

INTRODUCTION.

ONCE MORE under the guidance of Rudolf Baumbach, we are to start on a pilgrimage to Germany, this time for a ramble over the wooded hill-sides of Thuringia, the idyllic mountain-home of our congenial guide. Thuringia — the very center of Germany, “the heart and soul of the Fatherland,” where in the happiest of unions the sober and realistic North joins hands with the sunny and imaginative South; where facts are embellished by fiction, and history by myth! Thuringia — the home of mediæval chivalry, where Tannhäuser gathered laurels and St. Elizabeth culled roses within the walls of the same castle in which the intrepid Martin Luther broke down the hierarchical tyranny of the Middle Ages by his translation of the Bible, that most substantial foundation of the spiritual and intellectual freedom of modern times! Thuringia — in German literature the birthplace of two of the foremost and at the same time most heterogeneous movements, the austere Classical and the warm-hearted Romantic Schools! Thuringia — where such master-minds as Wieland, Herder, Schiller and Goethe lived and accomplished their Titanic work, and where, notwithstanding