, and the scenery, though much less magnificent than that of the previous day, highly interesting. We traversed a plain, bounded on every side by noble mountains, and washed here and there by the waters of a petty stream, over which the corn waved in great luxuriance, except where, at intervals, some enormous meadow or sweep of natural grass intervened. Moreover there were seen afar off, at the roots of the hills, one or two villages, while several ruinous castles, perched among the rocks above, spoke of days gone by, and of a state of society connected with them, which shall not, at least in Europe, be brought back again. But it was not on account of the gratification which we experienced from the things which were submitted to the outward senses, that this day's march has been marked in my diary as a pleasant one. We had not proceeded many miles beyond St. Marton, when we fell in with a man, better dressed than the

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generality of the peasants, though evidently belonging to their class; and as he spoke and understood German sufficiently for our purpose, we hastened to open with him a conversation. I make no apology for repeating here the substance of it.

The ordinary salutations of the morning having passed, and the countryman being satisfied, both as to our lineage and our business, we in our turn became the catechists. We questioned him, first, as to his own condition, and we learned that he was a tenant on the estate of Baron Proni; that by religion he was a Protestant, and that his worldly affairs were very prosperous. "Indeed we are almost all Protestants in this part of the country," continued he, "and I am happy to add, that my eldest son is our minister."

"Then one of the two churches which we observed in St. Marton is a Protestant place of worship?" demanded I.

"To be sure it is," replied he, "and it is there that my son officiates."

The latter portion of this answer appearing to encourage the belief that our new acquaintance might be better acquainted, than the generality of his order, with the existing state of Protestantism in Hungary, I led the conver-

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sation for awhile into that channel; and I must confess that the extent of his information surprised me. He appeared to have made the subject his study, probably while training his son to the ministry; and was altogether an excellent specimen of the zealous and conscientious dissenter, such as we everywhere find him. For it is a fact that, in reference to the points of difference between their own and the dominant communion, and, indeed, in all matters of church history, through whatever medium of prejudice examined, dissenters are, in nine cases out of ten, much better informed than the members of the church from which their own has seceded. The churchman is content to abide by the religion of his fathers; first, because it came to him from his fathers; and next, because it is the establishment; whereas the dissenter must, in order to justify himself in his own eyes, be able to assign some reason for his rejection of that church's ministration. Accordingly, in Hungary, as well as in England, the dissenter,—in the former country, the Protestant,—will generally be found to possess a much more familiar acquaintance with the statistics of religion than the Roman Catholic. I do not mean to assert that he is always correct either in his facts or

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his inferences; and I protest against the assumption of the notion that on this individual Protestant in particular I depend as an authority for what I am going to say. I refer to him merely as illustrating the justice of an opinion which is universally entertained in this country, that whenever you come to a Protestant district you perceive around you marks of greater intelligence, and more patient industry, and of a state of morals much less degraded than prevails among the adherents to the Church of Rome.

Every one who is moderately read in ecclesiastical history knows that the doctrines of the Reformation were, at a very early period, carried across the Carpatian mountains from the neighbouring states of Bohemia and Moravia. As I have stated elsewhere, numerous colonies, first of Hussites and afterwards of the Moravian Brethren, fled, when persecuted at home, into Hungary, where for a time they were well received, and where their opinions made considerable progress. But, as it had happened in the land where Huss preached and the United Brethren first drew together, so it befell here. The doctrines and discipline of the Lutheran and Calvinistic churches cast those of the Moravians into the shade, and the Reformation

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ran its course in Hungary, exactly as it had done, and yet continues to do, in Germany.

The labours of the Reformed teachers would appear to have been attended by more marked success in Hungary than in any other of the countries where their principles have not absolutely triumphed. Persecuted they doubtless were; indeed, so recently as the reign of Maria Theresa the crime of abjuring Popery was punishable by the loss of goods and two years' imprisonment; yet they continued to increase, till, in the year 1801, they were admitted, by Roman Catholic writers, to stand in a relation towards themselves of at least one to three. The Protestants, on the other hand, affirm that even then the ratio was much higher: and that if a census were fairly taken now, it would be found that the Roman Catholics are in the minority. I cannot undertake to decide between the disputants, though this much I do know, that of the higher classes in Hungary and Transylvania, a large portion, perhaps the majority, profess the Reformed faith.

Joseph II., a reformer,—in many respects an inconsiderate one,—in Hungary as well as in Bohemia, was the first to proclaim absolute freedom of opinion in matters of religion. He had no authority from the Diet for this; in-

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deed he set the rights of the Diet at defiance; and he became in consequence the most unpopular monarch that ever swayed the Hungarian sceptre. Yet the feelings of the people being in favour of his decree, it was universally obeyed; and when, under his successor Leopold, the Diet once more assembled, one of its first measures was to give the force of law to that which had previously been the mere act of an usurper. It is worthy of remark, that in passing this great measure, a vast majority in both houses voted for it. The clergy, indeed, were against it; but out of the lay members only ninety-three, a very small minority indeed, supported them.

From the passing of this act, in 1796, there has prevailed in Hungary the most complete toleration in reference to men's religious faith. The Romish church continues, indeed, to be the church of the state; for all its endowments have been preserved to it, and its bishops and clergy sit and deliberate, as they were wont to do, in the great assembly of the nation. But not only has all power to oppress the Protestants been taken away from them, but in every legitimate respect the Protestant has been put on a footing of equality with his Catholic neighbour. Protestants are admitted, equally with

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Catholics, to all offices under the crown. Protestants are allowed to worship God openly after the forms of the communion to which they adhere. If in any village or district they desire to build a church, or a school, or a glebe-house, or all three, they make application to the lord of the manor at a county-court; and provided it appear that they are capable of supporting the necessary charges, permission so to do is afforded them. The lord of the manor then allots them a site, and the dues or fees which heretofore they may have paid to the Catholic priest, they thenceforth pay to their own pastor. But the glebe, which constitutes by far the more important part of the benefice, continues still in possession of the Romish incumbent; so that every ground of hostility between him and his Protestant brother is taken away. To be sure, it is competent for a Protestant landowner to endow the Protestant chapelry, if he be willing; and many such endowments there are in Hungary, attached both to churches and schools. But these are all comparatively of modern date, and they no more injuriously affect the interests of the establishment, than the interests of the Church of England are injuriously affected by Lady Hewley's charity, or the annexation of glebes and glebe-houses to the

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livings of the dissenting ministers among ourselves.

While it has dealt thus liberally with the Protestant part of the population, the Hungarian Diet has not been unmindful either of the rights of the crown, as supreme guardian of religion in the land, or of the respect due to the Romish as the church of the state. The King of Hungary, though he may not interfere directly with the management of ecclesiastical affairs among either the Lutherans or the Calvinists, claims and exercises the right of general superintendence. Thus he appoints the places where their synods shall meet, and insists that there shall be present at all such meetings, some one,—not a Romish prelate or priest,—who shall represent the sovereign. In like manner, while both Lutherans and Calvinists are permitted to print and circulate, for the use of their respective communions, such religious books and tracts as they please, these books must first of all be submitted to the censorship of parties,—belonging, indeed, to their churches, but appointed by the government, and by the government held responsible for the contents of each volume after it appears. So also it is enacted, that no insidious methods shall be adopted to make converts from the Romish faith; and

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that in mixed marriages where the father is a Roman Catholic the whole of the children shall be brought up in the Roman Catholic religion; whereas if he be a Protestant, the sons shall be Protestants and the daughters Roman Catholics like their mother. Of the wisdom of these latter enactments I say nothing, because it must always be hard to determine what ought, and what ought not to be accounted an insidious method of effecting a conversion; and it appears absurd in the extreme to fix the religion of children by law, merely because their father or their mother may have professed a particular faith. But the ordinance which enjoins that by all classes of the people the festivals and fasts of the established church shall be treated with respect, is surely not objectionable. It is right and proper that in matters purely external, the religion of the state, whatever it may be, shall have some deference shown to it; and as the Protestants are formally assured by the act of the Diet that no more is required at their hands,—as they are even exempt, in courts of justice, from swearing according to the national form, by the Holy Virgin,—they would be very unreasonable indeed did they complain that the slightest violence is offered to their conscience.

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One word more ere I pass on to other matters. It is curious enough, that the toleration of which I have just spoken, does not extend to Croatia. Croatia, though enjoying all the privileges of the Hungarian constitution, and sending its magnates and its deputies to the Hungarian Diet, is still, in some sort, a distinct kingdom. Accordingly, as the tenets of the Reformers never made much progress, and the people are many degrees more rude than the inhabitants of Hungary and Transylvania,—the spirit of persecution continues to prevail there, though, for obvious reasons, it is little acted upon. In Croatia, there are no Protestants, nor, indeed, the profession of any other creed than that of Rome; and the Romish party has provided, that within the limits of that kingdom toleration shall not enter.

Having learned from our road-side acquaintance, that in St. Marton the Protestants outnumbered the Catholics by twenty to one, and that his son's church was crowded on all occasions, whereas the priest had scarce fifty souls to attend upon his administrations,—we led him on to discuss with us other points, concerning which his intelligence, though not so surprising, was quite as conspicuous. I had occasion some time ago, to refer to the sort of tenure on which

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Hungarian peasants hold their lands, and to the payments which they make of eggs, poultry, butter, and other dues, to the landlord. The facts of the case are these:—The precise amount either of labour or of tribute, which the landowner might exact from his serfs, or peasants, was never fixed by any pretext, either of law or custom, till 1764. It was then that Maria Theresa published her Urbarium,—a mere royal proclamation to which the Diet never gave its sanction, but which, being adopted as a standard of justice, has ever since obtained universal observance. Accordingly, a full farm is now estimated to contain twenty-five acres of arable land, and of grass as much as a man shall be able to mow in twelve days. For this the tenant pays annually a ninth of his whole produce, as well as of all lambs, kids, and bees, which he may rear upon his farm; two chickens, two capons, twelve eggs, and half a pound of butter. Moreover, he is bound to furnish to his landlord during the year, an hundred and eleven days' labour, with a pair of hands, as well as one day's service in every week, with a wagon and four horses. Then, again, when the proprietor marries, or a child is born to him, or his son takes a wife, or a new incumbent is inducted, a donation of poultry, or corn, or

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some other species of produce, becomes due; while to sum up all, the peasant's whole property, should he die without natural heirs, is immediately seized upon by his landlord. On the other hand, a peasant once put in possession of a farm, becomes almost as much a fixture there, as if the land were his own freehold. If he leave sons behind him, they succeed to the occupancy, of course, sharing it among them till it is split into mere shreds, and uniting their means to make good the tribute that is due, and without a faithful discharge of which they are liable to punishment.

All the serfs on a landowner's property are not, however, farmers. There are multitudes who inhabit cottages only, and who find a subsistence, as well as they can, from their gardens and their labour. Each of these pays to the landowner one florin, or two shillings, yearly, as the rent of his cottage, and eighteen days' labour in the fields. During the remaining three hundred and forty-seven days he is paid for his exertions. But though every landowner in Hungary is likewise a farmer on a large scale, it rarely happens that in the dull season of the year, very many of these poor creatures do not find it a hard matter to earn the scantiest subsistence. For all the rights of hunting, shoot-

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ing, and fishing, belong strictly to the lords of the soil; nay, the woods themselves being theirs, except where townships may have obtained them, the very acorns are reserved exclusively for feeding the swine of the great proprietors.

With such conversation our peasant at once instructed and amused us, so long as our routes lay in the same direction. We found him, also, both well-informed, and willing to impart from his stores, on other topics; for he knew the names of all the castles and villages round, and was not absolutely ignorant of their histories. There was a fine ruin, for example, on a detached height near the mountains, which had for some time attracted a large share of our attention, and we questioned him concerning it. "That," said he, "is all that remains of Proni Castle, the original seat of the family under which I and my forefathers have lived for centuries. It has long been deserted by its owners, who now inhabit a schloss in Mossocs, whither you are going, and where I am sure that you have only to present yourselves to insure a cordial welcome. The present baron is lord lieutenant of the county; and a better-hearted noble is not to be met with in all Hungary." We did not say that we should volunteer a visit to the baron, because we hoped to find our

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countryman that night, and meant to leave the disposal of our time for a brief space to him. But we thought it not improbable that some such result would follow, and we were well pleased at the anticipation.

Our friend quitted us at last, after cordially inviting us to accompany him home,—an invitation which nothing except the covenant into which we had entered with ourselves, hindered us from accepting; and then we were alone again. We made a brief halt, refreshed ourselves with a little bread and wine under the shade of a tree, and resuming our march, arrived at Mossocs somewhere about eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Mossocs, containing perhaps six or eight hundred inhabitants, would have had little to distinguish it from the generality of Hungarian villages, had not Baron Proni's chateau stood in the middle of it. Thrown back, indeed, the mansion was a little way from the street, for a sort of court lay between them; but the court itself was not extensive, the wall that surrounded it was low, and the avenue or approach to the principal entrance was quite open. I have every reason to believe that had we walked up to it, and stated our business and country, the hospitable owner would have welcomed us

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without further introduction; indeed, I know that having been afterwards made acquainted with the fact of our passage through, he expressed himself much chagrined that we had omitted to call upon him. But finding an inn in the place, (a very sorry one, doubtless, yet still an inn,) we could not so far get the better of our national shyness, as to make an unauthorized claim upon his attentions. We turned into the cabaret, which was pointed out to us as the best in the village, and ordered dinner. While it was in preparation, we questioned the landlord concerning Mr. Crawford, and learned that his troop had marched to Hoy; but that as he was much at Baron Proni's, it was more than probable that he might either be at that moment an inmate of the schloss, or would shortly visit it. I wrote a hasty note, on wretched paper, and with wretched ink and pen, and desired the landlord to carry it to the schloss, and to deliver it. He went; but returned with intelligence, that Mr. Crawford was not there; and that his coming again,—the regiment being on the march,—was doubtful. We accordingly made up our minds, though with reluctance, to push on; and not now having any object to gain in visiting Hoy, we resolved to make at once for Kremnitz, of

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which the gold and silver mines were described to us as well worth seeing.

We quitted Mossocs about two, and continued, with only brief and occasional halts, to press forward till the sun had gone far into the west. Of Kremnitz, however, no appearances presented themselves; and fatigue, as well as a slight degree of anxiety touching a place of shelter for the night, began to affect us. This was the more provoking that we had passed two stations during the day, at either of which we might have been well accommodated; the first, Alt Stuben, where a party of the Walmoden cuirassiers had halted; the other, Neu Stuben, a watering place, with a very tolerable inn. But the assurances of the landlord of Mossocs that Kremnitz must be gained long ere dark, had misled us; and leaving a message for Mr. Crawford, with a corporal who commanded the party in question, we held our course. It was toilsome in the extreme. Beautiful valleys smiled upon us in vain; a clear silvery stream did not tempt us to put our rods together; and we were trudging along, amid a growing twilight and much labour, when an incident occurred which set us all to rights again. We had passed a hamlet in the bottom of a valley, and were ascending a hill, the road being

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wooded on either hand, when two carriages with four or five gentlemen on horseback, overtook us. They passed,—lingered till we passed again,—and then came after us. A gentleman who occupied a seat in one of the carriages now asked what we were, and we told him. In a moment, he caused his servant to pull up; room was made for us in the vehicle; and we, nothing loth, took our places, beside this kind acquaintance of the moment. He belonged, as it appeared, to the magistracy of the county, or rather to that order of the county authorities to whom the charge of the royal forests was entrusted; and he, and those who travelled with him, had just been holding a court, and were so far on their way back to Kremnitz. Nothing could have befallen more opportunely for us. Our friend had no home to offer us, for he resided in a lodging in the town: but he told us at what inn we should obtain the best accommodation, and drove us to the door of it. We thanked him cordially for the attention which he had shown, and proceeded to inquire for quarters.

The hotel to which we were introduced was a large building, with every imaginable space to accommodate man and horse; but on this particular night, it chanced to be full to over-

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flowing. The landlord, an admirable model for Sancho Panza, assured us, that he had not a hole into which it would be possible to thrust us. We were sadly disconcerted, of course, and telling him that we were weary, and counted much on his attention to strangers;—that being Englishmen, we would willingly pay what he chose to demand, for even the most unassuming apartment; the honest man's heart was softened. Yet let me do him justice. I do not believe that he charged us a kreutzer more than he would have charged one of his own countrymen; but seeing that my young companion was quite worn out, he said, "I have no room to offer you, except my own. It is not fit for gentlemen like you, but if you will put up with it for one night, and think fit to remain longer, I believe that I can assure you of a better to-morrow." We were too happy to avail ourselves of mine host's liberality, and entered at once, and with extreme thankfulness, into possession of the chamber.

The good man had underrated the value of his own kindness. The room was filthy, I allow,—thanks rather to the personal habits of its usual occupant, than to any thing else; but it was abundantly large to accommodate us well, and two exceedingly good beds formed part of its furniture. Alas! I cannot say that

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even the beds were perfect specimens of cleanliness. A vile custom which prevails in many parts of Germany, holds good in all, except the first-rate hotels of Hungary, that of thrusting both mattress and coverlid into coloured tickings, over which the landlord never thinks of drawing white linen sheets, or any thing else which may enable you to determine whether all be fresh from the hands of the laundress, or whether a score of sleepers have preceded you in possession. I was not, therefore, surprised to find that my bed, which had been our host's before it became mine, was decked out in its striped habiliments. But a fastidiousness, quite out of place, I acknowledge, made me averse to the idea of literally and actually becoming his *locum tenens*. Accordingly, when supper was ended,—and a very good one it proved to be,—I ventured to suggest that it might be advisable to reserve the host's coverlid for his own especial use. My wish was law, and the coverlid went its way. I could not ask for more. To be sure, we had been startled while the change of bed-dressing was in progress, by the sounds of much squalling of children near at hand; and the servant who brought in the fresh coverlid informed us that the nursery lay next to our room, and that its

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inmates had been disturbed. But I thought nothing of it till I found, on lying down, that the mountain of feathers which covered me was warm. Poor little objects; they had been very scurvily used in having their night gear thus unceremoniously taken away from them.

In spite of this trifling inconvenience, we slept soundly that night under the protection of two crucifixes and as many Madonnas, which were suspended near the beds. We awoke, too, next morning, refreshed and vigorous, and having set apart the day to an inspection of all that might be curious in the place, we breakfasted about eight o'clock, and sallied forth. Kremnitz lies well, in a sort of basin surrounded by hills, which without advancing any claim to be regarded as mountains, are yet, from their formations, exceedingly picturesque. It is a very old, and, on the whole, a very striking town. The castle, within which stands the church, crowns an eminence above it, and has stood several sieges by the Turks; besides being thrice burned during the troublous times when Catholics and Protestants made the sword the arbiter of their religious differences. It was first in possession of the Catholics; the Protestants, who were always numerous here, wrested it from them; and it was finally won

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back after a desperate resistance, of which the effects, in numerous breaches in the walls, are still visible. The church, again, is a fine one, though neglected and filthy; and the view from the tower is superb. We found, on ascending it, the fire-watch as usual at their posts, that is to say, two men, looking far and near for conflagrations, whose business it is, as soon as the slightest indication of the calamity appears, to blow their horns; and who testify to their own wakefulness by striking on a great bell, both by night and day, as well the hours as the quarters. With them our intercourse was not very protracted, inasmuch as a few questions and answers circumscribed it, the latter being followed, as a matter of course, by a present of a couple of silver pieces; after which we returned to the level of the earth, and after examining the curious old cross, and looking at the exterior of a Benedictine convent, we were carried by our cicerone, a relative of our kind host, to the mint. For it is here that most of the Hungarian gold and silver coins are struck, of which the former are said to be singularly pure; and as we were just in time to be present at the fabrication of a batch both of ducats and twenty kreutzer pieces, it will readily be imagined that we possessed our-

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selves of a specimen of each. But the mines, which are very extensive, though worked, as we are told, at little profit, we had not the good fortune to see. They are closed at the hour of noon; and as noon was passed ere we found ourselves at liberty to approach them, we were forced to keep our curiosity in reference to that point in abeyance.

The appearance of the country round Kremnitz is quite in agreement with that of districts in general where the precious metals are found. There was very little wood near the town; the hills were bald and barren, while the streams which flowed out of them, either tinged by the deposit at their sources, or poisoned by the pollutions which numerous smelting-houses and vitriol distilleries poured forth, presented, one and all, the most repulsive appearance, and were quite destructive to animal life. The population again, as is the case in all the mining-towns of Hungary, consisted almost entirely of colonists from Germany. On this, indeed, they especially prided themselves, for it is a curious fact, that from a very early date, the kings of Hungary found it necessary to bring German patience and skill to their aid in such occupations, and that the Germans thus employed, while they are hated by the Hungarians and

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Slavacs, repay the feeling with an unmitigated and hardly-disguised contempt. Nothing, indeed, can be more marked than the line of distinction which is drawn between the races. The Slavacs have, in some sort, forgiven the Hungarians their usurpation; the Hungarians treat the Slavacs pretty much as they treat their own peasants; but both Slavacs and Hungarians look upon these Germans as interlopers, with whom it is impossible that they can ever enter into bonds of amity or sincere companionship.

Having ascertained, about one o'clock, that there was nothing more to be done in Kremnitz, and being assured by our guide that the mines of Neusohl were much more deserving of notice, we returned to our hotel, changed our dress, paid our bill, and departed. There was a steep ascent between us and the place of our proposed destination, which we faced without scruple, for the distance to be traversed was described to us as inconsiderable; and after such a march as that of the previous day, the passage of a hill, however sharp, was lightly accounted of. But fate had determined that we should never accomplish it. We had not proceeded above two English miles on our road, when the clattering of a horse's hoofs, and the voice of some one hallooing in our rear, caused

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us to turn round. The corporal with whom we had communicated at Alt Stuben was in pursuit of us. He was the bearer of a letter from Mr. Crawford, who begged us to join him at Kreutz, and though Kreutz lay in a direction entirely apart from the point whither our steps were turned, we did not hesitate to fall in with the suggestion. It was well for us that we were prepared thus readily to adopt a change of plan. Had we refused to do so, we should have been, in every sense of the term, serious losers by our own obstinacy.

We retraced our steps to Kremnitz, where, in the inn-yard, the corporal's party waited for us. They formed the advanced guard of a troop of cuirassiers; and went on, from stage to stage, a day's march a-head, in order that they might choose quarters, and otherwise arrange matters against the arrival of their comrades. We desired the corporal to bespeak a good apartment for us, and dismissed him. Then having once more saluted our friendly host, and chatted awhile with his really pretty daughter, we struck into our new route, and were soon as much alone as if no populous and busy town had been within a hundred miles of us.

Our march this day proved to be, on more than one account, highly interesting. In the

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first place, it carried us through a large portion of the valley of the Graan, a beautiful glen, hemmed in on either side by low but finely-wooded hills, and washed in the midst by a river. It is very true, that when examined too closely, this last feature was the reverse of perfect; for a constant influx of polluted streams from the mining districts destroyed altogether the transparency of the waters: yet as seen from the road, the effect was fine, and we were not disposed, by too close an intimacy, to spoil it. In the next place, there occurred, during the day, at least one adventure, which though not productive of any important consequences, appeared to us at the moment to be highly interesting, and which it may not perhaps be out of place to describe.

We had accomplished about half our day's journey, and were arrived at a point whence all evidences of human society were hidden. It seemed to be the very heart of the glen, for the level space between the ranges of hills was much diminished, and both hill and vale presented the appearance of a continuous forest. Just then while we were gazing round, filled with admiration of the woodland scene, some wreaths of smoke, ascending over the tops of the trees, attracted our notice. Our curiosity

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was roused, and we resolved to indulge it. Accordingly we abandoned the road, and penetrating a sort of grove on the right, we found ourselves in a few minutes at the edge of an open glade, within which three or four wigwams, or huts, formed of leafy branches, were pitched. There was no possibility of mistaking either the purpose for which the encampment had been formed, or the lineage and business of those by whom it was tenanted. Half a dozen children, naked as if just brought into the world, well-made and graceful-looking creatures, with skins as dark as a mahogany table, were playing about the skirts of the forest. Others, equally devoid of covering, though considerably more advanced in years, were gathering sticks, or chopping them up for fire-wood; while from the interior of the largest of the tents, there came volumes of smoke, accompanied by a din as of hammers ringing sharply upon an anvil. My companion and I looked at one another, while we exclaimed in a breath, "We have found the gipsies at last." We had found them; and rejoicing in the accident which had thus brought us into a situation so favourable in every respect to the accomplishment of a long-cherished wish, we hastened to turn it to account.

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The noise which we made while crashing through the underwood, had already attracted the attention of the gipsies. The children suspended their gambols; while from the tent door there looked out two or three women, one of whom,—an elderly person,—advanced to meet us. Men's heads, likewise, showed themselves at the aperture, round, well-covered, globular-looking things, of which the countenances were of a hue deeper than that of the high-caste Hindoos, and the features, as well as the hair, precisely similar. We were well armed, and did not, therefore, experience the slightest reluctance as to mixing familiarly with them. On the contrary, having saluted the woman, who spoke a few, and only a few, words of bad German, we walked towards the tent, and without a moment's hesitation, entered.

The tent was not filled; indeed, we quickly ascertained that a good many members of the tribe were abroad; but it contained, in addition to ourselves, three men, four women, three or four half-grown youths, and by-and-by the whole troop of children, who came rushing in from wood and dell, and work and play, to gaze at the strangers. Two of the women were young, and one beautiful. I do not think she could have been more than fifteen years of age, yet

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an infant was at her breast, who, like its mother, was of a dark mahogany colour. The men, again, and especially one of them, who seemed to exercise authority over the rest, were remarkably muscular, athletic-looking fellows, though under, rather than above, the middle height. They were entirely naked, except that each wore a sort of girdle round his loins; indeed, neither they nor the ladies seemed at all fastidious in the matter of dress. The attire of the women was a short petticoat, and a sort of shawl which left the arms entirely bare, and hardly covered the bosom.

When we first entered, the men and half-grown lads were all squatted on the ground. Three fires were burning, beside each of which stood a portable anvil; and red-hot iron rods, and hammers, wielded with equal strength and address, showed that they were not kept there for mere purposes of show. In fact, the gipsies seemed to occupy themselves in making nails, of which a large quantity was scattered about the hut. But our presence suspended their labours, and some amusing though very awkward efforts to open a conversation ensued. Alas! they led to no fortunate results. Except the old woman, there was not one among them who understood a word of German; and her

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acquaintance with it seemed to be limited to the begging vocabulary. To say the truth, however, they were all, and especially the children, well versed in the arts of solicitation. We were surrounded in a moment by the most importunate solicitors of favours whom I have anywhere encountered; so that before three minutes ran their course, we had been eased of all our copper, and some of the silver coins, which lay loose in our pockets.

We had not made much progress towards intimacy, when I espied in one of the corners of the hut a fiddle, and the thought struck me that it might, by possibility, operate as a bond of union between us. I threw off my knapsack, seized the instrument, and began to play. It had only three strings, and was altogether a rude instrument, more especially in my hands, whose skill as a violinist is of the humblest order, yet the sounds brought forth fell upon very willing ears, and the effect produced by them was marvellous. The gipsies—young and old—shouted, clapped their hands, and jumped up. I motioned to the younger portion of them to dance, and they endeavoured to obey me; but my tune did not fall in with the cadence of their movements, and we made but a sorry affair of it. Upon this, I handed the

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instrument to the chief, and a change came over the vision of our dream. He played beautifully. The music was wild, to be sure, and irregular; but each note was clear and harmonious, and the dancing, under his management, took a character entirely national. I do not know to what I can compare it; for I have seen nothing in other lands which at all resembled it; but I may state that the movements, which at first were slow, became gradually more lively, till in the end, the figures seemed to glide to and fro with the rapidity of the wind. Arms, heads, and body, all took part, moreover, in the exercise, and all, by their evolutions, added to the grace and harmony of the figure.

The gipsies and we being now the best friends in the world, we were invited by signs to become their guests at supper. There was a pot boiling near the door of the hut, of which one of the women lifted the lid, and the savoury steam that came forth seemed to indicate that the mess, of whatever materials composed, would soon be ready. But we declined their proffered hospitality. Curiosity was satisfied; and in other respects, the inducements to linger among them were not numerous. I say nothing of the odours which hung upon the stagnant air, nor of the intense heat that oppressed us;

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but the living creatures in that tent were innumerable, and we had no particular desire to appropriate any portion of them to our own use. In a word, the romance of gipsyism had evaporated, and we saw only its real, and perhaps most disgusting features. We accordingly took leave of our sooty acquaintances, and resumed our journey.

I do not know that there is any country in Europe where the genuine gipsy is now to be found, so thoroughly addicted to his original habits, as in Hungary. The Hungarians call these strange people Cygnanis, and speak of them as a distinct community within themselves; as passing to and fro by tribes, each under its respective chief, and little noticed either by the law or its administrators, except when accused of some crime against the state. They owe fealty to no noble; they are not possessed anywhere of a rood of land, though some of them are rich in horses and cattle, and even gold and silver is abundant with them. The horde which we encountered was evidently a small one, neither could it boast of much wealth; but the period was recent, since, through the same valley, a caravan had passed, concerning which and its leader, many stories were related to us. The chief, it was said, travelled in a wagon

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which was drawn by four beautiful horses. He had several wives to his own share, and his tribe amounted to forty men, besides women and children, all of whom paid to him the most unquestioning obedience, even when obedience set them in opposition to the constituted authorities. The consequence was, that avoiding the vicinity of large towns and villages, where troops might be quartered, they levied contributions whithersoever they came, not only from individual travellers, but from whole communities. One of their exploits is thus spoken of. Their chief, somehow or another, contrived to discover that the riechter of a hamlet near which they had pitched their camp, had collected from the peasants one of the taxes that chanced to be due, and was going to forward it on the morrow, to the receiver for the district. The gipsy determined to possess himself of it, and with this view caused two of his people to engage in a quarrel with some peasants, who dragged them before the riechter, and began to accuse them. There was a great deal of altercation, of course, during which others of the gipsies dropped in, whose business it was, while appearing to take an interest in the proceeding, to ascertain where the riechter kept his treasure. They succeeded in this, and departed. By-and-

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by up came the gipsy chief, all bedizened with gold lace, in his carriage and four, to demand his people. His lordly port, and still more, a knowledge that he had fifty men to back him, exceedingly embarrassed the riechter, whose sense of duty urged him to detain the delinquents, but whose personal fears pointed in a different direction. Of course, the issue could not long be doubtful. The two men were set at liberty, and then began a fresh altercation; for they, in their turn, insisted that the peasants should be flogged, and themselves compensated for the wrong which had been put upon them. All this, as I need scarcely remark, served but as a blind by which to divert the attention of the villagers from what was going on elsewhere. Three of the most active of the tribe, under the direction of the spies, made their way meanwhile into the back part of the house. The chest containing the treasure was seized, the robbers stole quietly away with their booty, and the chief, advertised of the fact by a signal previously agreed upon, became, all at once, more moderate in his demands. The result need hardly be told. An apology from the riechter was accepted, and the gipsy troop were far beyond the reach of pursuit, ere the unfor-

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tunate magistrate had ascertained the extent of his own loss.

So much for a gipsy tribe, with a gold-laced chief at its head; or rather, so much for one of the legends which are told of that tribe. Of other tribes, I learned, that they are often so degraded, as to live like beasts of prey, on the veriest garbage; that when hunger presses them sore, a dead horse is a treasure to them; and that being universally distrusted, they venture as little as possible into the haunts of men. Yet when they do come, they are not entirely useless members of society. The Hungarians are fond of music, and the Cygnanis almost universally cultivate that art; and I had frequent opportunities of observing, that in the court-yards of hotels, at watering-places, and in public gardens, whatever minstrels you find are of gipsy descent.

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CHAPTER VII.

KREUTZ.—THE RUINED CASTLE.—MR. CRAWFORD AND THE WALMODEN CUIRASSIERS.—THE BISHOP'S PARTY.—MARCH TO SHARNOWITZ.—SHEMNITZ.—THE MINES.—AUSTRIAN CAVALRY.—CUSTOMS OF THE ARMY.

Our course, during the remainder of the day, continued to lie through the same valley, which gained, rather than lost, in point of beauty, by the gradual opening out of the hills on either side. It was clear, indeed, that we were approaching the confines of the corn country. For though the mountains to the right and left seemed, for a time, to grow more bold in their character, in front, the strath wound onwards with a still increasing extent. Moreover, the Graan became wider and more sullen at every mile in advance, even where his banks were surmounted by rocks and sloping eminences; while the wood grew richer and deeper, and was composed of more massive trees than any which, as yet, we had encountered. Last of all, the vine, of which, for a season, we had lost sight, re-appeared; a sure sign that we should enter, by-and-by, upon the plains of Lower Hun-

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gary. I cannot say that we regretted this. Of the Slavonians, and their wild settlements, we had now beheld enough; we desired to become acquainted with the Hungarians,—properly so called,—and with their cities.

We reached Kreutz about six o'clock in the evening, and found that the corporal had not been inattentive to our wishes. An excellent quarter was provided for us, where, in due time, supper was served. Having settled this point, and according to custom, changed our apparel, we strolled out, that we might take, while yet the daylight lingered, a survey of the exterior of things. We found that though, in point of size, Kreutz be little more than a village, it gives a title to one of the Hungarian bishoprics; and that the bishop, who resides here, is owner of the place, as well as of a large tract of country round it. Moreover, evidences of the extent of his authority were furnished by the appearance of several peasants, one of them a woman, who were sweeping the court-yard of the palace, when we looked into it, with logs and chains upon their ankles. Let me, however, do justice to the ecclesiastical establishment at Kreutz. I have not seen in Hungary a feudal village throughout which the signs of content, and of the absence of griping poverty,

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were more manifest; and the affectionate deference which its inhabitants appeared to pay to the inmates of the palace, satisfied me, that in the present instance, at all events, a churchman was not necessarily a bad landlord.

Being somewhat fatigued with our exertions throughout the day, we went early to bed, and rising next morning refreshed and vigorous, prepared to make the most of it. We knew that we should meet our countryman and his brother-officers here by-and-by, but their arrival was not anticipated till noon at the earliest, and we could not afford to waste five precious hours within doors. Accordingly, having taken note, as we came along, of a ruin near the village, which, on account both of its extent and situation, seemed to claim our notice, we resolved to devote the space which was now at our command, to an examination of it. A pleasant walk we had, crossing the Graan by a wooden bridge, and following a path which conducted us through some rich meadows, from which the river flowed past us with a broad and rapid current; and there were abundant traces of fertility and industry everywhere. We passed a farm-house too, just such an edifice as one would expect to see standing alone in Somersetshire or Middlesex, an extensive pile of brickwork, low, and

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inlaid with beams of timber, having a court-yard and offices complete, as if for the accommodation of an English yeoman. It was the first structure of the kind which had challenged our regards since we quitted home, and it elicited, in a proportionate degree, our admiration. By-and-by, a straggling hamlet, near which some extensive vineyards were spread out, greeted us at a fine bend in the river, and then the ruin was before us. It occupied the brow of a sloping green hill, which protruded, as it were, from the chain of mountains, and was connected with them by a long natural terrace, extremely narrow at the ridge. A more commanding position for a baronial residence, in times when the art of war was different from what it is now, cannot be conceived. It was nowhere overlooked for purposes of attack; and could be approached only in the sight of the garrison.

We climbed the hill,—a work of some difficulty and labour even to us, and after various fruitless efforts to penetrate through one of the breaches, were forced to make the circuit of the whole, and to seek out the principal gateway. It looked towards the mountains, was defended, as is usual in such edifices, by a barbacan, and conducted into a passage between two walls, of a width barely sufficient to permit the advance

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of three men abreast. For the rest, we found this castle in the interior, as it had appeared to be when examined from without, as good a specimen of a warlike chieftain's hold as can be imagined. The remains of the chapel were, in particular, very beautiful, with their tall and elegant Gothic pillars, here and there a niche still standing, and a fragment of the very altar left. But alders, and the wild briers, and nettles in profuse crops, were waving rankly among them; through which great masses of fallen masonry rendered it very difficult for us to push our way.

There are no circumstances under which the spirit of reverie becomes so naturally dominant within us as when we are loitering amid objects which speak to us of the might of days that have passed away, and, as a necessary consequence, of the vanity of all earthly greatness. How melancholy, yet how instructive it was to scare the wild pigeon from her nest, which she had built beneath the curve of one of these dilapidated pillars. How sad to watch the progress of the lizard as he glided past, and sought his hole beneath the hearth of what had once been the great kitchen. It is true that we were without the means of linking the scene around us with any particular portion of the

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glory of other years, for of the very name of the place, as well as of the family which used to inhabit there, we were ignorant. But visions of knights, and dames, and minstrels gay, rose before the eye of fancy, only that they might fade again like the images of a dream which may have connected us, vividly and powerfully for a moment, with a state of existence higher than our own. I plead guilty to the crime of having scribbled some forty or fifty verses with my pencil upon the wall of a recess; but the reader need not take the alarm, they are not going to be inflicted upon him, for I have entirely forgotten them.

We lingered amid these scenes a good half hour, looking forth from every accessible point on the noble landscape, that spread itself out beneath them, and then retraced our steps to Kreutz. The cuirassiers had arrived. Our countryman met us near the head of the bridge, and we became intimate and particular friends in a moment. I hope that, in reference to this as well as other intimacies formed during that ramble, the time may come when they shall be renewed.

We had all along intended to pay our respects to the bishop, and with this view had looked in at the palace-gate as we passed in the morn-

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ing, but the prelate was then at mass, and we could not see him. Under the escort of Mr. Crawford we now repeated the attempt, which proved more successful. We were conducted by a domestic, in a hussar uniform, up a handsome staircase, and along an extensive corridor, which ran round the whole extent of the building; till, arriving at a large folding door, it was thrown open, and we found ourselves in what appeared to be a spacious ante-room. Two priests, in their cassocks, were in waiting here, who received us very politely, and sent an attendant out of livery to inform the bishop of our arrival. He did not leave us long to be entertained by his chaplains; for a third personage, apparently a maître d'hôtel, came forth almost immediately, and requested us to follow him.

There was a good deal of state about the episcopal establishment, and an air of dignity even in the palace. The latter, a square pile, enclosing a court-yard of some hundred and fifty feet diameter, appeared built rather for convevience than for show,—that is to say, it was of the date, perhaps, of a century ago, with large windows and cornices, and exhibited altogether a fair specimen of the Italian style of architecture, as it was then applied to the residences of

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the nobility. The chapel, which occupied one side of the square, was approached by a flight of broad steps, and had its porch, and statues, and iron gate,—the latter profusely gilded; while elsewhere round the basement ran a series of cloisters, not arched, but roofed in with solid beams of timber. Moreover there was a lodge, or guard-house, about which some armed retainers were lounging; a prison, which I did not visit, but which was pointed out to me; gardens, disposed into alleys; enclosures, grottoes, fish-ponds, and every incentive to recreation, as well physical as mental; and men and women employed to keep them in order, some of them with chains round their ankles. Of one of their incentives to recreation, I am bound to make especial mention, because it seems to illustrate the sort of taste which the bishops of Kreutz sometimes cherish. There was in a particular part of the garden an alley, perhaps twenty or twenty-five yards long. At one extremity stood a summer-house, at the other a pole, having a popinjay, or figure of a cock, fastened to its upper extremity; and it was the bishop's practice to amuse himself by shooting at that mark through the window of the summer-house,—not with a rifle, but with a cross-bow and bolts of wood.

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The person who was now our guide led us across a vestibule, and through a door, into the apartment where the bishop was sitting. It was not large, but both the fitting-up and the furnishing were handsome; that is to say, the floor was of highly polished oak, and the chairs and sofas were covered with rich tapestry. The bishop himself, an old man, arrayed in the tippet and gold chain of his order, bade us very heartily welcome, and would have fain persuaded us to dine with him at noon; but this, having made other arrangements, we declined, though we promised to be his guests at supper-time. Accordingly, after sitting a few minutes with him, and being introduced to his niece and one or two dignitaries of his cathedral, we took our leave, that we might form an acquaintance with Mr. Crawford's brother officers, and spend in their society the remainder of the day.

I took occasion, while sketching with a rapid hand the nature of the Hungarian constitution, to state, that the bishops of Hungary take rank with the highest order of nobles, and sit and vote in meetings of the estates with the magnates. I have now to add, that the revenues of the sees are all of them ample, and some almost princely. The archbishop of Graan, for example, the primate of Hungary, enjoys an

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annual income of thirty-five thousand pounds sterling; the bishopric of Agram is estimated at thirteen thousand; that of Eslau at eight thousand. The Bishop of Kreutz is, I believe, the poorest of his order; yet his see returns him a revenue of twelve thousand florins,—that is, twelve hundred pounds sterling per annum. It must not, however, be supposed, that the bishops are left to the quiet and exclusive enjoyment of their wealth. Besides that the king takes care, as has elsewhere been shown, to appropriate, at the demise of each, the larger portion of what may have been accumulated during the bishop's lifetime, there is a burden imposed upon the sees of a peculiar nature, which is not, under any circumstances, rendered more light than need be. Strange to say, the bishoprics are taxed,—a solitary case in reference to the estates of the nobles,—for the purpose of keeping the principal fortresses in Hungary in repair. Neither is this done occasionally, as the works may have fallen into decay, but year by year a demand is made upon them, and the deduction thereby effected from the episcopal incomes is, I am assured, very considerable. I say nothing of other expenses incident to the stations of the individuals, for these are to be counted upon

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everywhere. Our own Bishop of Durham, for example, so long as the honours of the palatinate belonged to him, did not find that his revenues, ample as they were, accumulated on his hands. And the hospitalities of the Hungarian bishops, if they be less costly in detail, must, from their very extent, press with almost equal weight.

We supped that night, according to engagement, with the Bishop of Kreutz. There was great abundance at his table, as well as a large assortment of guests, including many ladies, a dozen, at least, of ecclesiastics, civilians of all degrees, and Mr. Crawford and ourselves; but I could detect no symptoms of profusion, nor the slightest arrogance of unnecessary state. The old man took his place in the centre of the board, and did the honours heartily, while his friends paid the best possible compliment to the viands, by causing them to disappear with amazing rapidity. Here, however, I stop. I have no more right to violate the confidence of private life by detailing what passed in the family of a bishop, than if I were speaking of a layman. Enough is done when I state that our conversation, if not very intellectual, was abundantly animated; that we carried it on partly in German, partly in Latin; that we had quite as many questions to answer, as answers

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to receive; and that the information, communicated by Mr. Crawford, that I was the son of an English (he ought to have said a Scottish) bishop, in no degree affected the good humour of our entertainers. "There are some excellent men among the English bishops," said a dignitary who sat opposite to me; and I am bound to return the compliment, by avowing my belief that the Hungarian bench can boast its good men also.

We slept that night at the inn, and soon after dawn were roused by the trumpets of the cuirassiers sounding to boot and saddle. It had been agreed that as our faces were turned in the same direction, we should accompany the troops at least for a stage or two; and my friends having kindly undertaken to supply me with a horse, my young companion transferred himself, with the baggage, into Mr. Crawford's carriage. Accordingly a charger was brought round to the door, which I mounted, and the march began. How strange, yet how natural, were the feelings that came over me that day. I could have fancied myself in early youth again, with other and brighter years rolled back; when the present was a season of high and constant excitement, and over the future was shed the halo,—which was not destined to fulfil

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its promise. For the march of this little body of Austrian cavalry was, to the most minute particular, warlike and orderly. The advanced guard was thrown out, as if an enemy had been in our front; a rear guard separated itself from the main body, to provide against an attack from behind, while connecting patrols and flankers were not neglected, nor any other of the precautions usually adopted when a reconnoissance is to be pushed forward. Moreover, the scenery through which we moved was quite in keeping with our style of travel. On our right the Graan held his course, with a broad and sullen current; on our left, though separated from us by a considerable extent of plain, were the mountains; which, closing in here and there, and being met by portions of the forest, produced just the sort of defiles, in threading which it would have been necessary to keep all our wits about us. And, as if to complete the delusion,—as if to carry me back to the period when it was my daily fortune to see the sunbeams reflected back as they were now, from morion and casque, and bayonet and sabre,—the troopers began, all at once, to sing;—one or two voices taking the lead, so as to give the time and air, and the rest joining, by-and-by, in most harmonious concert. It would

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be but the repetition of a truism if I were to say that there is no music comparable to that of the human voice, and I must be permitted to add that the human voice is never heard to such advantage as under circumstances similar to those by which I was then surrounded.

We had started in good time, and as the Austrians never overwork their cavalry by making the stages during a peaceful march unnecessarily long, we reached Sharnowitz, our halting-place for the day, at one o'clock. It is a prettily situated village on the banks of the Graan, and in the mouth of an opening among the hills, which have closed in, for some miles previously, on the valley, and render it here very narrow. I need not, however, pause to describe either the place or the manner in which, till dinner-time, we there amused ourselves. Our English fishing-tackle was called into play, and the Graan, as well as one of the tributary streams which fell into him, beside the village, were forced to render up some of their occupants,—of which neither the worth nor the weight were remarkable.

Sharnowitz or Zsarocz (for such is the approved method of spelling the word,) is situated on one side of a range of bold hills, among

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which lies Schemnitz, the principal station in what are called the mining districts of Hungary. We were naturally desirous of seeing a place concerning which we had heard a great deal; and as our young countryman happened to be, like ourselves, a stranger to its locality, we agreed that it would be a pleasant arrangement were we to visit it together. Accordingly, having procured a couple of ponies, by the convenient process of forstban, we harnessed them to Mr. Crawford's carriage, and about six o'clock in the evening set out. The drive was in every respect a delightful one. To be sure the road was steep, and here and there indifferent; for after traversing the narrow strath, it took a direction up the very face of the hills; but of mountain scenery the eye never grows weary, and we found it here in perfection. There was one point of view in particular, where we looked down upon a small melancholy lake,—a pool of water sunk so completely among overhanging rocks and forests, that the sun's rays can never reach it, which struck me as being equal to any thing which I had yet encountered. Neither did the first appearance of Schemnitz itself disappoint us. Almost immediately on gaining the ridge of the mountain, we beheld the town crowded into a basin at our feet,—with here

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and there a mass of building climbing up the face of a hill, and temples and shrines crowning the eminences above them; and as the last rays of a setting sun fell upon, and lighted up the panorama, I am bound to say that the effect was very fine. We stopped the horses a few minutes, that we might admire it, and then drove to the hotel.

I need scarcely pause to state that, among the hills round Schemnitz are found gold, silver, lead, and copper; and that the galleries which have been excavated run to an amazing extent through the mountains. Some of them, too, are of a date so remote, that it is impossible to trace them to their beginnings; for we can say of them only that they were wrought in the time of the Romans. Of others the authentic records carry us back through eight centuries; while each successive age, from that period downwards, has witnessed some addition to them. It would appear, however, that the zeal of the miners has not been adequately rewarded, inasmuch as both gold and silver are becoming, from year to year, more scarce; indeed the quantity of the former metal now procured, hardly covers the expense of digging for it, and the smelting and coining are a dead loss. But in searching for gold, both silver and copper

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are found, so that the work still goes on; while the hope is not yet laid aside, that by-and-by some fresh veins of the sister ore will be discovered.

In Hungary, as in Germany, all minerals found beneath the earth's surface belong to the crown, and all mining establishments are of royal foundation and management. Not that private adventurers are hindered from engaging in similar undertakings as a speculation; for even at Schemnitz the period is not distant since a large portion of the work was executed upon contract. But here, as well as in Saxony, mining is regarded as an art, the cultivation of which it is the business of the government, by all possible means, to promote. Hence, we have in both countries seminaries or schools for miners; such as that of Freyberg, near Dresden, and Schemnitz, in Hungary. The latter is on a scale much more extended than the former. At its head is the Oberst Kaumer Graff, an officer of exalted rank in the imperial service, who enjoys a liberal salary, and has an official residence assigned him; while each mine has its Bergrath, or head man. and each shaft its Oberkünst Meister, or superintendent of machinery. The operative miners, again, who wear a particular uniform, and hold

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their heads exceedingly high in their respective stations, pursue their labours under an organized responsibility, than which that of an army cannot be more complete. Indeed, the spirit of the establishment is altogether military, insomuch that you need but put arms into the hands of the people, and you would have a military force in a moment.

The stranger who may be desirous of visiting these mines, will repair first to the residence of the Bergrath; where, after having sundry specimens of minerals exhibited to him, he will be supplied with a miner's dress. It is not the handsome dark green garb which may have attracted his notice while traversing the streets, but trousers and coat of coarse materials; with a leathern apron so buckled on as that it shall shelter the wearer, not in front, as may be anticipated, but behind. Thus clothed, with a high cap on his head, he proceeds to the mouth of the gallery, where three or four men, each with a lamp in his hand, stand ready to attend him; and he is by them conducted, amid all the customary alternations of wet and dry, and rough and smooth, through labyrinths that appear to be endless. As he advances, machinery is pointed out to him here and there,—wheels, and cylinders, and all the other instru-

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ments by which mining operations are carried on; but to describe which in detail would be as little interesting to the general reader, as it would be wearisome in the extreme to myself. Finally, after descending by ladders into an abyss deeper than before, where the whole process of digging, and clearing away water, and ventilating, and propping-up, is explained, he returns to his first level, and discovers, to his surprise, that it is very skilfully arranged as a railroad. It is by means of this line, and of the wagons that ply upon it, that the ore as it is procured passes on to the smelting houses; and the civility of the miners leads them to enlarge its sphere of usefulness, by rendering it instrumental to the convenience of their visitors. In one of these vehicles you are requested to take a seat; and then, by the merest touch of the hand, a workman pushing from behind, you are hurried, at a good round rate, over a space of at least three-quarters of an English mile. Thus driven along, you catch, by-and-by, the glimmer of daylight at a distance; and, lo! at quite a different part of the mountain from that by which you made your ingress, the mine may be said to eject you.

Besides the mines themselves, the model-room, where miniature specimens of the diffe-

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rent kinds of machinery in use are exhibited, will amply repay the labour of a visit. It is not large, neither are the models numerous; and even my imperfect acquaintance with mechanics sufficed to convince me that, in many respects, the Hungarian engineers have yet much to learn; but the implements themselves are very neatly constructed, and the officer in charge of them appears every way competent to explain their uses. I cannot say so much in commendation of the museum, or of the collection of minerals with which it is enriched. The fact, indeed, I believe to be, that there is no great variety in the mineral productions of the district in and around Schemnitz; and as the collector has not travelled beyond his own immediate neighbourhood for the purpose of enriching his cabinet, a cursory glance is all that a mere visitor will care to bestow upon it.

Nothing can be more liberal than the footing on which the mining school or college at Schemnitz is conducted. It is, as I have said, a royal foundation, where every person who has obtained the sanction of the Board of Mines in Vienna, (and I believe that it has never been refused,) may have all the practical information which works so exten-

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sive can afford. A complete course of study occupies three whole years, which must be attended to by such as desire employment as officers in mines; while the examinations which occur, both during the progress, and at the termination of the course, are said to be severe; but amateurs are not thereby excluded. It is competent for them either to go forward to the end of the term, or to quit the seminary at any moment when their own convenience may require. The subjects, again, on which lectures are delivered, are chemistry, mineralogy, mathematics, mechanics, natural philosophy in most of its branches, plain drawing, mapping, the construction and use of machinery, as well as botany, and every other species of knowledge which is connected with the growth and preservation of timber. This science, which the Germans call Forstwissenschaft, is of great importance in countries which depend for their fuel entirely on the forests; and it is doubly important in the mining districts, where, in the construction of shafts, and the preservation of galleries, so much wood is consumed. Moreover, the students are admitted to the free use of the laboratory, and have constant access to all that may be in progress, both in the mines, and in the smelting and prepara-

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tion of the ore. They are encouraged, likewise, in making collections of minerals for their own use, though prohibited, on pain of expulsion, from selling what they collect; and as they generally form themselves into little groups or bands for the purpose, the advantages which they derive from the practice are considerable. I made particular inquiry into the personal habits of these young men, both in their public and private proceedings; and it is but an act of justice to record, that they were everywhere well spoken of. Concerning the exact numbers who belong to their body, I cannot speak; but it seemed to be considerable, and the tendency, as I was assured, is towards a constant increase.

Of the town itself, I have not much to say. Scattered along the side of the mountain, its streets are all steep and irregular; for the very market-place lies upon the slope of an inclined plane; nor is there, within its compass, a single building which the traveller would care to examine. Yet is the general effect striking, and some shrines and temples with which the pious have surmounted the conical hills that look down upon it, presented a handsome appearance as seen from a distance. Like Kremnitz, it is a Ger-

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man colony of standing long anterior to the union of the crowns of Austria and Hungary, and its inhabitants still speak the language which their ancestors brought with them, when centuries ago they sought a home in the land of strangers.

A morning well spent having sufficed to bring these matters under our observation, we returned after a late dinner to our quarter at Sharnowitz. Our friends, the cuirassiers, were still there, for the day which we occupied so profitably, had by them been devoted to refreshment; and on the morrow, our march towards the low country was resumed. It carried us, pretty much in the order of the movement from Kreutz, to Koesintz,—a village more extensive than either of those which we had previously occupied, and beside which there was a small cavalry barrack, or rather chateau, fitted up by government, for the accommodation of a squadron of horse. Here we found another strong troop established, with a considerable accession to the number of officers; and at the head of all, a very gentlemanlike and good soldier, Lieutenant-colonel Schaffcoach. Of the same hospitality which had been extended to us heretofore, we were again made to partake. An apartment in the barrack was allotted to us; we lived with

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the officers as members of their mess, and spent that day and a portion of the next, very agreeably in their company.

I do not know whether my good fortune directed me to form an acquaintance with the very best regiment in the Austrian service, but I am bound to state, that I have nowhere encountered a finer set of young men, than those whom I met at dinner this day. They were all gentlemen, in the best sense of the term, yet soldiers too,—well-bred, well-informed, enthusiasts in their profession, and just as ready to communicate as to receive information, as well in reference to military affairs, as on subjects of more general interest. I could gather, indeed, from what passed, that the line of distinction between the cavalry and infantry service, in the Austrian army, is very broadly marked. The regiments of infantry being quartered chiefly in towns, where large garrisons are kept up, and hospitality is little dispensed, seldom come into collision, at least in the inferior ranks, with the aristocracy of the land. The cavalry, on the contrary, as it is scattered through villages and hamlets, wherever the convenience of forage may invite, affords the very best opportunities for a species of intercourse, without which men's manners become almost unavoid-

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ably rough and awkward. At every country-house, at least in Hungary, an officer is a welcome guest; and if he contribute, by his knowledge of the world, and the spirit with which he joins them in the dance and promenade, to amuse the ladies of the family, he receives from them in return, a benefit much more important,—a refinement in tastes and bearing which never comes except from having mixed while young, in the society of right-minded and well-bred women. Hence, as well as because the service is attended with heavier expenses, you find that the cavalry of the Austrian empire is almost exclusively officered by men of family; the infantry, by a more mixed class, in which the aristocracy do not preponderate.

A regiment of cavalry in the Austrian service has besides its proprietor (always a general officer), a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, and a major; to each of whom is committed, in an especial manner, a squadron, three squadrons composing the corps. When all are united, which occurs only for two months in the year, the colonel assumes, of course, the general command; while the troops lie scattered through their quarters, each field-officer is responsible for the efficiency of his own squadron. In like manner, each squadron consists of two troops, and each troop

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of two half-troops,—the troop having at its head one first captain, one second captain, with two first, and as many second lieutenants. Its organization, both when united and dispersed, agrees exactly with that of the squadron. If brought together, the first captain is responsible for the whole; if broken up, he shares that responsibility with the second captain. And to render the system perfect, both first and second lieutenants have their respective sections, over which their control is absolute. Thus from the very outset of his career an officer is accustomed to exercise the power, and wield the responsibility, of separate command;—an order of things which seems of all others the best calculated to confirm his moral courage, as well as to sharpen his faculties.

Every gentleman enters the Austrian service as a cadet, and his promotion depends not only on the chance of vacancies, but on the degree of intelligence and military capacity which he may exhibit. I found, for example, that our friend Mr. Crawford had served as a cadet little more than a year and a-half, whereas another countryman of ours had been five years in that station, and bade fair, if not sent about his business, to continue in it five years longer. Then comes promotion by seniority in the corps, or by

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the exercise of powerful influence out of it; of which the effects are to render the ascent to the rank of a field-officer a very tedious affair; to the more elevated steps in the ladder, both easy and rapid. Lieutenant-colonel Schaffcoach, for example, had served in the War of Liberation as a captain, and had not attained his majority till the year 1835. But less than two years had advanced him from the rank of major to that of lieutenant-colonel, and he anticipated, ere two years more were gone, that he should become colonel-in-chief.

Meanwhile the privates, gathered in by the species of conscription which was once universal throughout Germany, have not much to expect. They are furnished in the mass by the proprietors on whose lands they reside, and must go when the lot falls upon them. They are not however, as was formerly the case in Prussia, soldiers for life. On the contrary, the conscript is enrolled for fourteen years only, at the expiration of which he is entitled to his discharge; but if he accept it he receives no pension, unless, indeed, he be quite disabled. He merely goes back to his village, and his daily toil, with habits very little suited to either. If, on the other hand, he desire to continue with his regiment, and the commanding officer be in-

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clined to accede to his wishes, the tender of his service is accepted. But it is distinctly understood, that he can never earn a *claim* to a pension. Whoso receives such, receives it as a free boon from his sovereign; and it rarely exceeds five kreutzers, or two pence sterling, per day. I saw with the Walmoden cuirassiers, a serjeant who had worn harness for half a century, and was then seventy years old. He was proposing, by-and-by, to retire, with the esteem and regard of all his officers. Yet even his pension, and of a pension he was already assured, would come to him, not as the merited reward of a lifetime spent in camp and barracks, but as a mark of his sovereign's favour.

On parade, and in all matters of duty, the discipline of the Austrian army is very rigid; as soon as the parade is dismissed, the officers meet, as among ourselves, like brothers. They have no regimental messes; that is to say, the regiment is destitute of an establishment of plate, cooks, and servants, to which we in England are accustomed. But the officers of each dine together at a hotel, if such be accessible,—in one of the barrack rooms, when, as was the case in Koesintz, hotels may be wanting. The pay of the junior ranks is very poor. I believe that a second lieutenant re-

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ceives about two pounds ten shillings a month; but a first captain was represented to me as independent, and the ranks above his as affording more than a competency to such as had attained to them. The men are wretchedly remunerated, as far as a money payment is concerned. But they have a good allowance of provisions, and they are not charged for one shred of their clothing.

I had seen in Prague several regiments of infantry under arms, and was much struck by the fine appearance of the men, which neither their awkward clothing, nor the extreme slowness of their movements, could seriously affect. This day, after dinner, Colonel Schaffcoach was good enough to take out the troop which we found in quarters on our arrival, and to manœuvre it for my edification. The men were, like the infantry soldiers, magnificent. Their dress, likewise, the white coat surmounted by a black cuirass, which protects only the chest, and is bullet-proof,—the white breeches, long jack-boots, brass helmet with a low crown, and straight strong sword, set them off to the greatest advantage. I think, too, that relieving all, except four in each half troop, from the load and incumbrance of the carabine, is judicious; because heavy cavalry are supposed never to be

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employed in skirmishing, and it is in skirmishing only that carabines can be useful. But my gallant friends will, I trust, forgive me if I say, that their movements, though steady, and on the whole accurate, were wonderfully slow. I was very much amused, indeed, with the frequency and zeal with which their commandant restrained them, if by chance they appeared desirous of putting their horses out of a long trot. "Langsam! langsam!" was as often uttered at Koernitz, as its opposite is apt to be in Hyde Park; and the results were a very sober and sedate wheel, followed by a charge equally sedate and sober.

The Walmoden cuirassiers get their horses chiefly from Bohemia. They are strong, heavy animals; heavier and stronger, indeed, than I had imagined that Bohemia could produce, but they themselves complain that they are not very hardy. They comforted themselves, however, when we were discussing the point in barracks, by observing, that where their horses would live and grow fat, the horses of the English cavalry must starve. I do not think that our good friends are disposed to rate us very high as a military nation. Of our navy they always speak in terms of unqualified admiration; but they doubt our aptitude for

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war by land, and especially hold our cavalry cheap.

There is, perhaps, no class of men living among whom the point of honour is maintained so sharply or so well, as among the officers of the Austrian cavalry. I should say that they were the very opposite of quarrelsome; that they play with one another like good-humoured schoolboys, and never dream of taking offence where none is meant to be given. But an insult once received must be atoned for. Nay, so tenacious are they on this head, that an officer who might have received a blow, whether from a gentleman or anybody else, cannot continue in the service, unless he have put the individual who struck him to death. In ordinary cases, however, as the broad-sword is the weapon invariably used for settling what are called affairs of honour,—duels seldom among them end fatally. The first blood drawn settles the dispute, and no more must be heard of it. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add, that all Austrian officers are swordsmen; and that each has his favourite weapon, which he always keeps in good order against the chances of an encounter. There was one of the gentlemen who dined with us, whose cheek exhibited a sad gash, and which, from the discoloration that

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still adhered to it, was evidently of recent occurrence.

"How came that?" said I to another of the party.

"Oh! he got it not long ago in a duello. Somebody, at one of the watering places, chose to speak disrespectfully of a lady, to whom he is betrothed, and the Count called him out, of course."

"And what did the lady say," asked I, smiling, "when she saw that her lover's beauty was injured?"

"She has not seen it yet," was the answer; "but of course she will love him all the better for a wound received in her service."

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CHAPTER VIII.

KOESINTZ.—THE CONVENT OF ST. BENEDICT.—PART FROM THE CUIRASSIERS.—COUNTESS STEINLEIN.—MR. CAREY.—COMORN.—BABOLNA.—THE FARM AND STUD.

THERE had been pointed out to us, while moving upon Koesintz, a noble chateau that overhung the road,—a huge pile, battlemented and enclosed with tower and rampart,—which crowning a rock, looked down upon us as if in defiance. It was not a schloss, but a convent, or rather, if I may express myself more accurately, it had been a convent, but was now a sort of secular abbey, belonging to the metropolitical see of Graan. The canons who reside there were described as very wealthy; some of them as gentlemen both in manners and by lineage, who took great delight in extending their hospitality to strangers, and were much respected by the peasants around them. A fine young cadet, attached to the regiment, a native of Hanover, and the son of a brave soldier who served during the Peninsular war in the King of England's late German Legion, kindly undertook to be the medium of introducing us

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to their acquaintance; and as we were glad of the opportunity of thus extending our knowledge of Hungarian society, we put ourselves under his guidance about six in the evening, and walked back in the direction of St. Benedict.

It was late when we reached the place,—too late to examine its architectural arrangements in detail; yet we saw enough to convince us, that the estimate which we had formed of it, from the observations which we were enabled to make while passing, was not an erroneous one. It was, indeed, a noble mansion; having about it more the character of a feudal fortalice than of a cloister, and well adapted, both from its position and the solidity of its defences, to offer serious opposition to an irregular force even now. We ascended the steep height on which it was placed, towards a sort of barbacan, through which we passed into a narrow gallery, the solid walls of the mansion being on our left hand, and a low parapet on our right, which, winding half round the edifice, brought us to the great gate,—an arch, defended by circular towers and a machicolation. We knocked,—for the gate was closed; and, the porter answering to the signal, we found ourselves in an extensive court-yard, begirt on all sides by buildings. Traversing this, we gained another

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gate, then a staircase, and last of all a corridor, along which our military friend conducted us towards the door of a chamber.

"Here lives my friend the archdeacon; and, if he be at home, I can assure you of kind treatment and a hearty welcome."

Happily the archdeacon was at home, and the cadet's assurances were accomplished to the letter. The hospitable ecclesiastic received us in his study,—a neat and commodious room, well furnished with books; and expressed himself much disappointed when, in reply to his pressing invitation, we told him that it would be necessary for us to return to Koesintz the same night.

"But you must stay and sup with us, at all events," added he. "This is a meagre day, to be sure, so that your fare will be indifferent; but it would be a positive disgrace to us were two Englishmen to come and go without partaking of such cheer as we have to offer." We did not think that we were at all required to reject this invitation likewise; on the contrary, we came into his project very readily: while he, in order to amuse us till the supper-bell should ring, volunteered to conduct us over as much of the convent as time and the growing darkness would allow.

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We had heard of the extreme beauty of the chapel, as well as of the great antiquity of some portions of it; and I am bound to record that, in spite of the disadvantages of a fading light under which we beheld it, our expectations were, in every respect, realized. There were two distinct characters about the pile, both being broadly marked; that is to say, one portion, far more capacious than the other, was in the richest florid Gothic; the other, sober and severely simple. It was in this latter division, indeed,—a sort of detached oratory,—that we chiefly lingered. Here the pillars were circular, the arches and the floor composed of flat stones, the walls and roof of the same material; while everywhere were cut the rude figures of men and other animals, reminding me more of what I have read of a Buddhist temple than of a place set apart for Christian worship. The archdeacon could give us no authentic account either of the date of this oratory, or of the parties by whom it was built; he only knew that it was by far the oldest part of the edifice. But there were greater wonders than this to be shown, and from us they were not hidden. I confess that I blushed in very shame when the archdeacon, arraying himself in his stole, took out from a secret recess in the high altar a relic-

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case; and, bowing reverently before it, showed us, behind its screen of glass, a portion of what he pronounced to be the very napkin which had encircled the head of the Saviour, when he lay in the grave. It seems quite impossible that a man of sense and learning, as this archdeacon unquestionably is, should credit the tale which he tells; it is most humiliating to be driven to the alternative of assuming that he tells it over and over again, without believing a word of it.

From the chapel,—which, by-the-by, is thrown open on all occasions to the public, and so supplies the place of a parish-church to the neighbourhood, we returned to the archdeacon's apartment; where in due time a domestic entered to announce that supper was ready. We followed him to the refectory, which, both in respect of size, and in the general style of its appointments, resembled one of the common rooms at one of our largest colleges in Oxford. It was a long and spacious hall, in the centre of which stood a table of very ample dimensions, over which was now thrown a fine damask cloth, as well as covers for a dozen guests. On the sideboards was a fair display of plate, such as tankards, cups, forks, spoons, and one or two salvers; while the silver sconces that surmounted them bore each its wax candle, and

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contributed, with the branches that ornamented the table, to throw a not very brilliant light over the scene.

Such was the refectory,—a sort of apartment which told no tale of poverty within the cloister, and with the general character of which all things appertaining to its uses corresponded to the most minute degree. The canons in residence appeared to be four only, yet twelve persons sat down to supper, of whom eight were guests. I do not know how these gentlemen fare on their full days, but a better meal than this meagre day furnished forth I never desire to partake. Flesh, to be sure, was wanting; but what could have been made of flesh amid a profusion of well-dressed dishes, in which fish, eggs, and vegetables of every sort were the ingredients? And as to drink, better Ofener never made its appearance at the table of the Palatine, and better wine than good Ofener living man need not desire. Neither must I forget to mention, that the conversation of these canons was just as superior to that of their brethren at Kreutz, as the whole style of their menage might have led me to expect. They were all gentlemen,—men of family and rank, whose lack of acquirements brought no discredit on the preferment to which an aris-

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tocratic connexion had undisguisedly advanced them.

We returned to the little barrack to sleep, and next morning after breakfast, took leave of our military friends. We had a visit to pay to the Countess Steinlein, whose residence lay some hours' journey wide of the line of march; and as our minds were made up to pursue a course which would hinder us from again falling in with that line, the temptation even of agreeable society was not permitted to interfere with the arrangement. Mr. Crawford, however, himself a frequent visitor in the gräfinn's house, still attended us, and his carriage and horses were put under requisition to convey us thither. Though the weather was intensely hot, we enjoyed the drive exceedingly. The great features of the country had, indeed, undergone a change; and every mile which we gained in advance, rendered the change more complete. Mountain and ravine were both left behind; and now undulating hills, well-wooded, but otherwise tame, alone broke in upon the sameness of the plain. As we approached Simerid, indeed, the point towards which our faces were turned, the highlands made, as it were, their last effort to overtake us. There were some bold heights on either side; and that they did

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not essentially differ in their formations from those about Schemnitz and Kremnitz, the frequent recurrence of warm chalybeate springs demonstrated. In several of these, which the hand, either of nature or of man had converted into ponds, groups of country-people were refreshing themselves. There they stood, whether men, or women, or both, I cannot tell,—for all that appeared of each, was a head surmounted by an enormous sombrero hat,—immersed up to the chin in the dingy puddle, and motionless as stocks; indeed, but for the faces that gleamed upon us as we passed, we might have mistaken the bathers for so many huge black toadstools.

Having quitted Koesintz about ten o'clock, we reached Simerid at three, just in time to make our toilets with all possible despatch, and join the family at dinner. But that the dinner-hour was earlier than that to which in England we are accustomed, and that the house was furnished rather in the German than the English style, I might have fancied myself at the table of any one of those with whom, among the higher ranks of my native country, I have been accustomed to associate. There was the same easy and natural flow of conversation, the same perfect good-breeding and refinement everywhere, the same careful attendance on the part

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of the domestics, nay, the same, or very nearly the same, order and management of the cuisine. The truth, indeed, is, that as soon as we penetrate within the line which circumscribes the *élite* of European society, almost all the distinctions of national custom and manner cease to be felt. There may be some trifling difference as to hours, some variety of fancy as to amusements, some prejudices—the offspring of early association, in favour of one subject of conversation over another; but in all the essentials of correct taste, and gentle and considerate deportment, the really well-bred person is everywhere the same, whether you meet him in England, in France, in Germany, in Italy, or in Hungary.

There was a large party in the house, including several officers of the Walmoden cuirassiers, with whom, by the way, the young Count Steinlein was associated as a comrade; for he had recently been appointed to the corps as a cadet, and was just beginning to find his military harness sit light upon him. Nothing could be more agreeable than the mode in which the day was spent. There is no such thing as sitting late in good society anywhere; and in Hungary, as elsewhere on the Continent, the ladies and gentlemen rise from table together.

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A walk was accordingly proposed, as soon as the meal was ended, and forth we went in a body, to visit some baths, which the countess has fitted up, and the spring which supplies which, a strong chalybeate, rises in the plain, about a couple of English miles from the mansion. We saw, as we passed along, a village, neater, cleaner, and more humanized by far, than any which had as yet come under our observation. It belonged to the manor of Simerid, and owed all its superior comforts to the good sense and unwearied kindness of the countess, on whom, moreover, it was easy to perceive, that her people looked with as much of affection as of respect. In like manner, the baths presented a perfect specimen of what a correct taste will always accomplish in the arrangement even of such matters. A little plot of land, laid out in lawns, and shrubberies, and walks, was surrounded on two sides by long ranges of buildings, within which were the bathing rooms,—on the other two, by well-trimmed hedges; while in the centre of all was a bench, drawn round a pump, where such as chose to drink the waters might draw for themselves without restriction. I found upon inquiry that a little later in the year, a good many families were in the habit of taking advantage of the spa. As it was, the

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area was by no means void; and three or four Cyganis, in the costume of ordinary mortals, were amusing the visitors by drawing from their violins, strains of very wild, but very melodious harmony.

We returned home in the dusk, and tea, and supper, and music, and lively conversation, drew us on till past midnight. Then followed a leave-taking, which to us was exceedingly mortifying, because our kind friends would have gladly detained us, and our own wishes urged a compliance with theirs. But travellers are not exactly masters of their own movements. The summer was stealing away; we had yet much to accomplish; and the enjoyment, even of such society as Simerid afforded, must needs be sacrificed, in order to ensure its accomplishment.

The early dawn saw us astir, and another young countryman,—Mr. Carey,—likewise a lieutenant in the Walmoden cuirassiers, afoot and ready with his phaeton and pair, to put us on our way. We had been strongly recommended to visit Babolna,—one of the great breeding studs for horses in Hungary, and with this view now turned our faces in the direction of Comorn. Neither did we go empty-handed. Major Brand, a brother officer of Mr. Crawford

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and Mr. Carey, kindly supplied us with introductory letters, one to Major Bokoni, the son of the governor of Comorn,—the other to Major Herbert, superintendent of the establishment at Babolna ; and the attention which we received from both fully bore him out in the assurance which he gave, that we should meet with nothing but civility and politeness at the hands of his acquaintances.

After a hurried stroll through the beautiful gardens of Simerid, which we had not found leisure to examine over night, we took an affectionate, though, I trust, not a final, leave of Mr. Crawford, and drove off. Thanks to the lively conversation of our young and enthusiastic charioteer, the first half of the journey was performed agreeably enough; though this much we certainly learned from it,—that all idea of persevering in our plan of a pedestrian tour must be abandoned. How, indeed, could a couple of strangers hope to get forward at all, should they attempt to pass on foot through a country where, for ten or twelve miles together, not a vestige of a human habitation is to be seen, and the very roads, whenever you abandon the great chaussée, degenerate into mere tracks. I confess that the discovery mortified me much; because, of all modes of wandering, that of the

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pedestrian is at once the most agreeable, and the best suited to the purposes of him who seeks to acquire information in his travel. But I was not weak enough to persist in the prosecution of a scheme which the very outward aspect of nature condemned; so, after dining with Mr. Carey at a place called Kemind, we exchanged his carriage for a peasant's wagon, and pushed forward under the peasant's guidance.

The weather was lowering and gloomy when we parted from our light-hearted young friend; and we had not proceeded many miles ere the rain began. It was no summer shower, with gleams of sunshine breaking in, but a perfect torrent; while, to add to our comforts, the postilion repeatedly lost his way, and once or twice seemed disposed to sit down in despair. We cheered him on, however, as well as by signs we could, and his courage came again; so that after much toil, and sundry declensions from the right way, the spires and towers of Comorn, at the extremity of an enormous plain, became visible. It was well for us that our errors had not been more serious, inasmuch as Comorn, when first presented to our view, caught the last rays, not of the sun, but of the twilight; yet we gained it without hinderance or accident,

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crossed the long wooden bridge by which the Waag is spanned, answered the customary questions at the barrier beyond, and drove to the inn.

Our letter to Major Bokoni we delivered, ere we established ourselves for the night; and to his politeness we were indebted for the comfortable quarters which the inn afforded. Next morning he was with us at the early hour of seven, and under his guidance, we set out to take a survey of the place. It is, as I need hardly state, a fortress of the first class; and never having yielded to the efforts of a besieger, the Hungarians fondly speak of it as impregnable. Unquestionably, it is a very strong place. Planted upon a neck of land, within the confluence of the Waag and the Danube, it lies open to a serious attack only from the side of the town; and there, all that the skill of man can devise, to impede the progress of an enemy, has been accomplished. Moreover, the arrangements within the lines of defence are in every respect on a footing with the excellence of the lines themselves. There are casemates, or bomb-proof barracks, for two thousand men; there are lodgings, well sheltered, at least from shot, for thrice that number. The store-houses, the baking places, the

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kitchens, are all bomb-proof; and the wells are abundantly supplied. With the attention to the efficiency of its army and its strong places which eminently distinguishes the Austrian government, neither the magazine, nor the arsenal of Comorn are neglected. We saw quantities of flour laid up, besides wheat unground, sufficient to keep the garrison in bread for three months; and wine, and medical stores, and shot, and shell, and powder, are all as they ought to be, abundant.

Major Bokoni was good enough to lead us through the men's barracks, and to give us an insight both into the arrangements of the rooms, and the style of living. I should say that the rooms were individually too large. I think that each contained at least sixteen beds, and that to each bed two men were allotted. But they were scrupulously clean; and the order in which both arms and packs were kept, nothing could exceed. I tasted the bread and soup also, both of which were excellent, though the meat allowed for the latter is only at the ratio of a quarter of a pound per man.

Everything in and about the fortress delighted me; and the appearance of the troops was, in defiance of the unbecoming garb in which it is the emperor's pleasure to array them, superb.

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Yet, I confess, that I was to the full as deeply interested with the scene which spread out before me, when, having ascended the highest bastion, which overlooks the downward course of the Danube, my eye ranged over the huge pampa of Hungary. There is something, despite of the sameness which attaches to it, exceedingly striking, in an enormous plain. You become silent, you don't know why, as you gaze round; while the vision wearies itself, as it were, to discover some bounds to the scene,—some object, by leaning on which it may find rest from its labours. And when, as in the present instance, a noble river sleeps beneath your feet, a sort of dreamy and mysterious state of half-conscious existence is all of which, after a time, you become aware.

It was not, however, because of the mere extent of the plain, that the occupation of looking forth upon it, round and round, cheated me out of a greater portion of time than I ought, perhaps, to have allotted to it. I found Major Bokoni perfectly well informed, and well inclined, on all matters of topographical lore, to communicate his information. He pointed afar off to some towers, which appeared to crown a gentle undulation, and rose indistinctly over the tops of the trees by which they were surrounded.

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"There," said he, "is the spot on which Arpad first halted in his career of conquest, and said, 'We will keep this country, for it is good.' King Stephen erected there a monastery, of which the towers that you see are all that remain. It is now applied to other purposes; for Joseph II. dealt with it, as he did with many more,—that is, he suppressed it." Then, again, there were the positions explained, which the French army took up when marching in 1809, upon Vienna; there were the lines which the corps d'armée occupied to which the siege of Comorn had been intrusted; there were the two great islands of the Danube, the Grosse Schutt, and Kleine Schutt, of which the former extends all the way from Presburg to Comorn; and finally, the cathedral of Graan, a new and unfinished edifice, was just distinguishable in the distance. All these were objects, which though they offered no distinguishing features which might force the unassisted stranger to examine them, were yet, when the attention was drawn to them, full of interest; and as the gentleman who showed them to me, made them but the vehicles for conveying important historical information, I could not well grow weary of my employment, or seek prematurely to change it.

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Considered as a town, Comorn appeared to me to be in a far more flourishing condition than Presburg. It is not, indeed, so large; for it contains a population of only seventeen or eighteen thousand souls, all of them, however, with the exception of a few Jews, being Hungarians of the purest water. But its shops are good, and the streets full of bustle, and the river, where it washes the walls, is by no means bare of shipping. We found, also, upon inquiry, that it contained two theatres, a casino, or club-house, and an excellent market-place; and our informant assured us, that of the trade which Hungary carries on with Turkey and the Levant, a very considerable share originates in, or passes through Comorn.

Having taken time by the forelock, we discovered, about eleven o'clock, that we should still be able to reach Babolna that day, to inspect the stud, and return to our quarters, in reasonable time, to sleep. Accordingly, a carriage was ordered, and taking with us our credentials, our introductory letter to Major Herbert, we set out. An hour's drive over a country, flat, and in every respect uninteresting, brought us to the point which we desired to visit; and the delivery of our letter obtained for us the personal attendance and hospitality of the superintendent. He ordered our postilion to

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put up his horses, went with us over the entire settlement, explained to us the whole process by which it is conducted, and ended, by making us his guests at dinner. It will be better if I tell the tale in words of my own, as a whole, than carry the reader from point to point, and stop with him at each, in order to make its merits conspicuous.

The Hungarian horses, though both active and enduring, are neither large enough, nor strong enough, to serve the purposes of war; and the emperor has in consequence erected certain establishments within which the breed may be improved; and from which, in due time, the whole of his cavalry may be furnished. One of these is Babolna. It is a perfect little community within itself; a sort of military colony, where all the inhabitants are soldiers, where their rulers are officers, yet where every trade and art necessary to support life, or add to its conveniences, is practised. A farm, I forget of what precise dimensions, constitutes the territory of this petty state. Its bounds are marked by a belt of poplars; and all the land within that belt, is as completely exempt from the operations of the common law, as if it were a distinct kingdom, and the poplar-trees a circle of ocean. In the centre of the farm stands

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the capital—enormous ranges of stables—with lodgings for the major commandant, and his four subalterns, contiguous to them; while apart from these, are the huts, or dwelling-houses; within which reside, with their wives and children, thirty non-commissioned officers, and three hundred privates. There is a chapel, and a chaplain; there is an hospital, with a due supply of medical attendants; there are veterinary surgeons, and compounders of medicine for man and beast; there is an hotel-keeper, and of course, an hotel, a billiard-room, and a library; in a word, there seems to be wanting no single personage, or convenience, the presence of which may contribute in any manner to promote the well-being and the content of the colonists.

In direct opposition to the ordinary course of events, however, the human beings in this colony are maintained and provided for, not on their own accounts, and through the instrumentality of the inferior animals, but for the single purpose of attending to the wants of these animals. The horses are, in Babolna, the objects of paramount importance. For them men ply their trades, cultivate the fields, and gather in the corn; for them oxen toil at the wain and drag the plough. It is to the pre-

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servation of their health that attention is chiefly directed, and the loss of a single life among them would be more lamented than the death of an entire company of soldiers. Let me not be misunderstood. I do not express myself thus as if there existed anywhere a want of care for the men's comforts, and the men's health. I am merely stating a fact, which is equally a fact as applied to every training stable in England,—that the establishment of Babolna has been created for the sake of the horses, and that the men are, upon these horses, the mere attendants.

I forget the precise number of animals that are maintained in this colony. The brood mares, which never perform any work at all, amount, as I perfectly remember, to two hundred, while the stallions, whom it is judged expedient to indulge with lives of equal leisure, are only ten or twelve. But these form a very small portion of the equestrian community. Moreover you have the noble beast in all its stages, from that of the foal just born, up to the grandsire of the flock, and the order in which Major Herbert has arranged them is perfectly beautiful. One stable, for example, is given up exclusively to stallions, and a nobler collection of horses the eye of man need not

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wish to behold. There are several of these, and one in particular, a giant of seventeen and a half hands high, which Major Herbert himself purchased from the Bedouin Arabs; and I confess that my powers of imagination are not competent to conceive a more perfect specimen of equestrian beauty. Other stables hold the mares, one being set apart for such as have just produced their foals, a second for those whose time is drawing nigh; a third to a class still more remote from parturition, and the remainder for such as are fit to go to work. Moreover, each animal, whether stallion or mare, has its crib, not its stall, in which it is free to turn round when it pleases, or even, on a small scale, to exercise.

If the apartments of the full-grown beasts delighted us, we were doubly charmed with those in which colts of all ages, from three years old, down to five weeks, are kept. Like the lodgings of their seniors, the barracks of these youthful heroes are told off to suit their respective occupants; for the colts of three, the colts of two, the colts of one, and the colts of less than one year, have all their separate lodges. There is, however, this general difference in the fitting-up of the stables, which are respectively allotted to the old and the young: that whereas

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sires and dams have each their distinct cribs, the colts of each age are all turned loose together. I never in my life saw anything more beautiful than this group of perhaps two hundred yearlings, into the middle of which, following Major Herbert, we walked. The creatures were as tame, and apparently as affectionate, as spaniels; for they gathered round us, thrust their noses into our hands, and seemed to beg for the caresses which were liberally bestowed upon them.

The total expense to the government, of the establishment at Babolna, is estimated at four hundred thousand florins, or forty thousand pounds per annum. This is not, however, disbursed, florin by florin, out of the imperial treasury, for every year forty or fifty stallions are sold, as well as all mares not required for breeding, and all, whether mares or stallions, that are blemished. These produce a very considerable sum of money, and it is regularly carried to account. Moreover, noblemen or gentlemen going abroad, or otherwise wishing to put out their studs where they will be properly cared for, are permitted, as a great favour, to send them here, on payment of a board. Then, again, the work of the farm, except where oxen are used, as in ploughing, is entirely performed

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by these blood-horses. They drag the harrows, they fetch in the hay, they draw the carts, and light wagons, they do everything, in short, which in this country is usually done by animals of far less noble breed. And this, together with the regular exercise which day by day they take, keeps them in the sound health, to the prevalence of which I can bear testimony. At the same time it is due to Major Herbert to state, that this is not the only, nor the most effectual means which he has adopted to guard against debility, and frequent deaths among his charge. He observed, when first appointed to the post, that of the high-bred foals that were born, by far the greater number died when they had attained to the age of four months. He pondered the circumstance well, and came at length to the conclusion that it was owing to some vicious quality in the milk,—the result of the unnatural state in which the mares lived. His next step was to try how far the foal would thrive, if removed from its dam at the end of one month, and fed upon boiled carrots. It throve to admiration, and now, the system being adopted on all occasions, the mortality amounts not to one-fiftieth part of what it used to be under the ancient régime.

I have alluded to the hospitals for men and

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beasts, to the workshops, the laboratories, the furnaces, the smithies, and all the other means and appliances of busy life which appertain to this establishment. We visited them all, one after another, and found all in the highest possible order. Nothing could exceed the care that was taken of the sick men, unless indeed it were the attention paid to the sick horses. Industry and skill could not be more perfectly developed than in the carpenters' shop, unless, perhaps, the blacksmiths' forge took the lead; while grooms and their helpers, equally diligent and adroit, seemed each to know his business, and to attend to it. And, to complete the picture, in order that these military artists might not be withdrawn from their civil occupations, no manner of military duty was imposed upon them. There came from Comorn every day an officer's guard, which supplied the sentries; for as to the preservation of order, there could be no armed body necessary to ensure that.

We lingered with Major Herbert, being alike pleased with his establishment and his conversation, till five in the afternoon; when, after a hearty dinner, we took our leave of him. He is a fine old soldier, and has seen service both with the French and against

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them; he has fought among the Cossacks, and lived with the Arabs of the Desert; and, to sum up all, is as admirably cut out for the office which the emperor has conferred upon him, as if his single occupation through life had been to superintend a breeding stud, and look after a farm.

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CHAPTER IX.

JOURNEY TO PESTH.—OFEN AND PESTH.—EMBARK FOR SEMLIN.—COUNT SZECHENZI.

We reached Comorn while there was yet light enough to enjoy a walk across the bridge over the Graan, and a saunter round some public gardens; but we were not slow in ascertaining that all inducements to prolong our stay in the place were wanting. We determined, therefore, to set out for Pesth on the morrow. But unfortunately for us, the morrow was not a steam-boat day; so we had but the alternative submitted to us, either to proceed by land in a hired carriage, or to linger where we were in absolute idleness throughout four-and-twenty hours longer. We did not hesitate which course to pursue. Mine host was sent for; a bargain for a vehicle was struck, and we retired to bed, after giving orders that all things should be ready for the start at six o'clock on the following morning.

The country between Comorn and Pesth, for about half the space that divides them, is on the right bank of the Danube,—whither the road

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carried us,—one continued plain. In the distance, indeed, the roots of the Bakonyer Wald are visible, with here and there an undulation falling off from them; while the forests, which clothe them densely, and furnish an admirable haunt for banditti, come down in some places to the road-side; but, generally speaking, you are carried through huge flat meadows, of which the sameness is relieved only by the magnificent river, which flows for some time steadily, and with a strong current, within less than an English mile of your vehicle. When you reach a place called Dorogh, however,—where, by-the-by, we halted to dine,—the scene changes. The river here recedes from you, and almost at its most distant bend, the new and stately, though unfinished cathedral of Graan is seen; while in the opposite direction, hills begin again to shoot up, which assume continually a bolder outline, the nearer you approach towards the capital. By-and-by you find yourself passing through the midst of these hills, and observe that they are everywhere covered with vines. Then the valley opens, because, on your left, the hills have faded away, and the Danube, of which for some time you had lost sight, is again beside you. And now, while you are yet watching the flow of the river, or, it may be, following the

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course of some barge or boat, that glides over its surface, the road makes a turn, and Ofen and Pesth meet your gaze. The effect of the first view is very striking. Though separated only by the breadth of the Danube, no towns can stand in more perfect contrast to one another; and the nearer you approach to them, the more are you convinced, that neither in their leading features, nor in any of their more minute details, is there the smallest similarity between them.

Ofen, or Buda, the ancient capital of Hungary, stands upon the right bank of the Danube, and is built partly at the base, partly along the ascent, of a range of low but picturesque hills, which open out, as it were, in front of the river, into a sort of glen; and so give space for the reception of a large portion of the city, of which its architects have taken full advantage. There are two peaks, in particular, which, from the opposite sides of that gorge, command and overlook the town, and both have been turned to account. The one affords space for the citadel,—a grave, and stern, and feudal-looking pile, within which are planted the palatine's palace, a variety of government offices, lodgings for the aulic councillors, and other magnates to whose management the internal affairs of

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the kingdom are intrusted; a Gothic church, greatly mutilated by the violence of war rather than by time; and, though last, not least, a series of dungeons which, sunk beneath the bastions, are, even to this day, inhabited by a large number of miserable captives. Here, too, in the chapel of the palace, is preserved, in an iron chest, the crown consecrated by Pope Sylvester long ago, and by him presented to King Stephen,—an object to the Hungarians well-nigh of superstitious reverence, the loss of which they would account more disastrous than the subjugation by a foreign enemy, of their best provinces. I need scarcely add, that among all the outrages which he offered to their national customs and modes of thinking, there was none which earned for Joseph the Second so much unpopularity, as the removal of this crown to Vienna; or that his successor was not more heartily thanked for the decree which gave back to the Hungarians their constitution, than for restoring this emblem of their boasted independence to its original place of safe-keeping in Ofen.

We were not so fortunate as to see these regalia, the difficulties of obtaining access to which are, except when exhibited during three days in the year to the public, very

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great. Neither were we tempted to linger long amid the solitude of the fortress; but, descending to the lower town, took a hasty survey of the streets, and then passed on, first to the Turkish baths, and afterwards to the observatory. The Turkish baths are very curious both as monuments of a state of society different from the present, and on account of the uses to which they are still turned by the inhabitants of Ofen and its vicinity. From the sides of the hills, and particularly from the Blocksberg, on the summit of which stands the observatory, copious hot springs, strongly impregnated with sulphur, pour out, of which both the Romans and the Turks, alike addicted to the luxury of bathing, failed not—each nation in its turn—to make use. Of the Roman baths, only broken fragments remain; but of those which owe their existence to the Turks, three are in a state of high preservation, the largest of which lies under the Blocksberg, about a couple of hundred yards from the head of the bridge. It is a fine thing in its way,—of thoroughly Saracenic architecture, and there is a Turkish inscription near the entrance, to mark both its uses and origin. You enter by a low door, and find yourself in an apartment so obscured by sulphureous vapours as to render

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the sense of sight well-nigh useless, and the respiration itself for a time uncomfortable. By-and-by, when the vision becomes accustomed to the gloom, you see that there is a huge tank in the middle of the area, in which persons of all ages and sexes are floundering about, most of them in a state of pure nature. Then, again, you have people in all the stages of preparation, dressing, undressing, and luxuriating in the steam that floats around, and which, condensing against the roof, returns in large drops to the ground, so as effectually to supply the place, on your garments, of a heavy shower of rain. The persons who frequent this bath are, as may be imagined, of the very humblest order; and the squalor of their appearance, as well as the disagreeable atmosphere of the place, render you eager to escape again into the open air with as little delay as possible.

Somewhat lower down the course of the Danube, but still sheltered by the Blocksberg, are the baths which the higher classes of society frequent. They are abundantly commodious; but being of modern construction, differ in no essential respect from similar establishments elsewhere. The charge for each ablution is moderate; and a band of music plays in the court-yard all day long, for the amusement of the bathers.

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From these more aristocratic baths, you ascend by a winding foot-path, through a mean suburb called Ratzinstadt, to the summit of the hill on which the observatory has been planted. The suburb in question derives its name from the Ratzin, a colony of Slavonians who emigrated into Hungary from Servia about four hundred years ago, and used exclusively to dwell in this settlement. It was burned down, however, in 1810; and having since been rebuilt, is now inhabited by a mixed race of Slavonians and Hungarians. Of the observatory itself, there is nothing to be said, except that the instruments are good, and that the professors in charge, knowing well how to use them, are not idle in their vocation. But of the view which is obtained from the brow of the Blocksberg, every visitor must speak with admiration. Rising sheer and well-nigh abrupt from the bed of the Danube to a height of perhaps four hundred feet, it opens out to you a survey of a large portion of the great Hungarian plain, from the fatigue of tracing which you may find refreshment at any moment by merely turning round, and gazing upon the low but picturesque and vine-clad hills, of which the Blocksberg is at once the boldest and the last. Then, again, the river flows at your feet, so as that you may

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trace him both upwards and downwards for many miles; the bridge of boats which connects his opposite banks, appears alive with the crowds that are continually passing: on this side is Ofen, full of architectural anomalies, yet from that very circumstance an object, to you, of peculiar interest: on the other, Pesth, laid out in all the regularity of street, and square, and mall, and public garden. There is not a greater contrast between the old and new towns of Edinburgh, than between Pesth—a city of yesterday's growth,—and Buda, the ancient capital of the Magyars. The one wanders from terrace to terrace, in dark and dingy masses, or stretches in a long line wherever between the river and the bases of the hill, a space of level ground can receive it; the other, a series of streets which cross each other at right angles, shines in all the splendour of a plan rigidly adhered to, and materials the best calculated to preserve an appearance of uniformity even in the separate edifices. Moreover, there is much bustle of shipping and porterage at the quays. In addition to a flotilla of barges and light craft, there were, when we looked down upon it, two large steam-boats moored; the one above, the other below the bridge, as if waiting to complete their cargoes, in order that they might proceed, in different directions, on their

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voyage. In a word, we beheld on one bank of the Danube an accurate representation of the mingled pomp and squalor of the middle ages; on the other, a perfect specimen of modern civilization, a city throughout the extent of which the eye could detect signs only of that universal refinement, somewhat overdone, which is the characteristic of the common-place age in which we live.

After enjoying the scene till it had become, in some sort, familiar to us, we descended from our mountain throne, and crossing the bridge, made for the nearest of the excellent hotels for which Pesth is distinguished,—the Jäger Horn. In us it excited no surprise, to find that while we were permitted to pass the barriers unquestioned, all persons dressed like peasants were charged a pontage; because we had already been made aware of that peculiarity in the Hungarian constitution, which imposes all the public burdens on the class which is least able to bear them. But it was very gratifying to learn, as in the course of our sojourn at Pesth, we did, that this odious distinction will shortly be put an end to. There was a project in contemplation, which like all the real improvements in this country, originated with Count Szechenzi, for superseding the

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bridge of boats by a solid stone structure; and it had, from the first, constituted a part of his plan, that pontage should be levied upon all parties in crossing, whether they be of noble or ignoble birth. As was to be expected, the proposition met with violent opposition; but Count Szechenzi's perseverance overcame every obstacle; and the point has at length been conceded. I believe, indeed, that a contract has been since entered into with an English architect, to execute the bridge; and it seems to be admitted on all hands, that the practice adopted at Pesth will furnish a precedent for the whole of Hungary; which will thus have taken a most important step towards the deliverance of its people from the pressure of usages every way inimical to the developement of their intelligence and their power.

I am not going to describe Pesth; why, indeed, should I? Mr. Quin has forestalled me in everything, which in description would be calculated to amuse; and even Mr. Quin has not had the field entirely to himself. Enough is done, when I state that all that was worth seeing, we saw. We put our names down at the Casino, and were liberally admitted to the privileges of membership; we inspected the new barrack; an enormous pile, en-

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closing four courts, each of which might pass anywhere for the principal square of a city; we wandered through the quadrangle of the University, which, though empty when we saw it, furnishes, during the session, accommodation and gratuitous instruction to a thousand students; we looked into the Museum, and saw much both to admire and to condemn. The collection of Hungarian coins is excellent; and there are some curious remains of antiquity,—such as pottery, bronzes, weapons, and other implements, all of them Roman, and all found within the limits of the kingdom, but they are ill arranged. The naturalist, too, will scarce turn his back upon the minerals, however confused and neglected, nor the geologist upon the fossil remains of mammoth, mastodon, and other antediluvian animals; all of native growth. Yet why venture into a detailed account of these things? They were exceedingly interesting to behold;—I do not think that by mere description, I could render them at all interesting to the reader.

We had not the good fortune to be present at any of the fairs which occur four times in every year at Pesth; and which, bringing thither an influx of strangers from all quarters, enable the visitor to familiarise himself with the ever

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varying costumes, and not less diversified appearances of the tribes which compose the population of Hungary. Even in wandering through the streets, however, and they are wide, and clean, and spacious, we saw enough to convince us that we had penetrated well-nigh to the extremity of Christendom. Here was a priest of the Greek church, with his blue cloth robe, his long beard, and his head surmounted by a half-mitre, half-turban. There was the old noble, cloaked and moustached, and wearing his silver-mounted sabre by his side. By-and-by came a peasant, his sombrero hat drawn over his brow, his coarse woollen cloak covering his shoulders, and reaching down well-nigh to the knee, over his tight worsted hosen. Next a domestic servant, arrayed like a hussar, with laced jacket, tight pantaloons, and hessian boots; anon a Catholic priest in his canonicals; in a word, dresses of all sorts, from the common garb of the Englishman, up to the flowing mantle of the Turk, and down to the half-nakedness of the gipsy. In like manner, I have everything to say in commendation of the excellency of the shops, and the gay and attractive signs which surmounted them. There is one in particular,—a tobacconist's, I forget in what street, over whose door a painting of a

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Hungarian noble is suspended, which would do no discredit to our exhibition, as I remember it, at least, in Somerset House.

The population of Pesth has been computed at one hundred thousand souls; that of Ofen at thirty thousand. As the latter is the chief seat of political authority, so in the former, the supreme court of justice holds its sittings. It is termed indifferently the Königliche Tafel, and Septemviral Tafel, the former word signifying the Royal Table; the latter, the Table of Seven; but the seven members which used to compose it are now multiplied into twenty-one, and include the palatine, four prelates, nine magnates, and seven of the inferior nobles. Up to the period when we were in Pesth, all the proceedings, both in this and the other courts of justice, were conducted in Latin; that is to say, in Latin the depositions were taken, and the sentence registered; but I have reason to believe that the use of the old Roman tongue is now laid aside; or if not, that its abolition is resolved upon. This is another of Count Szechenzi's projects, that in the transaction of public business, the Magyar, or Hungarian, shall be exclusively used; and though a large majority of the population, including all the Transylvanians, the Slavonians, and Croatians,

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are against him, he calculates, without fail, on success.

The Hungarians are, it must be allowed, a very fine people. The peasantry seem to be small of stature, and slenderly made; but the gentry are well-grown, robust, and active, and delighting in all the field-sports which are familiar to ourselves, have in most of them made us their models, even to their very dresses. I am assured that the race-course at Rokosfeld, for example, a plain about five miles distant from the city, might, by him who looks only to the equipment of jockeys, and their employers, be mistaken, with perfect ease, for Newmarket: while, in the foxhounds imported hither *en masse* from England, and the field which goes forth with them, a meeting on the Curragh of Kildare, or even the Melton Mowbray, is very fairly reflected. It rarely happens, however, that one people imitates another in their sports, without carrying their predilections much further. The English are decided favourites in Hungary, where, by-the-by, the jealousy of Russia is as bitter, and as strong, as the most nervous alarmist of the Czar's growing influence need desire. When we were at Pesth, the capture of the Vixen formed a fruitful topic of conversation in all circles; and the disincli-

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nation exhibited in London to break at once with the power which had perpetrated the outrage, was loudly condemned. Nor were the Hungarians content to murmur and complain: they broadly asserted, that the whole affair had been settled beforehand, between Lord Palmerston and the Autocrat; that the latter having failed by open negotiation to obtain a recognition of his right to blockade the Circassian coast, took this method of surreptitiously accomplishing his purpose, and that the former, by encouraging Mr. Bell to undertake the expedition, and afterwards refusing to support him, had played into the emperor's hands. "The fact is," continued one of the many who discussed the subject with me, "the fact is, that though Lord Palmerston could not venture, in the first instance, to sanction so gross an act of tyranny, because he knew that your parliament would not support him, he trusted to the general inclination for peace which prevails in the House of Commons, to carry him through in his refusal to resent even this insult. We can't tell what you are to gain by it; but one thing is certain, that we are grievous sufferers; because had you stirred we should have taken advantage of your presence, to rid ourselves of the intruders in the island of Salina, by whom,

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without the co-operation of your fleet, our commerce must, in a great degree, be held in check. Is it possible that there can exist in England any jealousy of our trade, feeble as it is?"

It was to little purpose that we combated this idea, or attributed the untoward event to other causes. They could not believe that England was afraid to go to war with Russia, and persisted in believing that a base plot had been concocted, to which, not only the Czar and Lord Palmerston, but the owner of the captured vessel himself, was a party.

I can well believe that, during the busy months of the year, Pesth deserves all the commendation which both natives and foreigners are accustomed to bestow upon it. Of the domestic habits of the population I am, indeed, incompetent to speak, for I had no opportunities of forming a judgment respecting them. But the hotels are both clean and commodious, and the style of living more decidedly refined than I have met with anywhere out of London, Paris and Vienna alone excepted. Moreover, in the library, which is attached to their national Museum, the student will find ample resources, especially if his tastes lead him to the investigation of matters connected with Hungarian

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history; for it is rich in records, both printed and manuscript, almost all of which, being in the Latin language, are accessible to every scholar. I lament that circumstances should have so controlled my movements, as to carry me thither at a season when, almost all with whom it would have been most agreeable to converse, had abandoned the city; yet, I am bound to declare, that the few days which I spent in Pesth were spent very pleasantly; and that I quitted it, at their termination, not without regret.

We had heard so much, while sojourning among our friends of the Walmoden cuirassiers, concerning the peculiar organization of society in what are called the Gränz Comitates, that we determined to pass by them into Italy: in other words, to descend the Danube as far as Semlin, to penetrate through the military countries to Trieste, and, crossing the Gulf of Venice, to be regulated in our future proceedings by the time, and means, and humour which might then be at our disposal. Accordingly, having exhausted our curiosity, in reference to Pesth, we took our places in a steamboat, which was to sail betimes next day, for Constantinople, and supping quietly in the Speisen Saal of the Jäger Horn, went early to

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bed. Sound and refreshing is the sleep which follows and rises out of personal exertion; and ours that night forsook us not; till, at two o'clock in the morning, the groom of the chambers entered to announce, that the hour of sailing was at hand. There was no necessity on his part to repeat the statement. We were afoot in an instant: and, having taken care to pack our knapsacks ere we lay down, in five minutes we were in a condition to set forth.

I do not know how far I may carry with me the interest of others while I attempt to describe a scene which in its progress highly interested myself. I say nothing of the little bustle which is everywhere attendant on the transfer of passengers and their luggage from a hotel to a steam-boat. Early as was the hour, the trifling space that intervenes between the Jäger Horn and the river, presented for a while the appearances which are usual on such occasions: that is to say, porters jostled each other; travellers urged them to increased expedition; and a crowd of idlers, thronging the gangway, interrupted both. But all this came in the ordinary course of events. It was after we had fairly established ourselves that the curtain may be said to have risen, and that there was exhibited

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before us a diorama, to which each successive moment gave, as it were, a novel character.

When we first planted ourselves at the extreme stern of the ship, rejoicing in the light equipment which enabled us to do so conveniently, the darkness was such as to render surrounding objects, even the nearest, indistinct; while those which might be removed from us by a few yards, were quite obscured. Along the banks of the Danube, indeed, on either side, as well as throughout the extent of the bridge of boats, and such of the streets as led to it, the gleam of a few lamps wavered doubtfully; but there was no moon in the heavens, nor any stars visible, inasmuch as a dense fog hung over the city, and enveloped it as with a curtain. The darkness which prevailed in every other direction was complete. All the straining which our eyeballs underwent, sufficed only to make us aware of the flitting hither and thither of dusky forms, which seemed for a while to crowd the deck to positive inconvenience, and to give slender promise of comfort during the voyage. By degrees, however, the vision appeared to become familiarized to the gloom. Objects near at hand grew less and less hazy in their outlines, the throng seemed to diminish; and, lo! in the far east

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there was a pale and sickly tinge, the first flicker of the dawn that ushers in the day! How magnificent was the effect of the gradual expansion of that tinge! As the sky reddened, hill, tower, mansion, river, seemed to rejoice in its glory. Now there was before us a mass of things, strangely and wildly thrown together. Now each took a definite shape, which became, instant by instant, more accurate. Streets might be traced, like lines on a huge map; the observatory looked down upon us; the fortress and viceregal lodge stood forward in something like their proportions; and finally, there lay, in the perfect quiet of the early morning, Ofen and Pesth, with the Danube rolling his waters between;—all as still, all as completely exempt from other indications of human presence than our own busy vessel afforded, as if the scene had been one in the land of dreams, or that a pestilence had recently swept over the city, and spared no one in its wrath. I have watched for the coming of day frequently, and that too under circumstances much more calculated, as might be imagined, to solemnize and excite; yet I do not recollect that the occurrence ever affected me more deeply than it affected me then;—no, not even when I have stood beside an armed band, with the sort of vague and

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half-formed conviction on my mind that, in all human probability, I should never watch for it again.

We were enjoying the scene with the intensity which it was calculated to excite, when a gun, the signal for sailing, was fired; and all whose business or inclination led them not to bear us company, hurried on shore. It was no source of lamentation to perceive, that the numbers of such were considerable; and that we were left, in consequence, with a very moderate train to prosecute our voyage. It consisted, besides ourselves, of two ladies, both of them Hungarian, and their attendants; of a young noble and his tutor, an intelligent but eccentric man, who had spent some time in England; of another noble and his lady; an English Jew and his wife, a native of Plymouth; a young Austrian, with several individuals besides, who, playing no very marked part in the little drama, have long ago been forgotten. Then, again, there was the captain, a native of Florence, a singularly handsome man; of very agreeable manners, and nowise disposed to underrate his own accomplishments. An excellent linguist, he could converse with facility in Italian, English, German, French, Spanish, and even Hungarian. I do not know

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what his merits might be as a seaman, but his attention to his passengers was throughout unremitting, and he earned for himself in consequence golden opinions everywhere, especially among the fairer portion of the creation.

I am not going to give any details of "a steam-voyage down the Danube." Ours, like that which has been so well described already, brought with it much to excite amusement and something to produce inconvenience; for the scenery around was interesting by reason of its novelty of character, and the manners of those with whom we were thrown into such intimate connexion, pleased us greatly. Nothing, indeed, could be more imposing in its way than the enormous plain over which, both to the right and left, the eye ranged freely. No living objects could have more entirely harmonized with it than the strange gipsy-looking men who were seen at various points, lounging by the water's edge, in observation, as it appeared, of certain herds of cattle and wild ponies that were browsing far and near, as if in a state of nature. Then, again, the floating mills, of which Mr. Quin speaks; the troops of horses, plunging and capering, as by thirties and fifties in a string, they dragged barges and larger craft against the current of the Danube; the out-

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landish bearing of the peasants who drove them, each mounted upon his favourite animal, and each attending exclusively to the operations of his own gang, whatever might be its numerical strength; these, as one after another the course of the voyage brought them before us, were observed and commented upon with all becoming eagerness. It must be confessed, however, that, though exceedingly interesting for awhile, a panorama such as this soon palls upon you. The eye grows wearied with resting upon a broad river, banked in by heaps of mud and groves of willows; through the openings in which are seen portions of a huge flat,—rich, doubtless, and productive, but apparently interminable. You pine for something more definite,—some mountain range, or town, or castle, or village; and on the Danube, even as elsewhere, your longing receives, in due time, its accomplishment. Throughout the early part of the day, the scene was, in every respect, such as I have described it; towards noon it underwent a change, which became, from time to time, more marked, and proportionably more agreeable.

When you have passed Folvar, and Paks, and Tolna, the three most important places which greet you during the first six hours of

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your voyage, you enter upon a portion of the Danube, which, after twisting and turning about through a prodigious swamp, carries you into a region, at once picturesque in its external appearance, and singularly crowded with monuments of Hungarian story. Conspicuous among these is Mohacs, the scene of two mighty contests, in which the Cross and the Crescent met with alternate success: for in the former, fought in 1526, the Moslem entirely prevailed; in the latter, which occurred just one hundred and sixty years afterwards, he sustained a signal defeat. It is curious enough, that in pointing to the field of strife our Hungarian acquaintances spoke only of the former of these battles. The triumphs of Prince Eugene and Charles of Lorraine seemed to have, in their eyes, no interest whatever, when compared with the death of their own Lewis II. and the conquests of Solyman the Magnificent; nor, perhaps, is the circumstance greatly to be wondered at, when we take into account the strong and laudable nationality of feeling which is inherent in the Hungarian character. Prince Eugene and Charles of Lorraine were both foreigners, and if they did free Hungary from the Turkish yoke, it was to establish the dominion of an Austrian over it. Lewis II. fell in a struggle to main-

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tain the independence of a crown, as yet unconnected with any other sovereignty. Moreover there was something peculiarly chivalrous and melancholy in the death of Louis. With thirty thousand men, the élite of the Magyar chivalry, he attacked Solyman at the head of two hundred thousand, and he perished in a swamp, into which, with a handful of fugitives, the tide of battle swept him. The swamp still exists near the village of Czetze, and is distinctly visible from the river.

For some little time before we reached Mohacs, the country on the right bank of the Danube had become more bold and varied; and now, for awhile, there were undulations here and there, amid which villages, and towns, and chateauxs, lay very prettily. We were much surprised, moreover, to find, that the population seemed everywhere on the alert. As we approached each village it sent forth its inhabitants in crowds, who saluted us with discharges of cannon and musketry from the river's bank, and a display of most multifarious ensigns. On inquiring into the cause of this bustle, I learned that Count Esterhazy, a cousin, I believe, of the Prince, had just been elected vicegespan, or lord-lieutenant of his own county; and that the good people,

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expecting his arrival among them by the steamboat, were waving their flags in order to testify their satisfaction at the event. It was hardly fair to permit the delusion to continue, inasmuch as once, at least, we lay-to within hail of the shore; but both the captain and his passengers appeared to enjoy the joke, and the process of saluting went on as heretofore.

I have alluded to certain inconveniences which attend a steam voyage down the Danube. They are experienced mainly after sunset; for the steam-vessels are not furnished with sleeping accommodations of any sort, and you are obliged to pass a night at anchor. Now, though to bivouac for a few hours can hardly be accounted a hardship, whether these hours be spent on a hair cushion in the cabin, or under the shelter of your cloak upon the deck; yet the grievance becomes serious when you find, as in either situation you soon do, that every assailable part of your body is given up as a prey to swarms of insects. If you establish yourself below, armies of fleas attack you; if you endeavour to escape from them by retreating to the deck, clouds of mosquitoes from the swampy shore threaten to eat you up. I have no hesitation to say, that the night which I passed on the Danube was about as comfortless

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a portion of my existence as I recollect anywhere to have spent, and that the memory of it comes over me, at this moment, with a freshness which is by no means agreeable.

With the first peep of dawn our voyage was resumed. It had been suspended only because of the danger of grounding in the dark on one or other of the innumerable shallows which render the navigation of the Danube inconvenient; and it proved, in every point of view, more agreeable than the experience of the preceding day might have led us to anticipate. It is true, that the great plain continued unbroken; though even in that direction an object would from time to time present itself, which we had no disposition to pass unnoticed. Here, for example, at Monosterszeg was the mouth of a canal which connects the Theiss with the Danube; there, a few miles below, stood the remains of Apatin, a town or large village, over the greater portion of which the Danube, shifting his channel in a flood, has rolled his waters. But it was to the right that we chiefly directed our gaze, where hill and grove began again to show themselves, and the vineyard and the corn-field, surrounding the habitations of men, gave evidence of a flourishing and, as it seemed, an industrious state of society. By-and-by,

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the point was gained where the Draave pours his flood into the Danube, giving a prodigious addition to the volume of his waters, and entirely changing their very hue. They were no longer of a whitish green, as if their course lay over a bed of chalk, but became dark and sullen as we might expect to find them when forcing their way through a soil so deep and rich as that which, on either hand, controls them.

From this moment till the apparition of Belgrade warned us that the voyage was drawing to a conclusion, our progress was in the highest degree interesting. The plain to the left put on, as it were, a new character, and spread out before us a mighty forest; on the right, towns, villages, and chapels became more and more abundant, and hill and dale appeared to vie with each other in fertility. Vukovar was left behind, Neusatz seen afar off, and the border of the Military Counties gained at the bridge of boats, which connects Carlowitz with Peterwardein. These, and especially the former, are fortresses of the second rank, which entirely command the navigation of the Danube, and the roads which pass on each side of it; and which bristling even in these peaceable times with cannon, and swarming with troops, presented an exceedingly formidable appearance.

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But we did not delay to examine them longer than was necessary to open for us a free channel by removing some of the boats from their places. On, then, we swept with all the rapidity which the united force of steam and the current could produce; till passing the mouth of the Theiss, we arrived about four in the afternoon at our point of debarkation, and the ship's halting-place for the night.

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CHAPTER X.

APPROACH TO SEMLIN.—SEMLIN.—THE QUARANTINE STATION.—THE MILITARY COUNTIES.

I HAVE seldom looked upon a scene which appeared, on many different accounts, to advance stronger demands upon my curiosity, and interest, than that which the approach of the steam-vessel to its anchorage, opened up. In the first place, the aspect of things has become entirely different from aught on which, throughout the downward passage, you have heretofore been gazing. The Danube, swollen by the accession of the Draave and the Theiss, and receiving here into its capacious bosom the waters of the Saave, assumes the appearance rather of a lake or inland sea, than that of a river. The forests that close him in on the left, have become darker and deeper than before. The hills on the right have melted gradually away, and now merge into one vast plain, having neither rock nor mound, to interrupt its sameness; unless the cliffs which immediately overhang the river, may be so accounted.

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Behind one of these, so as to be entirely concealed till you have passed it, lies Semlin,—a poor, mean, deserted-looking town; while on the opposite bank of the Saave, Belgrade lifts up its head; imposingly enough, as seen from a distance, because crowning a circular hill, and clustering round its base. In the next place, you feel, while gazing upon the woods and plains, that form your forward view, that you have reached, at length, the very threshold of Christendom. On this side the Saave, the cross surmounting tower and steeple, gives notice that the Redeemer is worshipped;—on the opposite side, the crescent, catching the sun's rays, from minaret and mosque, proclaims the ascendency of a meaner faith. Now, though it be quite true that the day of Moslem power has passed away, never in all probability to return, I defy any reflecting person to stand, as we did then, midway between the fields on which the battles of the rival creeds have so often been fought, without losing sight for the moment of the realities of present times, and living, in imagination, entirely for the past. It is not of the Sultan Mahmoud, and the Emperor Ferdinand,—the one prostrate at the feet of the Autocrat of the Russias; the other indulging in the harmless pageantry of repeated coronations,—

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that you think. Your mind wanders back to times, when Mohammed II. threatened the liberties of Europe, and John Corvin, the gallant protector of Hungary, stayed his onward progress; when Belgrade, alternately lost and won, formed an advanced post to Christendom, and the Danube and the Saave witnessed deeds of heroism, such as they are not likely, in a similar cause at least, to witness again. Alas! it is but a profitless occupation, this looking back upon glories that will not return. Hungary, which stood ever in the forefront of the battle, is now an independent kingdom only in name; and Poland, which when even Hungarian valour failed, came freely to the rescue, exists no more. Yet it is not easy, at least here, on the very border-line of Osmanlie, to forget that such things were.

The arrival of the steam-boat at Semlin is an event, in which the entire population of the frontier town seems to take an interest. We saw, as we approached the pier, that it was crowded with spectators, and scarcely were the moorings made fast, and a plank thrown to the shore, ere a multitude of persons of all ranks and degrees hurried on board. Among others, the governor came, an old man, who had served in the War of Liberation, and attained to the

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rank of general—bringing with him his wife, a lady young enough to be his grand-daughter, and two aides-de-camp. Yet his, like the visits of less dignified personages, was a mere indulgence of justifiable curiosity. "What was going on at Pesth? how stood matters at Vienna?" These were the questions which he put; and having received to them such answers as the captain was either able or willing to give him, he sought nothing more.

"Is this all the intercourse that takes place between you?" demanded I.

"This is positively all," replied the captain; "the poor old man is here in a sort of honourable exile, of which the monotony is never disturbed, except by our visits. It would be cruel not to gratify the ruling passion of his soul by telling him something. Accordingly, I make a point of bringing him news, as well from below as from above; and if there be none really astir, I invent it. He always acts as you have seen him act to-day. Whatever I communicate, he receives as authentic, without troubling himself to inquire into my authorities."

I do not know how far the captain's standard of morals ought or ought not to be accounted a just one, but I am quite sure that his motives

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were kind; and good motives, in cases more equivocal than this, may sometimes be treated as the best criterion of men's actions.

The ship's deck was still thronged, when we bade adieu to our fellow-travellers; and, under the guidance of an obliging countryman, who acted as engineer on board, took the road to Semlin. You approach the town by a causeway, which runs through the heart of an immense swamp,—a fruitful source, especially in the spring and fall of the year, of agues, and intermittent fevers. Created long ago, as a defence against Turkish aggression, it serves no other purpose now than to mar the beauty of a landscape, which might otherwise be very attractive, and poison the atmosphere with the noxious exhalations that are emitted from it. For Semlin, though garrisoned by a battalion of infantry, is no longer a fortified place; and, if it were, is incapable, because of the proximity of heights, which on two sides entirely command it, of any protracted defence. There are to be sure some stockades along the front which is turned towards the Saave, as well as a gate beside which a guard is always mounted; but stockades and a gate would be but a poor protection against the attacks of modern armies, and confer no warlike character on the town

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which can boast of them. I suspect, then, that the continuance of the marsh, which no longer undergoes even the cleansing process of an occasional inundation, is owing more to the indolence of the people than to any apprehension on the part of the authorities, that their rest may be broken in upon some fine day, by an irruption of Turks from Belgrade.

Semlin is remarkable only for the quarantine establishment which is there kept up, as a protection against the plague. It consists of a certain number of cells, with their respective yards or courts palisaded round, and resembling the cages of wild beasts in the Zoological gardens; of the lodgings of those who attended upon the inmates of these cells; of two neat little churches, one for the use of Roman Catholics, the other set apart for the Greek service; and of a detached house in which dwell the medical officers. With the exception of this last, all the other buildings are inclosed by a lofty wall, within the circuit of which is an area of perhaps three or four hundred feet square; and as the cells are ranged against the edge, and the churches occupy the centre of the space, the effect to the eye is not unpleasing. We were conducted, as strangers freely are, through this open court, and we had

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an opportunity of looking from afar, on the victims of the sanitory code, all of whom chanced to be arrayed in the Turkish garb, and all sat smoking within their cages, but we did not venture to approach them. I need scarcely add, that the periods of time during which the quarantine regulations continue in force, vary according to the healthy or unhealthy state of the season elsewhere; or that as the longest term of confinement does not exceed forty days, so, under the most favourable circumstances, the traveller from Turkey into Hungary must endure, with patience, if he can, a ten days imprisonment. With respect to merchandize, on the other hand, such as bales of cotton, and other articles which are supposed to convey infection, a much less rigid discipline is exercised. The authorities keep in their pay a man who thrusts his bare arm, up to his shoulder, into each bale as it arrives, and if, at the end of three days, he exhibit no symptom of illness, the goods, of whatever description they may be, are passed on into the interior.

We were very desirous of passing over to Belgrade, where all the peculiarities of the Turkish mode of life are just as broadly marked as in Constantinople; and having learned in the course of our voyage, that the work might without diffi-

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culty be accomplished, we waited on the governor in order to solicit from him the necessary permission. The custom is to send with the stranger a couple of police officers as an escort, who follow him wherever he goes, and closely observe his proceedings. If he have resolution enough to abstain from coming into personal collision with the inhabitants,—if he neither enter their dwellings, nor purchase aught at their stalls, nor suffer any of them to touch him even accidentally, then he may wander from street to street at his pleasure, and return to Semlin with his bill of health unpolluted. But the slightest deviation from this rule, whether it be voluntary, or the reverse, subjects him to a ten days' quarantine. Alas! when we came to petition in our own persons, for a privilege which had been described to us as universally granted, we found that the custom once was, but that it existed no longer. There had arisen, it appeared, an alarm of plague across the Saave; and all communication between the two countries was cut off. We were somewhat disappointed, as may be imagined, yet we knew that remonstrance would have been useless; so we returned to our inn to sup, and to sleep, and to make other pre-

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parations for the continuance of our journey on the morrow.

Though not yet beyond the boundary line of Hungary, we had now arrived at a portion of it over which the common laws and customs of the nation exercise no authority. From Neu Orsova, a good way on the other side of the Danube, to the shores of the Adriatic and the Dalmatian frontier, there extends a belt of territory for the most part very narrow, with here and there a patch thrown down, as it were, in the midst of districts differently constituted, and one remarkable tongue of land interposing between Croatia and Lower Hungary. Within this belt military law, or rather military jurisdiction, entirely prevails. There every man capable of bearing arms is a soldier; every officer is likewise a magistrate, and from year's end to year's end, neither officer nor soldier can be said to live otherwise than he would were an organized enemy in his front. As the state of society in this district is, in itself, very peculiar, and the order of control and management observed in it, appears to have answered every purpose for which it was invented, I do not think that I shall commit an error if I give of both a somewhat minute account;—more espe-

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cially at a time like the present, when our own American possessions seem to demand that some system should be adopted of perpetual defence on the frontier. I do not mean to say, that with our peculiar feelings and habits, it will be possible for us to act precisely on the plan which Austria has so successfully pursued. But seeing what Austria has done, in a position not dissimilar to that in which we now stand, and while the Canadas adhere to us, must expect to stand towards the United States, it is at least worth while to consider how far we may follow in her footsteps, modifying our proceedings so as to meet the exigencies of the times, without seriously wounding prejudices or principles which are of much more importance than temporary losses or gains.

From Neu Orsova to the Adriatic, there may be, as the crow flies, a space of three hundred and forty or fifty English miles; if you follow the great roads and other established lines of communication, you will scarcely travel from the one point to the other under five hundred miles. The whole of this district, which, except in the tongue of land alluded to above, never exceeds, where it is the broadest, thirty miles in width, is divided into fourteen counties, each of which constitutes within itself a com-

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pact community; though all are held together by the bond of a general responsibility to the crown and its representatives. The supreme authorities which represent the crown consist first, of a governor, or commander-in-chief, whose head-quarters are established, I believe, at Peterwardein, and next of one or more generals subordinate to him, of whose stations I cannot, except in a single instance, speak even at random. This, however, is of the less consequence, that in point of fact, the generals never interfere in the management of those details which give to the frontier districts their peculiar character. They are mere links in the chain which connects the emperor with the peasant; they are intended rather to take the command in case a war should render a concentration of force necessary, than as instruments wherewith to control the inhabitants in times of peace. It is to each county, therefore, considered as a thing apart, that we must look for the information of which we are in search; and to one of these, no matter which, I accordingly turn as to my model.

Let it be observed, in the outset, that with the fortified places that lie within the limits of these counties, or with places which take rank as forts or festungs, we have here no concern.

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These, such as Semlin, Brod, Alt Gradisca, and many more, being occupied by garrisons from the regular Austrian army, have each its distinct commandant, and each its own peculiar jurisdiction. But elsewhere, in the villages, in the hamlets, and in the open towns, the usages of the frontier hold good, and to these usages our attention must be exclusively directed. And first, with reference to the state of property; it is to be noted, that the land, whether cultivated or waste, along the whole of this border, belongs exclusively to the supreme government. Not an individual subject, from one extremity of the line to the other, can say, This is my estate. His forefathers may have occupied it for three generations, and he himself may be quite aware that he will never be removed from it, yet has he over the soil no proprietary right whatever; it is vested exclusively in the government. In like manner, the individual members of each family have no separate property in any thing which the estate produces. As they are but tenants in common, or colonists of the crown, so are their corn, their cattle, their poultry, and their wool, the common property of the household; each member of which receives, when the harvest is gathered in, his or her separate share; the

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head of all being favoured only in this, that his portion is doubled. And let it be observed further, that I am not now speaking of the sort of family which is constituted as often as a young man and a young woman marry. So long as the father of the young man survives, he is the recognised head of the stock, be it ever so numerous. It is only on his demise that the roots of new stocks, so to speak, are planted.

The inhabitants of a frontier county are all, more or less, agriculturists, that is to say, every family obtains a holding under the crown, and makes the most of it. Each household, moreover, grows its own wool, weaves its own cloth, and makes its own wearing apparel; while for the holding which produces the materials of all these, rent is paid in labour. The men, besides the military service which is exacted from them,—and of the extent of which I shall take an opportunity to speak by-and-by,—cultivate, in addition to their own farms, both the officers' portions and those which the government keeps in its own hands. From the latter toil they may indeed purchase an exemption, provided they contrive, by any means, to obtain the command of money; but as this seldom, if ever, happens to be the case, the privilege is rather nominal than real. Moreover, there are

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public works, such as the making of roads, the building of forts and magazines, and the construction and repair of the officers' lodgings, in which, when required, they must busy themselves; the time which they spend in these being carried to the credit side of their account with the government. Such is the kind of rent which each man pays for his farm, and which is regularly computed for him by a public accountant. According to the extent and value of his holding, he owes to the government a certain quantity of labour, or else a certain amount of money, for which the produce of that labour is assumed to be an equivalent.

It is not, however, by the works of his hands alone, during a given number of days in the year, that the borderer purchases his right to till his own fields, and gather in their produce. The law imposes upon every male, so long as he is capable of bearing arms, the liability to serve as a soldier. Even in times of peace, each county is required to keep on foot two battalions of twelve hundred men a-piece; while in times of war, the levy is increased to four battalions. But this is not all. Should an exigency arise, the emperor has the right of ordering out the entire male population. In this case, all between the ages of eighteen and

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thirty-six, are absolutely at the disposal of the state; all above eighteen and below it, from the age of twelve, must arm to defend their own fire-sides. Hence, if the active battalions, as they are called, were marched away, *en masse*, into Italy or elsewhere, the frontier duty would still be carried on by old men and boys.

When the system was first invented,—and to Prince Eugene belongs the merit of devising it,—there was perpetual war, or the hazard of war, between Austria and Turkey. For many years afterwards that danger continued, and down to the present moment, the borderers on both sides are pretty much in the state of our own moss-troopers under the last of the Tudors. No great while, indeed, has elapsed, since so fierce a raid was made from Turkish Croatia, that the Austrian commandant at Agram took the matter up, and gathering together a large force, as well of regular as of irregular troops, he executed a foray on true moss-trooping principles, which the Turks are not likely soon to forget. I do not find that, on an extensive scale at least, the amusement has since been repeated. But even the vigilance of the Gränz regiments, and it is great, does not always suffice to keep off the smaller marauding parties, which are ever ready for a burst, and which,

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when they do succeed in breaking the cordon, are not only troublesome as plunderers, but commit the most savage atrocities on such as fall into their hands.

Partly to protect their frontier against such outrages, partly as a sanitory cordon, and partly that the Austrian army may be increased, at a very moderate expense, by thirty thousand superb infantry, the government requires that there shall be continually embodied in each county, one regiment, consisting of two battalions, that is, of two thousand five hundred men. Chosen by ballot, out of the portion of the males whose ages neither fall short, nor exceed the specified limits, these battalions are ready at any moment, to take the field, though they never, unless an emergency occur, assemble to manœuvre, or exercise as regiments, except during a single month in every year. Till the harvest is gathered in, on the contrary, the men dwell in their own homes, and in the bosom of their own families, pursuing their daily occupations like other peasants, and putting on the military dress only one day in each week, every man as his turn comes round, to take what well deserves to be termed, the out-post duty. For along the whole of the Turkish frontier, there is a chain of posts established,—picquets

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in the most absolute sense of the term,—which keeping from their elevated station-houses, a sharp look-out during the day, push forward their sentries at night, and so place them, that each shall take his station within easy hail of those on the right and left of him. Accordingly, to an extent of nearly five hundred miles, you may travel, if you please, in the immediate rear of a line of sentinels, who look across the Saave upon armed men;—not, indeed, arranged with equal regularity, nor yet clothed like themselves in uniform, but bearing the outward semblance of warriors, prompt either to attack or to defend, alike willing to carry fire and sword into Hungary, or to repel it, if brought against themselves. The consequence is, that no commercial intercourse whatever takes place between the two countries, but at points that are set apart for the purpose; and that individual adventurers never pass to and fro, except by eluding the notice of the guards, or forcing the sentries.

The counties thus organized are governed, both in their civil and military concerns, by colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants, sergeant-majors, sergeants, and corporals. Over the entire county the colonel reigns, or appears to reign, supreme. He keeps a map of his terri-

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tory, in which every house, field, and even tree, is set forth; he visits the several dwellings of his people once, at least, in every year; and he receives reports from the functionaries that are under him, as well periodically, as when some sudden exigency may call for them. Next in influence, as in rank, to the colonel, are the lieutenant-colonels and majors, who superintend respectively their half battalions, each of six companies;—visiting household by household, once in every half-year, and receiving the reports of the captains, that they may be forwarded to head-quarters. Last of all come the captains, whose vigilance is in like manner taxed by the necessity which is imposed upon them, of executing monthly inspections, and who employ both their lieutenants and sub-officers in the superintendance of their respective squads, till the order of responsibility is completed. It follows, as a matter of course, that throughout the entire range of these frontier counties, no such thing as a secret can exist. Not only each man's personal proceedings are known, but the state of his very household; while those in authority, check irregularities as soon as they begin to show themselves, and incur no odium whatever by doing so.

With all this show of power, and a great

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deal of its substance to boot, it is not to be imagined that either colonels, or majors, or captains, are absolute in their respective departments. What the colonel is to the whole county, the captain, no doubt, is to his portion of it; yet both colonel and captain are checked in all directions by a machinery admirably adapted to the uses which it is meant to serve. There is associated, for example, with each captain, an officer of finance, or economy, on whom the superintendence of all the fiscal affairs of the company devolve. These, again, include the balancing of accounts with the several families within the circle, the fixing the amount of produce that is due to each, the management of the labour on the public works, and the adjustment of the debtor and creditor reckonings between those who execute, and the authorities which require that labour. In like manner, there resides, at the head-quarters of the regiment, or county, a captain of finance, to whom the subalterns acting with the various companies report, and who, checking and auditing their accounts, is to the colonel what they are respectively to the captains with whom they serve. Nor does the matter end even here. Subordinate to each finance-lieutenant are a certain number of non-commis-

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sioned officers, who take charge of their respective squads, and who, assembling from time to time at the captain's office, in the chief station of the company, have their accounts examined, and corrected or passed, as the case may require, to head-quarters.

Meanwhile, the law, which has thus nicely adjusted the relation between ruler and subject, is not neglectful of the interests of the latter considered as a reasoning and a moral animal. There is a well organized machinery in every county, and in every department or district of each county, for the administration of civil and criminal justice. Once a week, at the chief station of the company, or circle, a sort of sessions is held by the officer of finance, where meet together the sergeant-major, two sergeants, and two corporals, all, like the officer, selected from the finance department. In addition to these, the colonel nominates two heads of families—men of known good character and respectability; and lo the court is complete. Such is the tribunal which, subject to the approbation of the captain, decides all questions of disputed right, all complaints of trespass, all claims of debt; and which, as the parties composing it are intimately acquainted with the characters and condition of the litigants, is

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found rarely to err in the award which it gives, from the line of strict justice. From the decision of the district court, however, an appeal lies to a court similarly constituted, at headquarters, where, over and above the finance officers, three gentlemen, learned in the law, deliver their opinions. They have been added to the list of members because cases do sometimes arise, with which mere soldiers, however honest in their purposes, know not how to grapple; and the consequence is, that by the judgment of the lawyers, in all important matters, the court of appeal is guided. Yet it is worthy of remark, that even in reference to them, the *esprit militaire* suffers no abatement. They dress as officers, they have rank in the army as officers, and as officers in the army, they are by the inhabitants regarded.

Equally simple in their construction, and prompt in their proceedings, are the courts which administer criminal justice in the border counties. The same tribunal which decides in civil cases, tries parties that are charged with punishable offences. Over the troops actually enrolled, indeed, the authority of the officers is supreme; they carry on the discipline of their respective battalions exactly as military discipline is preserved elsewhere,

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But, persons not attached to these battalions, whether they be men or women, are brought before the monthly sessions, if suspected of crime, and dealt with according to the decision of the judges. The punishments, again, are flogging with a stick, imprisonment, working in chains, and even death. It is worthy of remark, however, that grave charges are not dealt with except at the head-quarters of the county, where a supreme court of criminal justice is presumed to be always sitting. It consists of a chef-de-battailon, as president, of an auditor, who acts likewise as a judge-advocate, of two captains, two sergeant-majors, two corporals, and two private soldiers. I never heard but one opinion expressed, as to the perfect impartiality and fairness of this tribunal; while a further protection is afforded to the inhabitants in this, that no punishment can be carried into effect, till the colonel shall have examined the evidence, and approved the sentence.

I have stated, that the system of management for the Gränz Comitates was originally invented by Prince Eugene; it is but fair to add, that from the French Marshal Lascey it received many improvements. Its results have been, to render these frontier districts at once the most tranquil, and the best ordered portion of Hun-

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gary. Poor the people are; that is to say, nobody, be his rank what it may, can boast of a superfluity of coined money; but the necessaries of life are everywhere abundant, and all, without exception, have a share in them. In a military point of view, again, no arrangements could be devised, better adapted to give to the government of the country, the command of a large and efficient army, which costs next to nothing. For the soldiers of the Gränz regiment receive no pay, except for the days when they are actually on duty; and during the month when the regiments are embodied and brought together, for purposes of training. The officers, indeed, are paid, on the same scale with officers of the line, because they are not permitted, as individuals, to occupy more land than may be included in the gardens which attach to their respective dwellings; but the men receive the reward of their services in the lands that are allotted to them, and in the quiet enjoyment of the crops which they produce. Moreover, every detail, both of public duty and private business, is carried on under the surveillance of the authorities. From time to time the holdings of the several families are inspected, after which written accounts are handed to the head of each, setting forth the amount of his pos-

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sessions, and the value attached to them as reckoned in labour. The cattle, also, of the family, the horses and stock, are all numbered and enrolled. Again, it is the officer of finance who decides what portions of land shall be cultivated from year to year, what seed sown, what quantity of grain laid up in the public magazines, what set apart for general consumption. In like manner as the members of each family, however numerous, are assumed to have a common interest in the property that belongs to it, so the entire county or regiment is made to participate in the profits which accrue from the paid labour of its several members. The custom of forstban, for example, prevails here, as well as in other parts of Hungary; with this variety of usage,—that whereas elsewhere an order from Vienna will serve your purpose everywhere, just as the march-route, granted by the authorities in any particular county, suffices for that county and none other;—here, on the military frontier, the right of granting such march-route belongs exclusively to the commanders of stations. Whatever money is earned by such means the finance officer receives, and it is carried, like the men's earnings on the public works, to the credit of the common fund.

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The government is very strict in requiring from each family periodical returns of the numbers of its male members, within the ages of eighteen and thirty-six. It is likewise perfectly impartial in the selection which it makes from the whole body, as recruits may be wanting. The results are that there is no where the slightest disposition to evade the conscription where it falls; and that active service is regarded as the lot of all men. I have heard it computed that, throughout other provinces of the Austrian empire, the proportion of regiments embodied is as one to every four hundred thousand inhabitants. Along the Turkish frontier this ratio is taken at one regiment for every fifty thousand persons. But the mere increase to the amount of the standing army of Austria is the most inconsiderable advantage which the government derives from the system. The Gränz regiments are not only the least expensive, but they are the most efficient corps in the service. They are composed of men who imbibe military ideas with their mothers' milk, who grow up from boyhood in military subordination, who live in the continual exercise of daring, and vigilance, and self-command, and so even in seasons of recognised peace possess all the quickness, and intelligence, and courage that

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belong to veterans. I was assured, by one who was well qualified to give an opinion, that when the Carbonari were troublesome in Italy some years ago, and the Austrians moved an army to suppress them, there was no portion of the infantry to be compared with the frontier regiments, not only in appearance, but in discipline, quickness, capability of enduring fatigue, and all the other qualities which constitute good troops. Yet these men live six days out of the seven as other peasants do; and put on their uniform only when their tour of duty requires it.

One word more concerning the condition of these people, and I pass on to other subjects. The government is not even subjected to the expense of clothing them. Their arms, accoutrements, and, I believe, boots and shoes, they receive from the public stores; but their coats and hosen they grow, and weave, and fabricate, and dye at home. Moreover, there is among them neither care for the morrow, nor repining over the events of yesterday. As their numbers increase the government allots fresh farms for their maintenance, and thereby strengthens its own available resources, without, in the most trifling degree, increasing the drain upon the public treasury.

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Such was the portion of Hungary, through which, when satiated with Semlin, we proposed to make our way. Of the events that befell us, both then and afterwards, I shall speak in another chapter.

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CHAPTER XI.

JOURNEY TO MOROVITCH.—STRANGE ASPECT OF THINGS, ANIMATE AND INANIMATE.—MOROVITCH.—VISITED BY THE CAPTAIN.—VINKOVEZE.—NEU GRADISKA.—THE VICE-BAN MARCHOVICZ.

THE country round Semlin, except where some low hills overhang the Danube, is one immeasurable flat. As far as the eye could reach, moreover, no symptoms of town or village were discernible; and the woods having been cleared away, the whole face of the plain was covered with corn-fields. Who could think of commencing a pedestrian expedition there? We saw at once that such a project would be madness; so we sent for a peasant over-night, made a bargain with him for his wagons and horses, and finding him true to the time appointed in the morning, placed ourselves on the rude seat which with straw and rug he had fabricated, and set forth.

We had heard much of the dull and monotonous character of the great plain of Hungary. We had now a veritable specimen of it before us; for many long and weary miles we drove

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ere so much as a cottage made its appearance, and all the while the corn waved on either hand, rank and luxuriant. Yet, singular as to us this state of things appeared, it is but a copy, and an imperfect one, of what prevails elsewhere. There are parts of the country, especially in the great plain of the Theiss, where you may travel an entire day without encountering either the houses or the faces of men; and all the while your route will be through fields, loaded with abundant crops of wheat and rye. Moreover, the customs of the people who occupy that plain are, to the full, as striking as the external appearance of the country; and it may be well if I describe them.

The long and fierce wars which Hungary sustained with Turkey, and the exposure of these open districts to perpetual invasion, first induced the inhabitants to congregate into heaps; and the habits then contracted have never since been laid aside. Accordingly, there are no such things as villages and hamlets, far less detached dwellings, to be seen anywhere; but at remote intervals one from another, you come upon towns—towns of the veriest huts—where dwell six, eight, ten, and sometimes as many as thirty thousand peasants together.

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How they preserve order among themselves I do not know; for their magistrates seem to possess little influence over them; yet they do live peaceably enough; and, though all are poor, and squalid, and filthy to a degree, there seems to be a perfect indifference to the evils which poverty and squalor bring with them. They are to a man agriculturists. It is by the labour of their hands that the boundless plains, through which you have travelled, are cultivated; and the process by which the mighty operation is performed is this.

When the season for ploughing and sowing comes round, the males march in a body from their homes. They erect wigwams, or huts, here and there in the fields; and then setting to work, they toil from Monday till Saturday, living on the provisions which they may have brought with them, and sleeping at night in their bivouac. On Saturday they all return to the town, and do not leave it again till Monday. In this manner the first processes are carried through, and when all the seed has been scattered, the people march back to their permanent habitations, there to abide in idleness and filth, till some fresh operation becomes necessary. Finally, when harvest is ready, the bivouac is resumed; the women coming forth

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this time to assist in getting it in. And as the completion of the sowing season sent them back to the town, so when reaping ends, the huts are abandoned. In the particular counties through which we were now passing, things can hardly be said to extend this length. It has been the policy of the government to promote, as much as possible, the building of permanent villages everywhere; and these, though few and far between, we found to be at least sufficiently abundant to preclude the necessity of having recourse to the process of bivouacking.

I hardly know in what order to begin for the purpose of describing the events that occurred during the first stage in our tour of the military counties; not one of which might be, in itself, deserving of especial record, though the whole combined to render the day an era in the existence of the travellers. I say nothing of the effect produced upon us by the interminable corn-fields already referred to; nor of the sense of loneliness which came over us when mile after mile was traversed without an opportunity being presented to us of exchanging salutations with a being of our own order. But I must allude to the single circumstance which broke in upon the monotony of the scene, because it struck me at the moment, and strikes me still,

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as having been, in every sense of the expression, highly characteristic. We had heard a great deal of the wolf-dog which is bred in Hungary, an animal of prodigious size and courage; but withal treacherous and unsafe, except with its master and those to whom it is accustomed. It had been my wish to procure one, and after looking out in many places without effect, I purchased, at Semlin, a puppy, which was described to me as of the purest and most unexceptionable breed. Strange to say, we had not even seen one of these creatures; but to-day as we travelled along, we beheld, in a field to the right of us, an animal which appeared to move with extraordinary agility, and so tall, that his head, and sometimes his back, appeared above the standing corn through which he was galloping. We watched him attentively, and as he chanced to arrive at an open meadow we saw that he was a dog, quite white, with long shaggy hair, and larger than the largest sized Newfoundland which I, at least, have encountered. He was evidently hunting; for his nose was to the ground, and he went on at a rapid canter, as if secure of his trail.

We journeyed on, the dog keeping parallel with us; till, by-and-by, he set off at an accelerated pace, and we lost him. It never entered

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into our thoughts that we should meet him again, but in this we were deceived. We arrived in due time at a part of the road by the side of which a dead horse was lying; and there, feasting upon the carrion like a beast of prey, stood the superb animal whose progress we had been watching. The fact seems to have been that he snuffed the carcass from afar, and, like a wolf, which in all its habits, save only in his attachment to man, he resembles, he went with the breeze till he reached his prize, and now was devouring it. There had been other creatures at work before him,—a carrion crow or two, and a filthy buzzard; but he drove them off as often as they attempted to share his feast, and claimed the entire carcass as his own.

It struck me that one might search far and near without discovering, either within doors or without, a more palpable proof of the anomalous and half-savage state of society than this simple scene between the hunting-dog and the dead horse afforded. We had not, however, gone very far beyond the wolf-dog and his prey, ere a new scene opened upon us. We approached a village,—a strange wild Oriental-looking place,—with all its houses planted apart one from the other, and each surrounded by its own little enclosure. There was, how-

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ever, a place of worship in the settlement, which, more than any other edifice, gives to the ocality where men are congregated, an air of, at least, incipient civilization; and though dedicated to the service of the Greek church, it was not on that account lightly esteemed in our eyes. And here I may observe, once for all, that throughout the frontier counties the members of the Greek church are quite as numerous as the members of the Church of Rome. Nay, more. Protestants are here, Calvinists, Lutherans, and sundry sects besides, to whom, not less than to Jews and even to Mohammedans, the most absolute toleration is given; nor does it seem to enter into the heads of these well-drilled peasants that any necessity exists for quarrelling with any human being because of his religion. For the present, however, we had other matters to attend to. Our postilion, alive to the wants of his cattle, which, from five o'clock to eleven, had held their course unfalteringly, proposed to bait; and as we too felt that to tax them further would be cruel, we readily fell in with his proposal. Accordingly, he drove to the door of a little inn, where, under the shade of some pollarded trees, he halted; and slipping the bits out of the ponies' mouths, and giving them water from a well hard by, he first scat-

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tered a parcel of hay before them, from a sack on which we had been sitting, and then dived into the auberge, leaving us to our meditations.

Strange, wild, and un-European, were the tableaux which passed in quick succession before our eyes. The style of the houses, the dresses of the men, their swarthy complexions, and dark moustaches, had a character about them quite peculiar. Loud and inharmonious, too, was the hubbub of voices which issued from the room to which our driver had retreated, and out of which came group after group of most uncivilized-looking beings, to stare at us. Then, again, the women and children,—the former lying for the most part at length near their own doors, the latter running about in a state very little removed from nudity, resembled none of their species with whom in other parts of the world we had made acquaintance. The first were very filthy, very dark, very indolent, and, as it seemed, very good-humoured; the last shouted and squalled, and crawled about exactly as we should expect children to do, to whom nature had as yet been the only guide, and who were not likely to be placed under the management of any other.

Having waited with remarkable patience a

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good hour, during which our peasant seemed more disposed to attend to his own comforts than to those of his horses, we prevailed upon him to resume his seat, and our journey was resumed. There was no change, either in the general aspect of things around us, or in the impression which it made upon our own minds. Corn-fields—luxuriant corn-fields—with here and there a meadow, seemed to be interminable, without fence, or hedge, or ditch, or any other species of line to mark the bounds of individual holdings, or guard against involuntary trespass. Moreover, we beheld in these meadows, small groups of persons attending to their vocations, shepherds, or keepers of cattle, or swine-herds, very many of them armed with muskets, and all attended by their dogs, while occasionally a peasant would meet us, armed in like manner, even though his implements of husbandry were about him. Such, indeed, is part of the training which the inhabitants of the frontier counties undergo, and of which it is the effect to render them brave and self-collected under every emergency. They do not know when a body of marauders may break through the line of guards, and so each man is prepared to defend himself if attacked, either singly, or in conjunction with those beside whom he is pursuing his labours.

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We had agreed with our postilion to convey us only as far as Ruma, a place distant from Semlin about thirty English miles, where we fully calculated on being able to procure a fresh wagon, such carriages having been represented to us as everywhere attainable; but we were mistaken. The harvest was just beginning, and no arguments on our part could prevail on the peasants to withdraw their horses from the fields, even though we offered to pay them whatever they might choose to demand. Under these circumstances, we had nothing for it but to appeal to the good-nature of our Semlin driver; and to stimulate him to the exercise of his benevolence by the temptation of a double hiring. Fortunately for us, this latter inducement overcame his scruples, and he consented to carry us on to Mitrovicz, one stage further in advance. Accordingly, having delayed about a couple of hours, during which both men and horses refreshed themselves, we resumed our progress about three o'clock, and long before five found ourselves in the very midst of a fair which happened that day to be held in Mitrovicz.

A fair in one of these frontier towns of Hungary resembles, in its bustle and excitement, a similar gathering anywhere else: in the costumes and general appearance of the throngs

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which are brought together, it probably stands alone. It would be useless in me, however, to attempt anything like a description of it. Peasants were here in their best attire,—generally brown cloth jackets and wide trousers, with steeple-crowned hats, very broad in the brim, and waistcoats of gaudy colours, buttoned up to the chin with small silver coins. Eidelmen from the interior, moved more solemnly about, with their wide cloaks wrapped round them, and jingling enormous pairs of spurs on the heels of their untanned boots. There was a priest of the Greek church, in his blue robe and long beard; here a Mussulman, turbaned and moustached, and his girdle stuck full of pistols and yatagans. Soldiers of the Gränz regiment swelled the crowd, in their neat brown uniforms; women, merry and free, with their scanty petticoats, and handkerchiefs on their heads, flitted backwards and forwards; while stalls of every description blocked up each street, and shouting, and laughter, mingled in their turns, with a great deal of indifferent music, both instrumental and vocal. In like manner the inns were filled with people, eating, drinking, smoking, bargaining, jeering;—it was, in short, a scene of absolute confusion, out of which, after we had cast a hurried glance over

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it, we were anxious to escape; and very thankful we were, to find that the means of doing so were at hand.

There were plenty of wagons in the market-place, which having arrived in the morning with articles of barter, were now at the disposal of anybody who might wish to hire them, for they were empty. With the owner of one of these, we made a bargain, and finding that there was a town called Morovitch, about a couple of stages a-head, where quarters for the night were to be procured, we desired our peasant to direct his steps thither. It was, upon the whole, one of the most agreeable little journeys which we executed in this quarter; and not the less so, because of a slight unnecessary excitement which attended the latter portion of it. In the first place, the road, winding parallel for some distance with the Saave, brought us midway, as it were, between the Hungarian and Turkish outposts; that is to say, so placed us, that with the river separating us from the latter, we were yet during a considerable space, forty or fifty yards in front of the former. Of the Turks, I saw but little. They appeared, indeed, if any watch was kept at all, to keep it very carelessly; for they had no line of station-houses similar to that upon our right, and showed no or-

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ganized force capable of battle. On our side of the river, on the contrary, everything reminded me of years gone by. At intervals of perhaps an English mile apart, stood a range of small square cottages, or rather turrets, the approach to each of which was by a detached ladder, such as could at any moment be drawn up. Moreover, the turret itself was rendered defensible by means of a sort of covered balcony that ran round it, where men, sheltered from the weather by a projecting roof, could yet stand and fire over a parapet, or breast-work, in every direction. Then, again, we saw, rising above that parapet, the muzzles of some six or eight muskets, with bayonets attached to them; while round the picquet-house itself, soldiers were lounging, some sleeping, some chatting, and one or two busily engaged with dice or dominoes. And finally, we came, from time to time, upon a sentry, half-hidden by the stem of a tree, or the screen of a hedge,—not the sort of spruce and well set-up animal whom we see every day in St. James's Park, but a soldier ready for the field, sharp in his gaze, rough in his bearing, and taking as much rest as might be compatible with the efficient discharge of his duty. I could not behold all this without reverting to times when, on the banks of the

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Bidassoa, or beside the waters of the Mississippi, such exhibitions used to be familiar to me; and I trust that no great crime was committed, if there did arise a feeling somewhat akin to regret, that the times in question should have passed away, yet left so little beyond the memories that are associated with them, in accomplishment of the hopes which they created and fostered.

So long as the road ran parallel with the Saave, the objects which I have just described gave occupation both to the senses and the feelings. Moreover, the natural scenery was, on both sides of the river, much more attractive than it had heretofore been; for enormous forests had taken the place of corn-fields, and there were, here and there, clearances in their depths, which had an exceedingly picturesque effect. By-and-by, however, we struck inland again; and then all traces of the soldiery and their posts disappeared. I am not quite sure that the circumstance entirely pleased us. We were well armed, it is true, that is to say, each of us carried a double-barrelled pistol, and, in addition to my couteau de chasse, my young companion had a sharp spear-head, which was made to screw into the end of his gaff-stick at pleasure. Yet we did not feel entirely at ease.

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when the shades of night began to gather round us, and we looked out from our open wagon on forests which, for aught we knew to the contrary, might be infested with brigands. Moreover, the sense of insecurity was not diminished when there presently met us three men, dressed like peasants, yet each carrying over his shoulder a much more efficient weapon than a pistol,—a long fowling-piece. I am now satisfied that the circumstance which caused us at the moment to ascertain that the caps of our pistols were in their right places, ought, in point of fact, to have been regarded as a strong evidence of our safety. These armed men constituted one of the patrols which, passing to and fro all night long, from the head-quarters of the nearest company to the outposts, afford an additional protection against surprise, by ascertaining that no enemies have stolen through the advanced line, and that the roads are in other respects safe.

It was quite dark when we arrived at Morovitch, and the inn to which we were driven had little in its external character to recommend it. It was, in truth, a very wretched hovel, yet we succeeded in procuring an apartment for ourselves, and in due time, supper and a tolerable flask of wine made their appearance. We had

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not sat down to them, however, ere we were made to feel that police regulations.—of which, since our arrival in Hungary, we had lost sight, —existed in full force here on the frontier. A corporal entered, and, in respectful but soldier-like terms, demanded a sight of our passport. We gave it to him immediately, and saw him, without the slightest misgiving, carry it away that it might be submitted to the captain's inspection. And then we addressed ourselves to the provend. It was neither very delicate nor very skilfully cooked, yet it made but a poor stand against our onslaught, and the sleep that followed, despite of the lively opposition of a whole swarm of insects, was sound and refreshing.

We were up with the lark, and anxious to pursue our journey; but this we found to be a measure beset with greater difficulty than overnight we had taken into our calculations. It was necessary, in the first place, to await the captain's visit, who desired to return to us our passport with his own hands; and, in the next place, there was no bouern-post to be procured. Here, as well as in the vicinity of Ruma, the harvest was in progress; and nobody could be prevailed upon by any amount of hire to interrupt so necessary an operation. I must

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do the captain the justice to observe, however, that the impediment occasioned by his promised visit was soon removed. We had not yet finished breakfast, when he came; and very polite and well-bred, though justifiably inquisitive, he proved to be. Nay, more; on stating to him the dilemma into which we were thrown, he very kindly offered us a forstban; and greatly as we should have preferred a voluntary agreement with a peasant, we were too much at the mercy of circumstances not to avail ourselves of the indulgence. Accordingly, the same corporal who had introduced himself to us over-night, was despatched to bring in the wagon and horses; and we, in order to while away the interval, which from previous experience we knew would be great, sallied forth to look about us.

Morovitch, the head-quarters of a company, or circle, is a small town, or rather a large village; the most conspicuous objects in which are the church and guard-house; the former, merely because it is a place of worship, though a small one; the latter, in consequence of the warlike character which its presence, and that of the soldiers who lounge about its front, give to the entire scene. The town stands upon the Spaczva, one of the many tributary

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streams which, from either side, fall into the Saave, and swell its volume of water; but which, muddy and dark, because holding its course through a rich alluvial soil, is very little tempting to the angler. Yet is it full of fish; carp, I suspect, or some other huge monster, which springs greedily enough at the natural fly, but positively refuses that which is artificial; for though we flogged its slimy surface throughout a good hour, and gave its occupants the choice of our whole stock, not one could we allure to his destruction. This was the more provoking, that our fishing-rods proved to be here, as they had been in Bohemia, sources of endless wonderment to the natives. They could not be made to understand the uses either of the rods themselves, or of the tackle which is appended to them; and when they saw us address ourselves to angling, there was no end to their astonishment. I am afraid that the impression left on their memories is much less favourable to our sagacity, than that which we created beside the Iser. We did not get so much as a rise, and left off at last, in sheer despair.

By this time the forstban was ready; and, discharging our bill, and remunerating the civil corporal for the trouble he had taken, we pushed forward. I willingly omit all notice of

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the scenery through which we passed. In its essential features it resembled exactly the district which, during the last stage in our yesterday's progress, we had traversed. Everywhere there is a huge plain around you; though the magnificent forests that clothe it produce an effect far more agreeable, than the prodigious crops of wheat and rye which meet your gaze more in the interior. But I must not omit to mention, that the prevailing woods were the oak and the beech, and that both kinds of trees grew to a size which was remarkable. I should think that out of these forests—for they extend into the Turkish provinces, as well as into Hungary,—a navy might be built, larger by far than that of all the powers of Europe put together. Moreover, to-day, as yesterday, we came from time to time to places, where the wood having been cleared away, there had arisen in its room a village, surrounded by its fields, chiefly of maize, between the rows of which, melons and gourds grew in great abundance. All this carried me more and more, in imagination, beyond the limits of western Europe; and in justice to myself I am bound to add, that there were other reasons why the delusion should have kept its place in my mind with singular tenacity.

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It struck me that the farther we proceeded in this coasting expedition the more strongly marked were the evidences that were afforded of an Oriental character as attaching to the inhabitants of the district. To-day, for example, we saw women working in the fields, with only a loose chemise thrown over them. In the same attire they were walking with pitchers on their heads, which they had just filled, or which somebody had filled for them, from one or other of the draw-wells that we observed by the roadside. Then came men equipped in linen dresses, most of them wearing calabashes, or dried gourds, at their backs; while the very cattle, humped on the shoulder, and exhibiting long and crooked, but very sharp horns, were clearly not sprung from a genuine Gothic breed. But it was in the villages, through several of which we drove, that the manners and customs of the far East were most powerfully illustrated. I say nothing of the draw-well, with which every cottage is in its little yard supplied. Neither did I lay much stress upon the primitive order of society, which causes the peasant whose wagon you have hired, to transport his own provender, and to trust to the village hotel for nothing more than water for his horses. But when we beheld on either side of us, cottages similar in their forms

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to the Chinese figures which adorn an old-fashioned teaboard; when we marked with what apparent enjoyment the owners of these cottages lay to eat their meals under the shade of certain trees that grew near; when a specimen of Eastern weaving was exhibited to us—women working with their canes the yarn into a woof, which was extended along the side of the road, from one large stone to another—and others were met or passed, holding the spindle under their arms, and spinning the flax as they walked along; then, indeed, there required some battling with fancy, to convince us that we had not overleaped the boundary of Europe unawares, and so passed into some region where the customs recorded in the Book of Genesis still prevailed. I am bound to add, that whether the chord of association thus struck were or were not the principal cause of our enjoyment, we enjoyed this day's travel exceedingly, and experienced something like regret when, about two in the afternoon, our vehicle stopped before the door of a large and commodious inn, in the market-place of Vinkoveze.

The tide of events, by carrying us to Vinkoveze, (for such is the correct orthography of the name,) had brought us to the head-quarters of one of the border counties. Here resides the

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colonel of the Seventh or Broder regiment, with all his staff of adjutants, judge-advocate, finance officers, and keepers of accounts; and here, too, as it happens, is the station of one of those general officers of whom I have elsewhere spoken, as commanding each his brigade on the frontier. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the town is a place of some importance, and that it presents in all its streets, and squares, and alleys, a very considerable display of the pomp and circumstance of war. Beyond this, however, I have nothing to record of it; for the stroll which we took through its principal quarters brought little that deserves record under our observation; and it was with great chagrin that we found ourselves compelled, for lack of horses, to abide there all night. To be sure, there did occur, in the evening, a concert, as it was termed, of which we, as in duty bound, became auditors; that is to say, an individual,—a Jew,—"discoursed eloquent music," from a number of common reeds, which he arranged upon brackets. But though the performance was honoured with the presence of the chief authorities, and the élite of the town attended it in like manner, to us it was productive of no other result than a somewhat unsatisfactory interference with our din-

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ner. We paid our florin apiece, and went back again to sip our coffee and go to bed.

Though we found it impossible to procure horses so as to continue our journey on the day of our arrival at Vinkoveze, there was no difficulty whatever in making an arrangement for the day following. Honest Juan,—and I record his name because a more civil, and obliging, and intelligent charioteer never occupied the front of a springless wagon,—agreed, on his own terms, to carry us forward; and promised, on the faith of a German from the Rhine, to be at the inn-door by five next morning. I am sorry to say, however, that Juan did not fulfil his engagement to the letter. It was past six ere he made his appearance, and when he did come, there seemed to be a slight disposition on his part to drive more than his horses according to his own humours. But a brief controversy put all that to rights, and throughout the period of his continuance in our service, which extended over two whole days, we had only to express a wish and it was immediately attended to.

It is not worth while to describe minutely the progress of this day. In all its leading features the country resembled that through which we had passed,—with this difference,

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that toward the afternoon mountains began to show themselves afar off over the Turkish border, and that there were frequent hills and swells visible in the opposite direction. The people, too, in their appearance, in their garb, and in their habits, were essentially the same; while towns, houses, and churches, and the general arrangement of the hamlets, continued to keep alive the sort of half-delusion under which, during the previous day, we had laboured. When, therefore, I have stated that all things went well with us; that our postilion proved to be a fellow of great intelligence; that being, as I have hinted, a German from the Rhine, we were able to maintain with him an animated conversation, and that he possessed and was prompt to communicate a great deal of information, I have said as much in reference to the day's journey as the subject appears to deserve. And the detail cannot be more appropriately wound up than by recording that about four o'clock we halted for the night in Brod.

Brod is a fortress on the right bank of the Saave, under the walls of which a town of near two thousand inhabitants has grown up. The castle is occupied, like other positions of the kind, by a regiment of regular infantry; and the duty is carried on exactly as it would be

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were an enemy's force in the field, and a siege daily expected. For, in addition to the ordinary posts from the Gränz battalions, which watch the course of the river, the garrison throws out its picquets, and has its chains of sentries regularly planted in every direction beyond the outworks; yet we were not prevented from crossing the drawbridge, and looking into the barrack-square beyond; neither was any objection offered to the minute inspection which we made of the defences from the crest of the glacis. The latter, indeed, is, to a portion of its extent, very neatly laid out as a public garden; and if we did not encounter a crowd of loungers amid its mazy walks, the circumstance must be attributed rather to the lack of taste among the people, than to the absence of a good feeling towards them on the part of the authorities.

It was evident enough that with all that was to be learned in these frontier counties we were by this time familiar, and the sameness which prevailed, in reference both to animate and inanimate objects, began to grow wearisome. We resolved, therefore, to push forward by long stages; and having assured Juan of a good drinkgelt, we prevailed upon him to have his horses in readiness for a

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start by the first peep of dawn on the following day. Accordingly, having retired to our beds betimes, we quitted them long before cockcrow, and just as the garrison clocks were striking four, our vehicle moved from the inn-yard. It was still very faintly light; that is to say, the gray morning was pushing the night aside somewhat after the manner of a gladiator who has so nearly met his match, that though he be gaining ground, he is himself unconscious of it. The town and fortress seemed both buried in sleep; yet we had not travelled far ere evidence was afforded that here military vigilance, at least, is never relaxed. Wrapped up in their great coats, two or three sentries kept watch along the roadside; and by-and-by we came to a barrier, near which a picquet fire was burning, the men on duty being asleep on some straw within the influence of its warmth. All this, though abundantly warlike, spoke rather to my memory than to my imagination; but the proceedings of the sentinel who watched for his comrades did surprise me. He stopped our wagon, demanded from Juan whether he carried any corn or hay about with him, and took away what our honest postilion gave, without so much as an acknowledgement. "Oh! that is the custom here," said Juan, after we had

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passed on; "these soldiers of the Gränz regiment, as a compensation for watching the road all night, are authorized to appropriate to their own use the forage of such travellers as may come and go before sunrise. But I was too deep for them. I left out only some straw and hay in the bottom of the wagon: all that was worth saving I stuffed over-night into the sack on which you are sitting." Juan chuckled not a little over his own shrewdness, and we were not sufficiently rigid in our morals to reprove him for doing so.

Our first serious halt to-day was at Neu Gradiska, the head-quarters of the Eighth or Gradiskaner regiment, where, at a better inn than we had recently encountered, we proposed to dine. The horses were accordingly unharnessed and baited; while we, taking mine host into our confidence, proceeded to make such arrangements as the state of our own appetites and the condition of the honest man's larder appeared to warrant. But these were as yet very little advanced, when a circumstance occurred which turned our thoughts immediately into a new channel. From the doorway of a detached room, there looked out upon us an elderly man, dressed in a suit of rusty-brown, with silver-gray hair, and a good-natured countenance, which

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gave a *primâ facie* assurance, that he who owned it was not in the habit of living on pulse and water. He motioned to us to approach, which we did; and then began to question us. We told him, of course, both what we were, and the nature of the business which brought us there; and he immediately insisted that we should enter his apartment and join him in the occupation which our arrival had interrupted. We did enter, and beheld upon his table a bottle of rum, which the worthy soul was drinking, as we should have drunk weak wine;—for his pipe was lighted, and a glass of the pure spirit stood at hand,—the better half of its contents, by-the-by, having already gone the way of all potables. Fresh glasses were ordered, ay, and better still, a fresh bottle of rum, more potent than the first; nor was it till after repeated assurances on our part, that the hospitable toper became convinced that we would not taste it. "What! you Englishmen, and not drink rum? Why, you know that at home you drink nothing else. Rum-punch is the beverage of your highest nobility."

"Very likely," answered I; "but as we don't belong to that class, we never do drink rum in its pure state, and rum-punch as seldom as possible. Besides, we have not yet dined;

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and were we to begin with what you offer, we should not be in a condition to dine at all." "I am very glad to hear that you have not dined," replied our new acquaintance; "there is a friend of mine hard by, the Vice-ban Marchovicz, who will never forgive me, if I omit to carry you to his house. He is a man of great opulence, and boundless hospitality; and having married a countrywoman of yours, is especially attached to your nation. I must insist upon your accompanying me to his castle. It is not a mile off, and the postmaster will get a carriage ready for us in five minutes."

It was to no purpose that we endeavoured to evade this requisition also, by stating what was the fact, our anxiety to get forward. The old man would take no refusal; and the postmaster having been a listener to our conversation, stole away, and before we knew what we were about, a carriage drove up. Desiring Juan to be harnessed and ready to start whenever we should return, we accordingly resigned ourselves to our fate, and the old gentleman showing us the way, we stepped in, and the postboy drove off.

Neu Gradiska, a town which may contain perhaps three thousand inhabitants, stands within an English mile of the border-line of the

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frontier counties, and marches, if I may use the expression, with that portion of Hungarian Croatia which lies to the east of the military district of Bellovar. Its situation is extremely picturesque; for the hills on both sides have begun to assume a bolder outline, and far in the distance, mountains are seen,—the extreme roots of those Julian Alps which stretch down into Turkish Croatia and Dalmatia. It was across this border-line that we drove, and the effect of passing that imaginary barrier was to introduce us to a country where the feudal system prevails in its integrity. Moreover, the outward aspect of things entirely corresponded with the arrangements of social life; and the bearing and aspect of the people whom we encountered, told a similar tale. We traversed a sort of lane, with rising grounds on both sides of us, and a small stream running parallel with the road. There lay a village on the right, and here a convent, well situated in a valley, on the left; while by-and-by, the residence of the Vice-ban himself offered itself to our view. It was a fine old pile, castellated and surmounted with turrets, having walls of a prodigious thickness, and was built round a square court, into which our carriage drove. I learned afterwards that it was of the date of the sixteenth century,

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that it had more than once withstood an attack from the Turkish marauders; and that its owner still held himself in readiness, in case of need, to put its defensible qualities to the test. It was clear, indeed, from the quantity of arms which he kept suspended in his hall, that the means of self-protection were always ready; and the number of his retainers appeared to suggest, that they were there for other purposes than those of idle show.

We drove beneath an arched gateway into the court, and at the principal door were received by a domestic. Our guide saying something to him which I could not catch, walked in, and inviting us to follow, ascended the great staircase without ceremony. We were instruments entirely passive in his hand, so on we went; and by-and-by a drawing-room, well furnished, except in the article of carpets, received us. Even here, however, we were not permitted to halt. The old gentleman being informed that the Vice-ban was dressing for dinner, insisted upon our bearing him company into the presence; and sure enough, our first acquaintance with the lord of the castle took place, he standing with his coat off, over a wash-hand-basin, and we looking somewhat aghast at having been thus unceremoniously made free

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of his chamber. But the Vice-ban Marchovicz was a kind, hospitable, open-hearted man, who seemed perfectly to understand the character of our cicerone; and was nowise vexed by the intrusion of which we had unwittingly been guilty. He begged that we would stay and dine with him, requested us to amuse ourselves in the drawing-room till his toilet should be completed, and joining us there in a few minutes, used his best exertions to convince us that we, though unbidden, were welcome guests.

We spent a very pleasant day with this gentleman, concerning whom, in the course of conversation we learned, that he had married a Miss Prescott, an English lady, to whom he was greatly attached, but who died many years ago, leaving him the father of only one son. The young man sat at the foot of the table during dinner, and was now a captain of hussars; yet strange to say, neither he nor his father spoke a word of English, which both exceedingly lamented. Our party again consisted entirely of gentlemen,—the baron's head bailiff, his confessor, with four or five others, all, as it seemed, somehow or another, attached to his establishment, and the kindness of one and all to us strangers was excessive. Moreover, the Vice-ban having elicited from me an

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admission that I was fond of music, caused his confessor to sit down to a piano-forte, while we ate our dessert; and I must do the monk the justice to say, that he played with great taste and feeling. Finally, pipes were exchanged, in token of amity,—a species of barter in which I became to a great extent the gainer; and of Ofener and Carlovitz,—the best wines in the country,—the consumption was not trivial. Yet on our rum-drinking friend, these ordinary liquors produced no effect. On the contrary, it appeared to me that the more he drank, the clearer his intellects became; and a very indignant man was he, when, refusing to join in a fresh magnum, I broke up the conclave.

The Vice-ban Marchovicz is an admirable specimen of the feudal chief of Hungary, who, rarely quitting his castle except to pass a few of the winter months in Agram, lives like a potentate among his people, and by his people is so regarded. He was proud of his park, which, under the guidance of his deceased wife, had been laid out somewhat in the English style, and spoke with allowable self-satisfaction, of the quantity of game which abounded among his hills, in which both wolves and bears were included. We were not, however, in a situation to profit by the wish which he expressed, that

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we could stay and assist in a wolf-hunt; for he himself was on the way to Agram, whither he intended to proceed on the morrow, and to us delay would have been inconvenient. Accordingly, we parted at the end of three hours, with expressions of mutual regret; and accompanied by our old guide, made ready to return to Neu Gradiska. Yet even in the matter of our removal, the old-fashioned hospitality of the Marchoviczes was not to be diverted from its legitimate channel. We found, on descending the stairs, that our own carriage had been sent away, and that one of the baron's, with two magnificent grays, stood ready to receive us; and to sum up all, it was the baron's heir, the captain of hussars, who mounted the box, and became our charioteer.

All this was very striking, and I must say very agreeable. It brought before us a state of society to which elsewhere in Europe there is probably no parallel, and left upon our minds an impression every way favourable to those among whom such customs prevailed. Yet the denouement was abundantly ridiculous.

"Who is the old gentleman to whom I am indebted for the very pleasant day which I have spent?" whispered I to our moustached charioteer.

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"Oh! he is a decayed gentleman; a sort of hanger-on about the castle, to whom my father gives the run of his house, and who dines with us whenever it suits him. He is a very good sort of man, but a most determined drinker."

So I had already concluded, and certainly if a doubt existed in my mind, the mode in which we parted would have entirely removed it. The young baron having deposited us at the inn-door, I shook hands with him, and went round to see that Juan and his wagon were ready: but I was not to be permitted to pass thus. A shout from our red-faced friend recalled me; and there, in his own sanctum, I beheld wine and rum set out again: and listened to the most determined arguments in favour of a recurrence to the bottle. The captain of hussars could not very well escape; but I fled for my sobriety: and the last which I saw of him and his companion was at the inn-door,—the latter holding in his hand a bottle of rum, and imploring me to wait till it should be finished.

The scene amused us a good deal, yet we were not sorry to let the curtain fall upon it; and the remainder of our journey was passed without the occurrence of any memorable inci-

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dent. I recollect nothing, indeed, which deserves to be recorded, except that there was pointed out to us, near the roadside, a mineral well, at which Joseph II. and the Archduke Maximilian had both drunk, very much to the restoration of their enfeebled constitutions. It was enclosed, when we saw it, by a stone wall, and bore over the entrance an inscription, which commemorated alike the virtues of the water, and the gratitude of the princes who had benefited by the use of it. Moreover, we knew that we were traversing fields, hallowed in the eyes of the Hungarians, by the memory of a hundred battles; from all of which they came not off as conquerors, though in none was their honour tarnished. But I am not going to revert to matters so long passed and forgotten. Rather let me be content to state, that about eight or nine o'clock we reached a village called Novska, and that we were very thankful for such accommodation as the inn afforded,—namely, a small and somewhat filthy room, a tolerable supper, and a couple of beds.

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CHAPTER XII.

NOVSKA.—DIFFICULTY OF FURTHER CONVEYANCE.—TURN TOWARDS AGRAM.—THE INN AT DUGOSZELLA.—AGRAM. —STATE OF CROATIA AS TO RELIGION AND CIVILIZATION. —CARLSTADT. — COUNT NUGENT'S CHATEAU AT BOSILIEVO.—JOURNEY PURSUED.—BAD OMENS.—SKRAD.—DALNIZA.—THE HORIZON DARKENS. — INSOLENCE OF THE PEOPLE.

It had been our great wish to penetrate through the upper part of Dalmatia, and so crossing the mountain called Grosse Kapella, to come down upon Fiume as a stage in our progress by Trieste to Venice. Our friend Juan, however, positively refused to carry us further. "I would not follow that route," said he, "if you were to multiply my hire fourfold. You will find it hard enough to reach Fiume from this side, take what road you may; but if you escape being robbed and murdered among the mountains of the Kapella, then go and thank your patron saint earnestly, the very first shrine or church you enter." It was to no purpose that we strove to deride his fears, and reminded him that we were armed. "Armed!" said he; "what would your pocket-pistols do against

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the brigands and smugglers that infest these wild districts? Why, you will be shot from behind some rock before you have time either to fight or flee; and then, of what use will be your arms?" I must confess that Juan's asseverations produced very little effect upon me. I did not believe that anywhere under the Austrian sway, the population was so savage as he described it; and I gave up my project of crossing the Kapella, only because I found that the roads were next to impassable, and that no peasant would consent to encounter them.

The next thing to be done, was to consider how it behoved us to proceed. Juan, though reluctant to abandon us, was obliged, owing to the unfinished state of his harvest, to return home; and in and around Novska every horse and wagon was busy. Again we threw ourselves on the kindness of the captain commanding, and again were our difficulties removed. He consented to supply us with a forstban, provided we would follow the good road to Agram; and promise to change our vehicle at the end of the first stage;—and our position was not of such a nature as to leave us the power of choice. We therefore came into his terms very readily; and about eight o'clock next morning mounted behind a peasant lad,

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and were driven, no wise grieving that of the military frontier we had seen the last, along the great road to Agram.

From Novska to Agram had been computed to us as including a space of about sixty English miles; and late as the hour of starting was, we hoped to accomplish it that day; but we were mistaken. We travelled now by forstban; and the delays attendant on the calling in of the horses from the harvest-field, proved greater than our calculations had taken into account. At the first stage, to be sure, the village of Kuttlina, the greatest possible attention was shown to us; for not only were horses sent for on the instant, but the stuhl-riechter's wife, the stuhl-riechter himself being confined to bed, insisted on our staying to dine with her, and treated us most hospitably. In like manner, there is at Vedreniak a regular station, whence fresh horses were supplied with something like the promptitude which marked the progress of similar operations along our own coach-roads half a century ago. But there our conveniences came to an end. At Dugoszella, just one stage from Agram, we were under the necessity of calling a halt, inasmuch as the innkeeper, with whom the right of ordering forstban rested, assured us, with many protestations, that not

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even the emperor, if he were travelling the same road, could get fresh horses before the morrow. It is never worth while to lose one's temper in a strange country; so we shrugged up our shoulders, ordered supper, and disposed ourselves to make the most of things.

We traversed this day a country which, in all that can delight the painter's eye, was a marked improvement on the scenery of the frontier counties. Less fertile the soil doubtless was; but the rise and fall of the land greatly pleased us; and the vineyards which clothed the sides of these sloping hills spoke of much wealth to come. We passed, likewise, one or two places, especially Klost, the seat of a wealthy monastery, which, both from the local situation and the antique and time-worn aspect of its buildings, interested us much. Moreover, a thunder-storm, with its usual accompaniment, very heavy showers of rain, had amused us; so that, on the whole, we were not very much disinclined to make friends with our landlord at Dugoszella, and his apartments. But had the contrary been our humour, it would have been impossible long to retain it, in the face of the inn-keeper's exceeding eagerness to make us happy. He was not a Hungarian, but a Frenchman, who, after living

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many years as valet to a Croatian noble, had married the lady's maid, and was by his master established in this inn. Alas! poor fellow, he was entirely out of his proper element. Croatia, according to him, was the most savage country on the face of the earth. Every peasant was a brigand, and every gentleman a tyrant; and really, but that he contrived to make a poor living among them, no consideration would hinder him from returning on the morrow to "La belle France." I had been very much struck with the number of large and fierce dogs, which he kept about his house and premises, and demanded the reason.

"*Mon Dieu, monsieur*," was the answer, "if I had not these dogs to protect me, I should lay my account every night with having my throat cut before morning."

Yet with all this alarm for his own personal safety, our host proved to be, like his countrymen in general, the lightest-hearted of mortals. He played the guitar and the fiddle; he sang, and offered to dance for our amusement. In a word, he made himself so agreeable, and took such pains to have our supper neatly dressed, that we shut our eyes to the palpable stratagem which rendered us his guests for the night. Neither dog nor brigand broke in upon our

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slumbers, and by seven o'clock next morning we were again en route.

The approach to Agram from the Turkish frontier is exceedingly fine. The city itself, lying at the foot of a range of well-wooded hills, looks like the centre of an immense amphitheatre; for far away in the distance are the Julian Alps, stretching round, as it appears, well-nigh in the form of a crescent, and girdling in the plain, out of which the hills in question rise abruptly. You see, long before you approach it, that it is a place of some importance; for the cathedral looks down majestically from the height on which it is planted; and not far removed from it is the bishop's palace, an edifice of imposing aspect, and more than moderate extent. Then, again, there are a new and an old town, of which the former, spread over the level, is in its principal streets distinguishable a good way off, while the latter, climbing up the ascent, appears to take shelter behind one of the ridges, so that by-and-by a steeple seen here and there, is all that tells that a town is near at hand. Neither can the effect be said to be diminished as you approach the suburbs, where lawns, and shady walks, and ornamental plantations abound; while your progress towards the hotel, after the suburbs

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are fairly entered, interests you exceedingly. Everything was novel on which we looked forth. The houses, the people, the shops, the booths, all had about them peculiarities, such as attached them to an order quite distinct from the same objects in Prague, or Vienna, or Pesth. It was a new phase in the great moon of human society; the effect of which, though it renders all efforts at description nugatory, is just as fresh in my mind at this moment, as it was when I first beheld it.

We drove to a hotel which had been recommended to us, and which, as it bore the imposing title of the Kaiser Von Oesterreich, we naturally expected to find the best in the city. I have not one word to say in disparagement of it. Having been newly built, and very recently tenanted, it was, in point of furniture, somewhat in its infancy; but the people were civil, the viands good, and the beds as tolerable as intense heat, and the ceaseless activity of myriads of insects, would permit. It is of the town, however, rather than of the hotel, that I am called upon to speak; and it would be very unfair were I to deny that it interested us greatly. We were fortunate, too, in finding here, not M. Marchovicz himself, but a gentleman who had married his daughter, and who kindly took

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upon himself the task of showing us all that as strangers we desired to see. The cathedral we found to be an extensive and handsome building, with capacious cloisters, and a large establishment of canons. There were, moreover, several monasteries in the place, and a gymnasium or college, the management of which is entirely in the hands of the clergy; indeed, the clergy are here, as they are throughout Croatia in general, personages of much greater importance than any where else, except in Italy. Then, again, we took a survey of the head-quarters of the civil government; the apartment where the ban, or council of magistrates, hold their sittings; and last of all, wandered through the very beautiful gardens which surround the episcopal palace. I have elsewhere stated that the see of Agram is one of the richest in Hungary, and that its emoluments are represented as falling little short of fifteen thousand pounds a year; and I have now to add that the house, and all about it, are in perfect keeping with this princely revenue.

There are certain peculiarities in the constitution of society in Croatia, of which it may not be out of place if I here make mention. First, then, though in all that appertains to the right of sending representatives to parliament,

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Croatia be an integral portion of the Hungarian monarchy, it still retains many rights and privileges which, as they are peculiar to itself, so not even by the decision of parliament could they, without creating a prodigious ferment, be set aside. Religious toleration, for example, which elsewhere in Hungary is unlimited, exists not at all within the limits of Croatia. Neither Lutheran nor Calvinist is permitted to make a confession of his belief, and the attempt to open a Protestant place of worship would subject him who made it to condign punishment. Of course, such a state of things cannot exist, except co-ordinately with universal ignorance and superstition; and universal ignorance and superstition are accordingly the leading features in the Croatian character. Again, the arm of the reformer, which in Hungary swept away so many convents, and applied their wealth to other purposes, has here accomplished nothing. Religious houses for both sexes abound in Croatia. In like manner, the ban, or executive magistracy of Croatia, stands as completely separate from the control of the palatine of Hungary, as if between the two countries the breadth of the Atlantic were spread, and communications from the one to the other were both rare and difficult. Nay, more; I was not slow

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to detect that the Croats are divided from the Hungarians by a more impassable barrier than even the interposition of an ocean could have erected, inasmuch as they look upon their neighbours with an eye of jealousy, which partakes somewhat of the bitterness of hatred. The arrangement which has of late been entered into, touching the use of the Magyar tongue in the transaction of public business, especially displeases them. "What know we about the Hungarian dialect?" was the substance of their complaint. "It is the language of a small minority in the kingdom, and to us, who are not Hungarians, it is, to all intents and purposes, a foreign speech. If they were determined to set aside the Latin, which throughout so many ages has served every purpose, surely the rational plan would have been to adopt the Slavonian, with which all, except the inhabitants of the district round Pesth, are familiar."

It was no business of mine to take a side in this controversy, which agitated the Croatians, as I found from their murmurs, very seriously; yet I could not help feeling that there was, at least, a show of reason in their argument; though it is contrary to the established order of things that the vanquished should give their language to the conquerors.

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These, then, are the points of difference between the Croats and the Hungarians; in other respects I do not find that one people has much to boast of when compared with the other. In both divisions of the country, vassalage and lordship exist in their full vigour, and in both the yoke has long been borne by the peasant uneasily. But the Hungarians, whatever they might feel, have not, on any occasion, striven, as the Croat peasantry did, to right themselves. But a few years have passed since there was such a ferment in this region as could be arrested only by the presence of a large military force; and even now it is evident that the gentry look upon their serfs much more in the light of slaves, whom they must hold down by violence, than as retainers attached to them by the bond of mutual goodwill and an alternation of dependance and protection.

We spent two days in Agram very agreeably: for there is a charm in novelty, even when you encounter it in cities; but we found no inducement to prolong our stay further; and made preparations to pass onwards. On consulting our friend as to the best means of reaching Trieste, he advised us rather to travel by Carlstadt to Fiume than to go round by

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Laybach; and in order that we might not be detained by the way for lack of horses, he undertook to procure from the proper authorities a march-route, or authority for the forstban. No obstacles seem to have been thrown in the way of this arrangement, for the march-route was freely given; and in obedience to the orders of those in power, a wagon, drawn by four horses, drove next morning into the inn-yard. We took our places, as usual, on a sack well stuffed with straw, and away we went.

The rate at which these small horses drag the small wagons along a good road, is really surprising. I do not think that we compassed less than seven or eight miles in the hour; yet as there are no springs to your vehicle the fatigue is great, and you would gladly compound for a more tardy pace were you sure that the jolting would be tardy also. On, however, we flew, setting ruts and stones at defiance, till at Jaszka, two stages beyond Agram, our postilions made us aware that their task was accomplished. It was here that we first began to be taught that between the national characters of the Croats and the Hungarians there is a marked difference. I do not mean to accuse the stadtriechter in Jaszka of any manifest neglect of his duty, but nothing was done with alacrity;

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and when, after two hours' delay, the horses did arrive, the bearing of those who accepted our money for their hire was the reverse of agreeable.

We travelled on through a country which, in point of natural scenery, became more and more attractive at every stage. The roots of the Julian Alps began to gather round us, not in mountains, for as yet they were far removed, but in broken ground, in numerous swells and falls; and, above all, in frequent crags, which, rising abruptly out of the plain, gave an air of singular wildness to the district which produced them. Thus it was till we reached Carlstadt, a town of some importance, surrounded by works that seem to be capable of, at least, a temporary defence, and surmounted by a bold hill, the summit of which is crowned with an old baronial castle. In that mansion, which is now the property of Count Nugent, Marshal Marmont, governor under Napoleon of these provinces, used to reside. We did not go to see it; for besides that we were straitened for time, its exterior held out few enticements to penetrate farther; yet we looked at it as we passed with a good deal of interest, which was not diminished by the recollection of the opinions which had been expressed to us in reference to the

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effect of French domination in these quarters To our extreme surprise, we found that the people, so far from complaining of it, were loud and unqualified in the expressions of their regret that it had ever passed away. "The French," such was the language which greeted us everywhere, "were the best and most honourable rulers whom we ever obeyed. No human being was wronged by them. They preserved order just as rigidly as it is preserved now; yet we did not suffer half so much, either in our feelings or our liberties; and we obeyed them all the better." I do not know how far this account of French domination is to be relied upon; but it is only fair to add, that except in Prussia, and even there the tone was not always the same, I never heard any of the middling or lower orders, either in Germany, or Hungary, or Italy, speak of these tyrants of Continental Europe, otherwise than as just in all their dealings, and the reverse of offensive in their deportment towards those whom they had subdued.

At Carlstadt we changed, for the second time, our wagon and horses; and here the disposition to behave rudely, of which we had reason to complain at the previous stage, showed itself more decidedly than ever. There

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is a functionary at each of these stations, called, in the language of the country, the pandour, a sort of police-officer, who dresses in a hussar uniform, and wears, when arrayed in accordance with the full dignity of his station, a huge steel-scabbarded sabre at his side. It is the business of this personage to see that the directions given in the travellers' march-route are obeyed; and, if he do his duty as becomes him, travellers are accustomed to reward him by some trifling present, additional to the hire of the horses. At Carlstadt the pandour not only failed to exert himself in our favour, but, in reply to our request that he would provide the horses specified in our order, coolly told us that there were no horses to be had that day, and that he would not trouble himself to look after them before to-morrow morning. We were vexed at this, as was natural, because our intention was to spend the night at Count Nugent's chateau, the castle of Bosilievo, which lay two long stages, or between twenty and five-and-twenty miles, beyond Carlstadt; and we expressed ourselves, finding that smooth words were useless, somewhat warmly on the occasion. But remonstrance proved, for a while, as unavailing as argument, and we were left to digest our own

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chagrin as we best might in the yard. At last, however, after much delay, a couple of horses were produced, which had been standing, as it turned out, all the while harnessed and ready in the stable of the station-house to which we had been driven. I acknowledge that I was guilty of the extreme weakness, not only of feeling indignant at this wanton disregard of the law's authority, but of making my indignation manifest. When the pandour approached to claim his customary drinkgelt, I refused to give it; and throwing the amount to a peasant, who had conversed with me during the interval thus wantonly wasted, I desired our postilion to drive on, and left the man in office exceedingly irritated at the proceeding.

Notwithstanding our unnecessary detention at Carlstadt, we did succeed in reaching Bosilievo that night, after an exceedingly beautiful drive through an exceedingly beautiful country. For we were now fairly among the valleys of the lower Alps; and the mountains on every side, though still comparatively low, were beginning to assume a bold and majestic outline. There was an air, likewise, of desolation and extreme wildness spread over everything, which somewhat solemnised us. The signs of cultivation became, as we advanced, more and

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more rare; while the dark forest began again to assert its supremacy over every ravine and hollow. By-and-by, our postilion, quitting the main road, struck into a path to the left, which led us on, and on, towards a scene highly characteristic of the condition, both of the country and its inhabitants. We traversed a large moor, over which, at intervals, patches of birch and alder trees were scattered, with here and there a little cluster of dwarf-oaks. But, if the moor was bleak, the frame-work to the picture, of which it formed the centre-piece, was exceedingly fine. On every side the mountains appeared to gather around us; and the admiration with which we watched the sun go down behind one of the boldest ranges, I have not now forgotten, nor am likely ever to forget.

Through this desolate heath we swept along, till the wood becoming thicker, and the traces of human industry more manifest in the arrangement of its coppices, we came to the conclusion that Count Nugent's chateau could not be far distant. I need hardly remind the reader of that gallant soldier's career, or of the principal events which mark his personal history. An Irishman by birth, of a good old Roman Catholic family, he quitted home at that period

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in our history when Irish Roman Catholic gentlemen found no opening for their exertions in the public service of their own country. He entered the Austrian army; and by his talents and zeal, has risen to the rank of general, besides winning for himself, at the emperor's hands, a patent of nobility. Count Nugent particularly distinguished himself during the great struggle which ended in the abdication of Napoleon in 1814. Of his own accord, he collected a handful of followers about the shores of the Adriatic, and, after much sharp fighting, drove the French out of Istria and Dalmatia. He was treated, in consequence, with much distinction at the court of Vienna, and, besides his regiment, enjoys the dignity and emoluments of commandant of the troops in Trieste.

Fortune has smiled upon our countryman, and he is now the proprietor of a considerable tract of country round Bosilievo. The old castle of Carlstadt likewise belongs to him; and he owns, in addition to these, a curious ruin which crowns one of the bold rocks that overhang Fiume. We had been gratified by meeting him at the English ambassador's table, during our brief stay in Vienna; and having promised on that occasion to visit him, should

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circumstances lead us into his neighbourhood, we were now on our way to redeem the pledge. It was a great mortification to be told on arriving at the chateau, that the gallant owner was from home. Yet of the hospitalities of Bosilievo I have nothing to say, except in commendation. The countess, with her fine boys, received us very kindly, and we spent the night there much to our own satisfaction.

The situation of Bosilievo is at once romantic and beautiful. The castle, for the house, though lately repaired, has with great judgment been built in the castellated form, stands upon the summit of a gentle declivity, and from its windows, as well as from the lawn and garden near, commands one of the most magnificent highland views which it is easy to imagine. Moreover, the effect of your gaze over that wild and broken district is not a little heightened by the consciousness, that the towers, and strong gateway, and, on one side at least, the ditch which protects the mansion, are not planted where they are for mere purposes of show. I could discover from the conversation of more than one member of the family, that they did not consider themselves quite so safe as they would be within the garrison at Trieste; and that the watch-dogs which abounded about the pre-

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mises were expected to give notice, should others, besides a marauding party from the Turkish side, approach the castle. Yet, as far as my own experience goes, I am bound to state, that a more peaceful or better regulated household I never entered. We met at supper, besides the countess, her sons, and their tutor,—a nephew of the Count's, an officer in his own regiment, and attached confidentially to himself as his aide-de-camp,—with two more guests than ourselves, a general of engineers and his aide-de-camp, who were prosecuting a tour of inspection through the different fortresses of the empire. The party was a very pleasant one; and the light slumbers that followed its breaking up suffered no interruption, till a servant came in to tell us next morning, that breakfast was laid for us in the dining-room.

We had taken leave of the countess overnight; and Mr. Nugent, at our desire, had given orders that a forstban should be at the castle-gate by seven o'clock, at the latest. This was the more necessary, that a long day's journey was before us, and that the latter portion of it was described, as lying through a district which it would be prudent to traverse, if possible, before nightfall. Now, I must confess,

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that, though as little inclined to credit these tales of terror as most men, I had seen much in the bearing of the peasantry throughout the whole of our yesterday's progress, which had no tendency to impress me with a very favourable idea of their gentleness. I was not, therefore, over and above delighted when not only seven o'clock came without bringing our vehicle, but eight o'clock found us still lingering in the dining-room of Bosilievo. Accordingly, Mr. Nugent suggested that, since we were determined to go, the best plan would be, to make use of one of his uncle's carriages, and to pick up the horses, at the station-house, where a negligent commissary had doubtless detained them. We gladly acceded to this proposal; and a carriage being ordered out, we returned in it to the point, whence, on the previous afternoon, we struck off into Count Nugent's grounds.

I have entered into these particulars, unimportant as in themselves they unquestionably are, because my recollection of that day is of one, throughout which, from its commencement to its close, everything appeared to run counter to our wishes. When we reached the station-house, for example, we found that the forstban had started, not a quarter of an hour previously,

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for the castle. Here then was an accumulation of *contretemps*. It was useless to think of demanding another, for no other horses were to be had; and, had the contrary been the case, the commissary was not bound to furnish them. And as to sending in pursuit of the missing vehicle, that was out of the question. No person on foot could hope to overtake it, even if its trail were discoverable; and seeing that it had passed us, somehow, without either party observing the other, the chances of falling upon its trail were very meagre. There remained nothing for it then, but to sit down on a bench beside the inn-door, and wait with what resignation we might succeed in calling up, the voluntary return of the truant forstban. And, as if to tantalize us the more, we had the satisfaction of hearing from our landlord, that but a short time previous to our arrival, an empty carriage, just the sort of thing which would have suited us, had stopped to bait, on its way from Agram to Fiume. What could we do? "How unlucky we are!" was all the complaint which we uttered, and there the thing ended.

At last, about half-past nine o'clock, Count Nugent's people having long quitted us, the wagon arrived. The horses, having been sharply driven to repair the owner's fault, were in a

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foam of sweat, and the driver in a less satisfactory humour than ourselves; yet we got through that stage with perfect comfort, and enjoyed it much. For the scenery was precisely such as the lover of the picturesque delights to behold; and each step which we took in advance seemed to add to its magnificence. At a place called Szello we stopped; and the peasant protesting that his cattle could go no farther, we were forced, after a stage of nearly seven English miles, to demand a new forstban. There was delay, of course,—there is always an apparent reluctance to obey this somewhat arbitrary law,—yet we could not complain of it as excessive; and when the horses did come, they were, by virtue of a promised reward to the postboy, well driven. We thus contrived to reach Skrad, our next stage, a little after noon, and applied for a relay. But here our real difficulties began. The person to whom belonged the duty of supplying horses to such as travelled by forstban, happened likewise to be the keeper of the inn; and, either because he desired to detain us all night, or that some fit of ill-humour was upon him, he paid no other attention to our wishes than by stating, that the horses were sent for. We shrugged up our shoulders, withdrew into his

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hotel; and, in order to occupy the interval, ordered dinner, in the full assurance that by the time this meal should be finished our vehicle would be horsed, and otherwise arranged to carry us forward.

We sat with all imaginable patience about an hour and a half, and yet no horses made their appearance. I went out, in consequence, to remonstrate; upon which the fiery host assumed a tone which had insensibly a bad effect upon mine, and a somewhat warm altercation was the consequence. For it came out in this instance, as it had done in Carlstadt, that there were horses in the stable all the while, though even now the reichter protested that he could spare us only one of them. As the single horse was a good one, however, we did not consider that it would be prudent to reject him; so he was harnessed very awkwardly to one side of the pole, and away we went. But our journey was not a pleasant one. The driver, as was perhaps natural, had espoused, in the controversy between the riechter and myself, the cause of his countryman. He continued very sulky all the way; indeed I have good reason to believe that he misrepresented us entirely to the people at the next stage: though of that, at the moment, I knew no-

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thing. Yet I was not slow in discovering, after our arrival at Dalniza, that its inhabitants looked upon us with an unfriendly eye, and the marks of hostility which they exhibited became continually more striking. I carried my march-route to the proper quarter, put it into the hands of the riechter, and saw him give it to the pandour, or police-officer, with orders to provide the necessary means of travel; but hour after hour stole on, and not only was no carriage prepared, but pandour, riechter, and everybody else to whom an appeal could be made, seemed to have disappeared. Meanwhile, groups of men met together in the street, and conversed together in whispers. In a word, our situation was as little comfortable as it could well be; and what was worse, we were altogether at a loss how to act in order to render it less so.

We reached Dalniza about three o'clock in the afternoon; at half-past five, I went forth from the inn to inquire, for the sixth or seventh time, whether any wagon was ready. This time I found that to a machine, even ruder than any which had at previous stages been furnished, a couple of horses were harnessed; and that the people were preparing it for our reception, by filling up the interior with a load

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of deals. I remonstrated against an arrangement, which must of necessity render the horses incapable of travelling beyond a foot's pace; and I succeeded in hindering more than a couple of layers from being forced upon us, but these they would on no account remove. And then followed a scene, which gave a tolerable prognostic of others which in due time followed. The delay in providing horses was clearly chargeable either upon the riechter or the pandour, or both; to screen themselves, these worthies charged the boy who was to drive us, with being out of the way. While Iwas standing by, they accordingly seized the lad by the throat, and either did beat or pretend to beat him unmercifully. I did not like to see the boy maltreated for no just cause, so I extricated him from their grasp; and immediately their fury was turned upon me. No blow, however, was struck, for I bore their abusive language patiently, and only smiled when the pandour, by all manner of gesticulations, endeavoured to impress, upon my mind, and that of the mob, that he was quite able and willing to tear me to pieces.

It was quite evident that there had arisen among us a misunderstanding, which, as I did not comprehend one word of their language, nor they one word of mine, was not likely by

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any effort which I could make to be set to rights. My business, accordingly, was to escape from the village with as little delay as possible, and to make the best of my way to Fiume. Without, therefore, uttering any complaint because of the wretched preparations which they had made for us, or seeking to procure even a truss of straw on which to sit, my young companion and I threw our knapsacks into the wagon, and desired the boy to drive on. But this we were not permitted to do, for, contrary to all our previous experience, the pandour insisted that we should pay for the horses in the first instance; and give to him, over and above the regular hire, such amount of drink-gelt as he chose to demand. We complied with both requisitions unhesitatingly; and then receiving back our march-route, the vehicle began to move, and we to congratulate one another on the prospect which was before us, of a happy deliverance out of trouble.

Not yet, however, were we allowed to pass freely from the village. A rustic, having conversed for a minute or two with the throng which followed us, suddenly jumped up into our wagon, and seating himself beside the driver, was cheered by the lookers-on. I could not tell what the man's object was, so I ordered

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him to dismount again; and he obeyed me sullenly. And now, having requested the driver of the last stage, who understood German, and with whom I could hold converse, to tell the boy that the amount of his reward would depend upon his own active coachmanship, we set forward in good earnest. In five minutes Dalniza was behind us, and all apprehensions of immediate violence were laid aside.

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CHAPTER XIII.

LEAVE DALNIZA.—WILD SCENERY.—THE CARRIAGE STOPPED.—AFFRAY WITH THE PEASANTRY.—WOUNDED AND OVERPOWERED.—CARRIED INTO A COTTAGE.—A NIGHT AMONG THE CROATS.—TAKEN BACK TO DALNIZA.—PUT IN IRONS.—BEHAVIOUR OF A CROATIAN MAGISTRATE.—ARRIVAL OF MR. HILL, THE ENGLISH VICE-CONSUL, FROM FIUME.—RELEASED.—FIUME.—THE KINDNESS OF MR. AND MRS. SMITH.

THE sun was getting far into the west when we cleared this inhospitable station; and the Julian Alps rising like a wall in our front, gave us the comfortable assurance of passing through the heart of a district, strange to us, and not of the best repute, in the dark. I confess, however, that I was a great deal too thankful for the escape which we had just made, to give to this consideration any very anxious thought. If brigands should attack us, we must make the most of our situation. Resistance to a numerous body, better armed than we, I was not fool-hardy enough to contemplate; but provided the odds were not overwhelming, I fancied that my fellow-traveller and I could at least give, as well as take, a hard knock or two in moderation.

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And it would be uncandid to deny, that the excitement consequent upon the past dispute, had a tendency both to sharpen my vigilance, and brace up my resolution; for there was not one of the peasants from whom I had just parted, who might not, on the score of external appearance at least, have passed current anywhere for a robber. Moreover, I knew that along the whole of this strip of mountain, the peasants are smugglers by profession, and that when they have any caravan more than usually valuable to transport, from the sea-coast into the interior, they move in such bodies, and so well-armed, that the jägers and revenue-officers do not care to encounter them. Now, smugglers and robbers are, in many of their habits, so much akin, that to suspect the man who is addicted to the former of these practices, of being nowise averse to the latter, is scarcely to offer any serious hurt to the cause of Christian charity. Accordingly, being somewhat annoyed by the insults to which we had been subjected, and not looking with an eye either of friendship or of confidence, on the persons who had been actors in the play, I was scarcely in a humour to put the best construction on any future attempt at interruption, and no great while was destined to elapse, ere a serious interruption was offered.

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We had compassed a space of perhaps six English miles, and were arrived at the foot of a very steep mountain, across which, for nearly five leagues, the road continues to wind, when we heard a man shouting in our rear, and saw a peasant, whom we had not long passed, running after us. I did not feel that I was called upon to stop; but as we were already on the steep ascent, I permitted the boy to drive slowly, by which means our pursuer soon overtook us, and immediately seized one of the horses by the head. I endeavoured, as well as I could by signs, to remonstrate with him, and motioned to him to go away; but he paid no attention to me. On the contrary, he held the reins so tight, that the animals could not move; and began to gesticulate very fiercely. Let it be borne in mind, that we were at this moment in a very wild and lonely part of the road. Dalniza, besides that it was six miles distant, an arm of the mountain had entirely shut out. We could see only a hut or two, somewhat more on the ascent; and off the line of the road, there was on one side a bold hill,—on the other a deep and uninhabited ravine with a river brawling through it. It must not, therefore, excite surprise when I say, that the conduct of this man perplexed and puzzled me sorely; for

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he was clearly not justified in stopping us under any circumstances, and I could not tell,—being ignorant of the Illyrian dialect,—whether his object might not be plunder. Accordingly, I dismounted from the wagon, and finding that he would not be prevailed upon to let go his hold upon the reins, I took him by the collar of his jacket, and threw him aside. This done, I desired the boy to go forward; but scarcely had I resumed my place in the wagon, when the peasant, gathering himself up, sprang at the horses' heads again, and began to undo the harness. I confess that I was both irritated and astonished; so seizing the stick of our landing-net, I jumped out again; and as he not only would not desist, but exhibited symptoms of appealing to the knife, I struck him a sharp blow over the shoulder, and again cast him from me. This was quite enough. He seized a large stone, and was about to hurl it at my head, when recollecting that my pistols were in my pocket, I drew one forth, and presented it. There was no need to fire. The peasant dropped his stone, uttered a loud shriek, and ran with the speed of a chamois towards the huts on the rise of the hill. Nor were we long permitted to doubt as to the consequences which would follow.

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I had again taken my place in the wagon, and the boy was moving on slowly, as before, when forth, from hut after hut, we saw bands of people rushing. Stout, active, ferocious-looking fellows, they were, too,—with swarthy complexions, moustached lips, and dressed in the exceedingly picturesque attire of the country; but this was no time for studying the picturesque in costumes. Our attention was turned exclusively to a consideration of their designs; and these we soon ascertained to be hostile enough. To the number of perhaps a dozen or more, they began to assail us with huge stones, shouting and vociferating all the while in the most savage manner. All this was both vexatious and alarming, yet what could we do? To stop, would have been to let the danger overtake us; by turning back, we should have placed ourselves once more at the mercy of the mob in Dalniza, and to push on was attended by its difficulties also. Yet we preferred the latter course; so encouraging our little charioteer, and standing up in the wagon, as if prepared to give battle, we broke through them. They spread to the right and left, and we passed on. But our triumph, if such it may be called, was of short continuance. More huts were visible, and each, as we reached it, added one or two

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to the number of our enemies. At last, finding that we could not press our horses beyond a walk, and following one of their body more courageous than the rest, they set up a shout, and dashed towards us. A stone struck me violently on the head; others fell into the wagon, and they who threw them were close at hand. I looked about, and observing a large house, (a post-house it afterwards proved to be,) a little way a-head of us, I, in a rash moment, made up my mind to fire. My object was not to kill, or even to wound any body, but to alarm the inmates of that house, and if possible, to check the peasants by the apprehension that the shot would be repeated. In all this I acted very injudiciously. Nobody, circumstanced as we then were, ought to use fire-arms except in the last emergency, and then, if used at all, they had better be used with effect. But these considerations did not, at the moment, have upon me the weight that belonged to them, and I discharged one of my barrels. For the instant, the effect was unquestionably good. The peasants ran back a good way, and though nobody came to us from the post-house, we ventured to hope that even yet we might escape.

Our little postilion at the report of my pistol leaped to the ground, and it was with some

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difficulty that I prevailed upon him to resume his station. He did, however, take the reins in hand, while my son, whose perfect self-possession would have done honour to a man of thirty, said, in a cheerful tone, "We are in for it now, papa!—give me one of the pistols!" I gave him, without hesitation that of which both barrels were still charged, and while the lad drove on, made all the haste I could to reload the other. But I had succeeded only in ramming home the powder, when my son exclaimed, "See, papa! there is a fellow cutting across above the road,—shall I shoot him?" I looked up, and saw on the high bank immediately above us the same man who had acted as leader to the rest, but who, instead of halting, as we anticipated, and hurling a great stone upon our heads, passed rapidly to the front. The lapse of a few minutes sufficed to make us aware of his object in this movement. We passed the post-house,—took again a second steep ascent, and lo, about half-way between the base and the summit of the hill, a new body of assailants presented themselves. A number of men, armed with sticks, and one with a musket, stood across the road; and the musket, to our extreme satisfaction, was instantly levelled.

It is useless to inquire after an affray of this

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kind is over, how it would have been most judicious to act. I believe now that our wisest course would have been to surrender at discretion; but no opportunity of doing so was afforded; for one man, so far advanced in life that his hair and beard were grizzled, made signs as if he desired to parley with us, and we permitted him to approach to the side of the wagon. My pistol was in my right hand, having one barrel loaded, and the other charged with powder; and the peasant, instead of trying to explain what his intentions were, made a grasp at it. Nothing could have been more easy than for either myself or my son to shoot him dead; but I contented myself with pushing him back with my left hand, and again all was confusion. The musket was once more deliberately levelled at me,—the man who presented it being less than twenty yards distant; and why I was not killed on the spot I do not know; but the same impulse which, in a better cause, has often led me to close upon an enemy in a similar situation, came into operation then. I sprang out of the wagon, with the couteau du chasse under my left arm, and made a rush at the armed man. The effect was very curious. He not only did not fire, but both he and his companions recoiled for an instant, and ran

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towards a cottage by the roadside. Then it was that I would have urged the postilion to flog forwards, but the urchin was gone. He had leaped from his seat when he saw me quit the wagon, and now he was nowhere to be found.

I turned my eyes next towards my own gallant boy, and saw him standing in the wagon, pistol in hand, as if waiting for orders; and I knew that he could be trusted, because the last instructions which I had left with him were not to fire, till I should give the signal. He was as cool and collected as a veteran; and I own that, perilous as our position was, I looked at him, even then, with admiration. But there was other and sharper work cut out for me. The wagon having halted gave time to the pursuers to close, and now on all sides some thirty or forty men surrounded us. Escape seemed impossible, and to spill blood, except in the last extremity, I was very unwilling. Accordingly I endeavoured to keep them off by levelling now at one, now at another, and for a minute or two the device served its purpose; but it could not, in the nature of things, avail me long. I received a wound, over the right eye, which partially stunned me, and caused the blood to flow freely. While I

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staggered, a blow struck the pistol out of my hand, and the only weapon left me was the couteau. It was a poor defence against so many hedge-stakes and butts of muskets. I was cut down in a moment, and my senses partially forsook me.

I do not know how long I could have lain in that trance, when I became all at once aware, that the blows which at first continued to fall upon me rapidly, had ceased. I looked up, and beheld my assailants standing in a circle about me, but leaning on their weapons and gazing towards the rear. Thither I likewise turned my eyes, and there I beheld my son, in the hands of four men, two of whom were struggling to deprive him of his pistol, which he would not resign, while the other two were striking at him, one with a bludgeon, the other with a musket. It would have been strange had any thought entered into my head, under such circumstances, than of his danger. I saw that my short sword, though bent with the blows which it had guarded, lay near me. I snatched it up, and springing to my feet, opened a way for myself through the throng, towards my boy. Then, seizing one of the men, I had already the point of the weapon at his throat, when, to my extreme delight, he exclaimed in German,

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"Spare my life, and I will answer for your's!" I let him go instantly; not, indeed, being very sanguine as to what might follow, but being well aware that now we had nothing to depend upon except his honour. And it gives me extreme satisfaction to be in a condition to say that he redeemed his pledge nobly.

A parley now ensued, and our German scholar acting as interpreter, we gave up our broken weapons, on the understanding that no personal violence would be offered to us, but that we should be carried to Count Leichtenberg, the proprietor of the estate, and answer before him for our characters and proceedings. We desired nothing more, for we could not doubt that Count Leichtenberg would at once comprehend the nature of our position, and see that justice was done upon the persons who had maltreated us; but our hopes on this head suffered an eclipse, when, instead of replacing us in the wagon, and marching us to the Count's residence, the same elderly man who had taken the lead in the last attack, commanded us to be conveyed into his cottage. He appeared, too, as well as the rest, to be in a state of absolute fury,—for having found upon my boy the spear-head belonging to the gaff-stick, he rushed towards me, and made a movement as if he would

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plunge it into my heart. Meanwhile two others pinioned my arms, and the process of search began. I had not calculated on this, and obeying the impulse of the moment, I shook them off. Pistols, with which several of them were, I found, supplied, were now levelled, and a repetition of the fray had well-nigh taken place, but a moment's reflection taught me that resistance, if vain at the outset, would have been tenfold more useless now. I accordingly suffered them to follow their own course, and in two minutes my pockets were emptied of all their contents.

And now arose the question, whence came it about that the fury of the band should be so much directed against my son; and what were the circumstances which placed him in the situation from which I had been providentially enabled to deliver him? His tale was briefly this. He saw the crowd gathering round me; he called aloud for instructions how to act, and receiving no answer, he waited only till he beheld me on the ground. Then, careless of what might befall to himself, he fired into the middle of the throng, and by that shot saved my life. They had not counted on any act of hostility from a boy so young; and their astonishment at his presumption diverted their

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thoughts from me, at a moment when a few more blows would have ended my worldly warfare for ever. And fierce and bitter were the terms in which they seemed to speak of him, and dark and lowering were the looks with which they regarded him; but the noble fellow did not so much as seem to be aware of his own danger. Bruised he was, and swollen with the blows which they had inflicted on him; yet all his anxiety was with respect to me, whom he watched with a sleepless vigilance, as if even yet the moment might arrive, when he must again throw himself between me and destruction. "Papa, there's a fellow pointing a pistol at you," cried he one moment; "Take care, he will stab you from behind," was another warning; and not one syllable ever escaped him, either as to his own sufferings, or the hazard which he ran of suffering more. If that boy fail to do honour to the profession for which he is destined, the day will very imperfectly fulfil the promise which the morning has given.

I had suffered very much in this most unequal struggle. Besides the first wound over the eye, and some severe bruises on the arms and body, I had received two deep cuts in the head; one of which laid the forehead open just over the left temple, and the other divided the

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scalp near the crown of the head. I was weak, too, from the loss of blood, for it ran from me like water; and the excitement of resistance being over, a good deal of lassitude and faintness followed. But we had neither leisure nor opportunity to indulge these weaknesses. They hurried us into the cottage, and we were there questioned, through the man whom I had spared, as to what we were, and whither we were going. We told them, but they scouted the idea. We were spies from the Turkish side; we were brigands from Italy; we should be carried next day before the stuhlriechter, and by him transferred to the festung. What right had we to offer any resistance? and the young viper, above all, for him to fire! We deserved to be put to death upon the spot. I bore all this patiently; for I knew that to do otherwise would be useless;—nay, I even appealed to them, whether they would not give some water to wash the blood from my hurts, and they gave it. There were some women in this cottage; and women, meet them in what state of society you may, are always the friends of the oppressed. It was by one of them that a basin of water was brought, and by-and-by a flask of weak sour wine; which, whether salubrious or not, under the circumstances of the

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case, went down very gratefully, and which the dorfriechter, for so the grizzly-bearded peasant proved to be, did not object to our drinking.

It was by this time quite dark; indeed twilight had set in when the affray began, and ere it terminated in our capture, the shadows of night had gathered over us. One or two small tapers were accordingly lighted, the feeble flame from which cast over the whole scene an air of extreme wildness. It seemed, indeed, to me, that the people into whose hands we had fallen, if they were not brigands by profession, ought to have been such; for they sat or stood round us, one grasping a musket, another with pistols in his belt, and a third brandishing a huge old-fashioned sword naked in his hand. Long knives, likewise, were also frequent among them; and when to all this is added their striking dress and their more than half-barbarous bearing, the effect upon persons situated as we were, may be imagined. I do not hesitate to say, that though not quite free from some natural anxiety in reference to the future, I enjoyed my position very much. Of our personal safety, I entertained no serious apprehension. I knew that if they had meant to murder us, they would have done so when their blood was hot; and

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my misgivings as to what might be the result of an examination before a magistrate, were then slight indeed. And therefore, though feeble from loss of blood, and a good deal chafed by the overthrow of all our plan of travel, I was inclined to make the most of things as I found them; and not only did not exhibit, but really did not feel, the most remote inclination to despond.

If the general aspect and behaviour of the gang interested us, while grouped round us, our feelings were still more excited when they addressed themselves to the occupation of examining our baggage. Of the contents of the knapsacks they made light; even my pocket-book, with its small store of paper ten-florin notes, and Farquhar's most convenient bills of exchange, appeared to be treated as a thing unworthy of their regard. But when they came to the fishing-rods, their indignation burst forth again in a very violent manner. It was clear that they mistook them for deadly instruments, constructed on some mysterious, and therefore horrid, principle. At first, indeed, they seemed afraid to handle them, and their dismay was especially excited, when one of them shaking the plug of the principal joint beside his ear, overheard something rattle

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within its cavity. I shall never forget the expression of that man's countenance, as he cast the innocent piece of lance-wood from him, or the look of wisdom which accompanied the shake of the dorfriechter's head, as he pronounced the whole instrument to be "sair schlight."

I had lost a good deal of blood, and as they neither bound up my wounds, nor gave me anything wherewith to perform that office for myself, the faintness which a draught of wine had for a moment dispelled, began to return, and I had some difficulty in keeping my seat on a chest where they had placed me. The women saw my plight, and again took pity on me. Though I could not follow the progress of their appeal, I saw that two of them were remonstrating with the riechter; and immediately afterwards, our interpreter asked me, whether I should like to lie down. I answered in the affirmative; and my boy and I were forthwith led into another and a longer chamber, on the earthen floor of which these same women shook down some straw. Let me describe the apartment, as well as the bearing of its occupants,—because without entertaining some correct notion of the one, the reader will scarcely be able rightly to estimate the effect which was produced by the other.

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The room was precisely such a place as here and there does duty in one of the worst sort of Highland farm-houses for a kitchen. It was a square of perhaps eighteen feet, low in the roof, with a mud floor, and on two of its sides set round with rude bed-places. There were, if I recollect right, three small windows, two of which looked in the same direction towards the road; and in the interval between them stood a table, with several stools ranged near it. In other respects I have only to observe, that it could boast of no fire-place,—not even of a stove,—and that when the door was closed, not a chink of the windows being left open, the sense of stifling and the extreme heat were by no means easy to bear.

Such was the room; now for some account of those who filled it, and of the different occupations to which, during the night, they applied themselves.

First, then, out of the whole body of our assailants, ten, including the riechter, remained to keep guard over us; the rest, after loitering till near eleven o'clock about the door, departed each man to his own home. Of these ten, again, four, whose wives and children were domiciled in the cottage, went a little before midnight to bed,—that is, turned in,—the

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women and children doing the like,—into the beds, by which our temporary prison was surrounded. Meanwhile, the six, all of them armed to the teeth, planted one of their body as a sentinel over the door, while the remaining five seated themselves beside the table, and over a large flask of wine, kept up a very animated conversation. By-and-by they took to some game of chance with dice; and as their enormous brass-butted pistols lay beside them, and their guns rested against the wall, the spectacle was altogether such as a painter might have loved to behold. Then, again, there were in the room three or four dogs, which lay about in different directions, and appeared to keep as far as possible from coming in contact with the dicers. And finally, the vermin. Let me be excused for referring to that. The pain of my wounds, now stiffening with their open gashes, was bad enough; but it was a trifle in comparison with the suffering which myriads of these active and unsleeping tormentors occasioned.

On the straw which the women had spread for us, and over which they threw a coarse sheet, my boy and I lay down. Though swollen and bruised in all parts of his body, he was still so engrossed by anxiety on my account, that he not only uttered no complaint, but appeared

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scarcely to suffer. "Try to sleep, papa," he whispered to me, as soon as we were settled. "Go to sleep if you can. You are not fit to watch. I will keep awake, and if I see anything suspicious I will rouse you." Of course I did not agree to this arrangement; first, because it would have been cruel to tax the vigilance of one so young, and next, because I really did not feel that any benefit could accrue from it. I told him, what was true, that we were completely in their power, and that if they meant to put us out of the way, they could do so just as effectually while we were awake as when we slept. I therefore recommended him to close his eyes, and assured him that I would do the same. The poor boy, with great apparent satisfaction, adopted my advice, and in a few minutes I knew, from his heavy breathing, that he was fast asleep. For myself, bodily suffering, rather than the slightest feeling of anxiety, kept me for a good while awake; and when I did drop into a doze, it was feverish and broken, and every way unrefreshing.

While we sat in the other room, there had come in a person better dressed than the gang whose prisoners we were; who, though he spoke German very imperfectly, endeavoured to open a conversation with us, and soon evinced by

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his manner, that the true merits of the case were not by him misunderstood. He arrived, too, at a moment exceedingly critical for us; that is, to say while the riechter was examining our papers, among which, beside our passports, regularly viséed at Vienna, there were several introductory letters to persons of rank and consideration in different parts of Germany. These he insisted that the riechter should tie up in one bundle, and reserve for the inspection of the magistrate. And then turning to us, he inquired what we were. We told him; and he repeated our answer to those around him; but with one consent they exclaimed against the idea, and asserted that we were spies from the Turkish provinces. All this my friend, whom I had encountered so closely in the melée, explained to me; for having been a soldier in the Austrian service, he had there learned the language, and spoke it much more fluently than the stranger. I asked him who the stranger was, and he informed me that he was a postmaster, and that he resided in the large house, the hope of obtaining assistance from which induced me to fire the first shot in the fray. It appeared, however, that he was not at home when the struggle took place; that his women told him of the circumstance

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on his return; and that now his business was to inquire into the facts of the case, though it was quite clear that he had no power, whatever his inclination might be, to better our condition. When we rose to move towards the sleeping-room, he wished us good night, and then he and the old soldier exchanged a few words apart. I paid little regard to their conference at the moment; yet it was entirely of us that they spoke, and the event proved that their language had been altogether friendly.

I was just beginning to drop into a dose when one of the dicers, who appeared to have drunk more freely than his companions, suddenly rose, and grasping a horn lantern in one hand, and a pistol in the other, approached our lair. Though pretending to be asleep, I watched him narrowly, and had the pleasure of seeing him hold the lantern down towards my face, and then point his pistol at my head. Even then, I must declare in all sincerity, that I did not entertain the slightest apprehension; at all events, the feeling produced no other reasoning than this,—"If he choose to fire, I can't help myself, so he shall not be gratified by discovering in me any symptoms of alarm." Accordingly, though I opened my eyes and looked him full in the face, I neither spoke nor

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moved. The fellow uttered some exclamation and gazed about, upon which one of his companions sprang forward, and, taking him by the arm, led him away. I looked at this person, and saw with no little satisfaction, that he was my old soldier. He caught my eye; and having conducted his comrade back to his seat, he came to me and said, "Don't be alarmed; they dare not injure you. I will stay by you, and not a hair of your head shall be hurt." I thanked him; and composing myself to sleep again, was soon unconscious of the realities of my situation.

I do not know how long I had continued thus, when the voice of some person speaking in the English tongue, called me back to the world of realities. I looked up, and saw standing over me, a man in the garb of a gentleman, who addressed me as an Englishman, and begged me to inform him, how we chanced to come into such a plight. I sat up immediately; and thanking Providence which had thus sent assistance in our hour of need, I told him all that had happened. "I am not surprised at your story," was his answer; "they are a lawless and savage race; indeed, the wonder with me is, that you escaped with life. But we must not talk of that. I am a merchant, a

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resident in Fiume; and though not your countryman, have seen enough of your nation to value you as you deserve. We must consider how we can most easily and most immediately deliver you from the hands into which you have fallen."

I told him of the compact into which they had entered with me, of carrying us to Count Leichtenberg, and entreated that he would send a trusty messenger to the Count's residence, and inform him of our situation.

"I think it will serve your purpose better," said he, "if I send for the English consul from Fiume. He is your natural protector; and whatever zeal, and courage, and discretion can dictate, he will accomplish for you. I am very sorry that I cannot stay beside you till he come; for I am travelling on urgent business to Agram. But the postmaster will, I am sure, furnish us with a trustworthy express, and as the distance is only four miles (German) from this, you may look for his arrival by nine or ten o'clock in the morning."

I thanked this good Samaritan with great sincerity; yet I own that I was more disposed to throw myself on Count Leichtenberg, for I had seen enough of Hungarian gentlemen to be assured that he would act fairly by me; and

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at the moment, I must acknowledge, that I earnestly desired to have satisfaction on the ruffians who had misused us. But our friend from Fiume judged better than I, and I left the matter entirely in his hands. Before he went, however, he caused the whole of our papers to be shown him, and required the dorfriechter to account for the outrage of which he had been guilty; and the latter, I have reason to believe, being more staggered by his assurances, than he had been by those of the postmaster, began to doubt whether the supposed spies might not, after all, prove to be true men. Neither did his kindness and consideration for our characters stop there.

"I know these people well," said he; "when it is proved to them that they have abused travellers, whom it was their duty to protect, they will try to establish some charge of violence against you; so I will take the precaution as I proceed on my way, to inquire at every stage, how you have conducted yourselves along the road." No prophecy could be more entirely accomplished than this; and never, perhaps, was a measure of precaution more judicious. Mr. Maliovich made his inquiries, and found that no human being complained of us. Yet when the matter came to

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be investigated, by order of the Austrian government, a thousand incredible tales of our ferocity were got up; and a screen was in consequence thrown over parties, whose error, even if it were one of judgment, ought to have incurred the censure of those under whom they acted.

Our good Samaritan left us; and stoical as I believed myself to be, while yet the horizon seemed absolutely dark around us, I must confess that the prospect which he held out of a speedy deliverance, brought with it no trivial accession to my composure. I fell asleep, and did not wake again till daylight. Meanwhile the dorfriechter had sent for the pandour from Dalniza, the same insolent and overbearing menial, of whose disposition to play the tyrant on a small scale, we had already received the assurance; and the effect of his apparition, belted, and armed with a dragoon sabre, was certainly not cheering. Moreover, he made no secret of his determination to make me feel that I was in his power. He brought with him a strong chain, with manacles for the wrist and ankle, and, ostentatiously throwing it down in the corner of the room, commanded us to rise. We did so; and then came the question, "Where is your march-route?" I told him the

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truth, that in the struggle it had been forced from me, and torn. He laughed aloud, and said, "That is right." "But you have seen it," added I; "you had it in your hand when I paid you for the forstban." "I!" said the scoundrel; "I never saw anything of the sort, and I don't believe that you had such a thing."

It would have been useless to enter into a dispute with a man of this temperament; so I turned away from him; and still bleeding—for my wounds had not been closed, and though stiff, continued to send forth at intervals gouts of blood,—I sat down at the table. And from that period till near nine o'clock was an interval of great anxiety and suspense. The heads of the party whose prisoners we were, retired into the other room, there to get up their case against us; and long and painful to themselves seemed to be the operation of doing so. We were still guarded by the subordinates; and so determined was their vigilance that they would not permit me, at least, to pass beyond the door, except under the charge of an escort. And here I must record a little trait, of barbarity on the part of the men, and kindness among the women, of which the latter will remain in my mind long after the former is forgotten. I had gone out of the room for a

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moment, when a ruffian, who lingered behind, as if taking advantage of the absence of such slight protection as I could then afford to my son, struck the boy a blow with his fist. One of the women was by, and saw it. She looked compassionately at the sufferer without speaking; but no sooner had the brute quitted the chamber than she ran to a sort of closet, and bringing out a piece of black bread, gave it, with a basin of milk, to the boy. He was very hungry, and ate it with thankfulness.

Mr. Maliovich had either not calculated with sufficient accuracy on the impediments which a mountain road throws in a horseman's way, or his anxiety to comfort us under immediate suffering, by the hope of a speedy deliverance, had induced him to promise more than, under the circumstances of the case, either the express or the consul could perform. We had been led to expect the arrival of the latter by nine o'clock at the latest; and as hope in such cases is apt to outstrip reality, we had looked for his coming ever since the day feebly dawned. As hour after hour stole on without bringing him, our anxiety began, in spite of ourselves, to deepen; and it assumed a very strong cast indeed, when we found that an immediate removal was determined on. Whither would

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they take us? That we could not tell; but being entirely in their power, there seemed for us no other course than to submit, with what patience we might, to every hardship or insult that might be heaped upon us.

The postmaster, Mr. Adamich, as he had acted in a very friendly manner over-night, so he continued, after his return to our prison-house in the morning, to cheer us. He watched the proceedings in the other room, likewise, and prevailed upon the dorfriechter to resist the pandour's proposal of putting us in irons on the instant. As he knew his man, however, and calculated justly on the uses to which he was likely to turn the power which chance had given, he came up to me and whispered,—that as we were going to be taken before the commissary of the circle, he would write a note to that functionary,—and request that I might be dealt with as little harshly as possible, till the English consul, who had been sent for, should arrive. "But you must take care to deliver my note yourself," said he. "The pandour is a horrid scoundrel, and if I gave it to him, he would be sure to withhold it." I came into this arrangement, as may be supposed, very gladly, and the postmaster withdrew to write his letter.

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By this time the wagon, the same which had been supplied to us the day before, drove up to the door, and our baggage and arms being thrown in, we were desired to mount. We did so, and taking our seats on a sack, found that the pandour and two other men, each armed with a long gun, were to act as our escort. Of the rest, all who had not departed into the mountains followed on foot, and thus we set out towards Dalniza. Never till this moment had I been conscious from the commencement of the whole adventure, of any feeling which partook at all of the character of despondency. On the contrary, I was more than hopeful throughout; but now, as we drove back in the direction of the village where we had so recently been subjected to more than insult, I cannot deny that my confidence began to abate. As if the elements, too, were resolved to exert their influence against us, the sky became gradually covered with black clouds, and a thunder-storm began, which continued without intermission, all the while we journeyed down the ravine. Yet the kind postmaster was not forgetful of his promise; and the fidelity with which he seemed to watch over us, was not without its effect. While the wagon was passing his door he ran out, and putting a letter into my hand,

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nodded approbation, when he saw me refuse to give to the pandour, and bestow it in my own pocket.

On we went, the rain falling in torrents, while the lightning flashed bright and frequent, and the thunder—echoed back from the rocks and precipices near—sounded like a continued discharge of artillery. Once, and only once, we halted at the door of a wine-house, where the pandour, ordering a large flask to be brought out, drank it with his companions in the wagon. And now, having reached the village, we were conveyed, with an extreme show of triumph, along the principal street to the pandour's quarters, where, unwashed, and with coat, and shirt, and garments, dyed in blood, I was not surprised to find that I was an object of extreme curiosity to the crowd, which instantly collected round it. But the pandour was not content that even thus I should be subjected to inconvenience. He produced his chain and rings, and with excessive harshness proceeded to force one upon my wrist, and another upon my ankle, and so to fasten me, hand and foot together. It would have been idle to resist, and very foolish to complain, so I only smiled at so wanton a display of ill-feeling; and never once winced, even when on locking the iron on my

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wrist, he bruised the skin till it grew black. Yet even with this the ruffian was not satisfied. I was now powerless. He knew that I was so, and under the pretext of searching for concealed arms, he thrust his hand into my pocket, and pulled out the postmaster's letter. I protested against his detention of it, and told him for whom it was meant; but he laughed in my face, tore it into shreds, and threw the pieces out of the window.

Our plight was by this time sorry enough; and the indignities to which we were subjected, differed in nothing from what might have been expected. That the crowd might have the better opportunity of gratifying both their curiosity and caprices, the door of the room was thrown open, and the threshold as well as the windows, were soon blocked up with persons anxious to look at us. We should have been amused at all this, had we been certain that the consul would come at all; but when noon arrived without bringing him, our anxiety rose to a painful height, and the appearances of mirth we considered it necessary from time to time to put on, were generally, I am bound to confess, forced. At length, however, the state of suspense in which for a couple of hours we had remained, was broken in upon by the pan-

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dour, who, with all possible insolence of manner, commanded us to follow him. Hitherto, our baggage had been taken charge of by others. Now,—I presume for the purpose of degrading us in the eyes of the populace,—we were made to carry it ourselves; and thus loaded and chained, I was conducted along the street, my son walking beside me, and only so far in better plight, that on him no irons were forced.

We traversed the whole extent of the town, and being conducted to a house in the principal street, which I found afterwards to be the parsonage, we were there, at the outer door, so as still to be open to the insults of the mob, desired to stand still. We did so, till by-and-by, a carriage drove into the place, and it was announced to us that it contained the stuhlriechter. I looked towards the vehicle, and seeing a really not discreditable-looking personage, with a beaver hat, black coat, cloth trousers, and other indications of a gentleman about him, my spirit in some sort revived; for I could not doubt that he at least would both understand and pay proper respect to a passport; and that the rest of my papers would convince him that at least we were not Turks. But I had calculated on more of discernment,—rather, perhaps, than of good feeling,—than belonged to

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him. I saw the pandour make his charge while the carriage stopped in the street, and I advanced to reply to it. "Where is your pass?" demanded he. I told him that the gendarme had it in his keeping; upon which he alighted, went into the priest's house, and for some time I neither saw nor heard more of him.

A good half hour at the least had elapsed, when my son and I were ordered to pass the threshold, where, after giving up our knapsacks to undergo examination, we continued for some time longer to be detained in the passage. By-and-by we received a summons to enter the justice-room, where sat the stuhlriechter, another person, who proved to be the commissary, and the priest of the parish. I really do not know in what terms to describe the sort of examination that followed. Our passports were in the magistrate's hands; so were our letters, two of which were to the English minister at Munich, one to the Austrian governor of the Tyrol, and others to persons of similar station elsewhere. I appealed to these as bearing collateral testimony to our respectability; but the magistrate was not acquainted with the French language, and as most of the letters, at least, bore French addresses, he could make nothing of them. Then our march-route,—where was it?

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I told him exactly what had befallen, and appealed to the pandour, to corroborate my statement; but the pandour utterly denied that he had ever seen such a document; and the magistrate, though he knew that we had obtained our forstban, never thought of making the officer explain, how such a privilege came to be conceded to us without the production of a regular order. I heard all this with great indignation, and pointing to my chains, asked why I was kept thus, and whether a police-officer were permitted to destroy a letter which had been addressed to the commissary, for the express purpose of saving me from, at least, this indignity? The worthy magistrate listened to my appeal, but took no notice of it, and the investigation went on after a fashion peculiar to itself.

I neither knew at the moment, nor have I ever learned, what the charges were which were brought against me. I believe, indeed, that the ferocity of a savage was laid to my door; that I was described as ill-using the boy who drove me, the person whose horses had been assigned to me, the pandour who procured all things of which I stood in need; and indeed, the entire population of the town and its vicinity. Then, again, the horrible instruments of destruction which we carried about

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with us, being described and produced, our poor innocent fishing-rods became evidence against us of a thirst for human life which was quite fearful. Moreover all this was done,—not under the solemn sanction of an oath,—nor yet after deliberate examination of the witnesses in detail,—but by voices from the crowd, each hallooing out, in a dialect which to me was incomprehensible, something which I had no opportunity to contradict, but which was received, and carefully recorded. But why continue these details? The results were, that the magistrate, after making sundry marks in our passport, and especially commenting on the circumstance, that it had never been viséed since we crossed the Hungarian frontier, pronounced that we had no business in Croatia at all; that the Hungarian Chancery having permitted us only to visit Pesth and to return, he should send us back to Agram, there to be dealt with as the law and its administrators might think fitting.

I was by far too indignant at the whole of that functionary's proceedings, to waste upon him either much reasoning or any appeal to his better feelings. I told him, indeed, that the English consul had been sent for, and begged him to delay our departure at least till there

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should be time for his arrival. I then, finding him deaf to that proposal, besought that my chains might be struck off, and permission given to me at least to have my wounds dressed, and to change my apparel. Of these wounds, however, though they continued to bleed in his presence, he made very light, though he caused one of our assailants to strip, and affected to shudder at a much more trifling hurt which he had received from me in the melée. He would consent, however, that I should change my dress; and he directed the pandour to see that this indulgence was granted. But the pandour took orders from no man. Being now fairly committed, we were once more marched back to the pandour's quarters, where not only was water for washing refused, and a change of apparel withheld, but the proposal to obtain them was treated as something pre-eminently ridiculous and impertinent.

We were now gloomy enough, for we could not tell how the affair might terminate. The consul, on whose arrival we had hitherto dwelt so much, came not, and the prospect before us was of a journey to Agram, performed under the escort of the very men who had maltreated us, and an incarceration afterwards, should we ever reach Agram at all, in some fortress whence it might be both tedious and difficult to make

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our case known even to our own ambassador at Vienna. We looked at one another ruefully enough, and our mirth—for, strange to say, there was some disposition to mirth in our very sadness,—took a somewhat awkward form. "If they don't separate us, papa," said my son, "we can manage to spend even a month in a dungeon tolerably well!"

"Yes," was the obvious answer, "but there are those at home, your mother and brothers, in a strange land,—what will they think if they hear nothing of us, even for a month? And then only think of poking our heads through the iron bars, and begging a kreutzer for charity's sake!"

We were thus conversing, when a woman, whom I had observed eyeing us with more than idle curiosity for some time, entered the chamber, and asked us in German if we should like to eat? I replied at once in the affirmative, for it was now three o'clock, and I had tasted nothing except the sour wine in the cottage, since the previous day at noon.

"Well, then, if you will give me the money, I will go and purchase some meat and potatoes, and dress them for you."

I thanked her, but told her, what was true, that I had no money, for her people had taken from me every kreutzer.

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"Well, well," replied the kind creature, "you shall have something to eat, notwithstanding."

She left us, but in less than half an hour returned with a very palatable mess of stewed beef and a few potatoes. Wine, also, was furnished, and we sat down. But the meal was proceeding heavily enough when my son, who sat with his back to the wall, suddenly looked across the table and exclaimed, "Papa, who is that?" I turned round, and beheld standing near me three gentlemen,—one of whom addressed me in English, and hoped that I was not seriously injured. I sprang to my feet. It was Mr. Hill, the English vice-consul, who, with admirable skill as well as diligence, had exerted himself from the instant Mr. Maliovich's despatch reached him, to afford us such aid as would be effectual to our deliverance; and who, having been nobly supported by the governor of Fiume, was now arrived, bringing in his train a surgeon to dress our hurts, and a legal gentleman, attached to the governor's office, to see that justice was rendered to us. I should entirely fail were I to attempt a description of the effect which such a vision produced upon both of us. We felt from the instant that my hand was grasped in Mr. Hill's, that our troubles

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were over, and the lapse of a brief space sufficed to assure us that our anticipations had been founded on justice.

Explanations, and the clearing up of difficulties, are always wearisome to follow; and I have said so much of an affair purely personal, that I am not willing now to enlarge upon it; yet there is a debt of gratitude due both to Mr. Hill and his companions which I am bound to discharge. Leaving the surgeon to do his part by washing and bandaging up my hurts, Mr. Hill and his legal adviser proceeded straight to the priest's house, where with some difficulty they prevailed upon the stuhlriechter to re-open the case, and to have me and my accusers again brought before him. There was something almost ludicrous in the revolution which the presence of these gentlemen appeared to effect in the deportment of the parties with whom lay my controversy. The pandour lowered his insolent tone, and became submissive, and well-nigh servile. The priest, who had certainly not befriended me when alone, and who refused to come when I sent to beg an interview with him in our prison-house, put on a bland and gentle demeanour; and the commissary protested that he was extremely sorry for what had happened. Nay,

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more, our young driver, whether in contradiction of any previous statement or not I cannot tell, now declared that I had never beaten nor otherwise ill-treated him, while the peasant who began the fray was, on the lad's testimony, convicted, carried out of the room, and flogged on the instant. Yet all this while I was subject to treatment which reflected no great honour on the consideration of the authorities which sanctioned it. The surgeon was in the act of binding up my head, when the stuhlriechter's pandour,—not the miscreant of whose cruelties I had such right to complain,—came, and with great insolence insisted that I should follow him into the magistrate's presence. I paid no regard to him, of course, till the dressing was finished, but then I did follow; and again they marched me, chained hand and foot together, the whole length of the street. Nay, more, in this plight, with the iron entering into my flesh, the stuhlriechter permitted me to stand till Mr. Hill protested against the continuation of such usage, and the chains were removed. Finally his intelligent and most zealous legal friend so argued my case, that the magistrate became convinced that he had gone too far; and I was ultimately set free, and given into the hands of the consul.

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It is just that I should state, before I bring this tale to an end, both the steps which were taken in order to obtain redress for so gross an outrage, and the results to which I have been informed that they led. A large portion of blame was laid, both by myself and others, upon the stuhlriechter; and complaints were lodged against him for having, to say the least of it, greatly exceeded his duty. I am not now sure that I and my friends acted judiciously in making this our chief ground of complaint. The stuhlriechter unquestionably erred. He had no right, on such charges, to set an English passport at defiance; and it was, to say the least of it, very harsh and cruel to keep a wounded man in chains. Moreover, it would have been no slur upon his own or his country's honour, to have waited, before consigning us to prison, for the arrival of the English consul, who from hour to hour was expected. In like manner, he was exceedingly negligent, after the truths of the case were made apparent to him, in vindicating the majesty even of his own laws. Such a brute as the pandour of Dalniza ought not to have been continued in authority one hour; indeed, his violence in tearing a letter which was addressed to the commissary, deserved some punishment more severe than dismissal.

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But I do believe that the magistrate erred, rather because he was wanting in experience or sound judgment, than from any desire on his part to violate the rule of right or the law of nations. He was insolent, it is true, and overbearing, when I stood as a prisoner before him. He disbelieved all that I said, and gave credit, or seemed to give credit, to the peasants; but then, it must not be forgotten, that I was covered with blood, strange of speech, unwashed, unshaved, and in every point of view in a plight which certainly laid me open to suspicion. I think, then, that in bringing our chief complaint against him, we were more forgetful than we ought to have been, of the circumstances of extenuation which he had it in his power to plead. On the other hand, I am quite sure that he, in withholding from the person whom he had wronged such an apology as one gentleman is always bound to offer, and another to accept, did himself no honour; and that the ban of Croatia, in the decision at which they arrived, have given slender proof either of their wisdom or their sense of justice.

The magistrate who sanctioned all the violence of which the peasants were guilty, has been screened; while on the peasants corporal punishment has been inflicted—very unneces-

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sarily. Neither I nor anybody else could wish such men to be flogged. It would have been wiser, and more to the purpose, had the government provided for the safety of that road, by quartering some of its troops in the villages which skirt it.

My tale of Hungarian travel is told. Set free from the durance in which for a day and a night we had been kept, we transferred our knapsacks, now restored to us, to Mr. Hill's carriage; and after supping at the kind postmaster's house, we continued our journey all night towards Fiume. I am not able to say a word concerning the splendid mountain district through which we passed. Though the moon shone bright, I was too ill to reap any benefit from her brilliancy; indeed, it was only because our friends deemed it unsafe to linger even a few hours near the spot where the outrage had been committed, that they subjected me to the inconvenience of this night journey at all. With the return of day, however, my strength so far came back, that I could look down with extreme admiration on the glorious bay,—a portion of the Adriatic,—at the head of which the town of Fiume is built. But why describe a scene

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with which almost all travellers through Italy and Germany are familiar? Enough is done, when I state that we reached our inn about five in the morning, that I went immediately to bed, and that my brave boy, having had his bruises washed and fomented, was not slow in following my example.

We considered ourselves fortunate in having obtained a comfortable apartment in what seemed to be a very tolerable inn, but fortune was determined to deal with us much more kindly. I had not yet risen when Mr. Crofton Smith, one of the leading merchants in Fiume, and the proprietor of an extensive paper-manufactory there, called upon me, and insisted that we should remove, without loss of time, to his house. For nearly a fortnight we became in consequence his guests; and the kindness both of himself and of the other inmates of his family, I shall never forget. His young and interesting wife nursed me as if I had been her nearest relative. His sister-in-law, Miss Slater, played and sang to me as I grew convalescent; and many a delightful sail we had on the bosom of the Adriatic, while as yet I was too much of an invalid to bear the motion of a horse or a carriage. It is in these situations, and under such circumstances, that an acquaintance of a

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week or a fortnight's standing, ripens at once into friendship, and I trust the day will never arrive when of that kind pair and their lively relative I shall cease to think as of friends that are very dear to me.

Here, then, I lay aside the pen. It would little interest the general reader to be told how, in the bosom of this truly hospitable family, our time was spent, or how the governor and the rest of the leading inhabitants of the place, vied with one another in their efforts to prove how entirely they deplored the outrage to which we had been subjected. As little would it be worth while to describe our future progress to the caves of Adelsberg, through the fair fields of Italy, and so back by the Tyrol and Bavaria to Dresden. The design of this work has been accomplished if some fresh light shall have been thrown on the state of society in Bohemia and Hungary, and seeing that for all which goes beyond I am bound to apologize, I will not add to the offence by saying one word in reference to matters which, however interesting in themselves, would, if alluded to here, be altogether out of place.

THE END.

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