



QUAINT DOLLY LAND.

What a quaint region is Puppenland ! Perhaps not everybody knows where Puppenland is. The best way to find this famous land is to take a map of Germany and cast the eye squarely on the centre, where is situated a little mountainous province surrounded and bounded by nearly all the other States of the Empire. This is Thuringia, or Puppenland, thus named because most of the best dollies—or puppen, as the Germans call them—of Europe, and some that emigrate to America, are born here. So dolly land is not like other fairy lands, located in the moon and inhabited by enchanting fays, but it lies in the heart of Europe, and here in the beautiful Thuringenwald it is filled with picturesque villages where almost all the inhabitants, men, women and children, labor incessantly.

Flanders, the Netherlands, and some of the old Rhine towns, were noted in mediæval times as exporters of the best dolls, but the great grandfathers of the villagers of Thuringia assert that from the most remote times their ancestors were engaged in this branch of manufacture, wherewith they supplied the great Kirmesses of Germany and other countries of Europe. The capitals of Puppenland in Thuringia are two overgrown villages. Which of them is the largest—that is, with re-

spect to their doll productions—it is difficult to determine. Both are surrounded by a group of smaller villages which are in a measure tributary to them. Under every roof in this locality can be seen grandfathers, parents and children busily employed in basting, sewing, cutting, pressing or painting on some constituent parts of the doll's anatomy.

Both Sonneberg and Walterhausen manufacture the most expensive as well as the cheapest dolls of all sizes and of every imaginable color and complexion. Walterhausen, however, lays more stress on the quality of its work, while Sonneberg strives to excel in the great quantity of its shipments.

It is a great mistake to imagine that through the efforts of any one family complete dolls are produced. Whole households are engaged in the making of the trunks only, while others spend the entire day in tinting the various parts. Every family contracts to finish certain parts only, which are delivered to a large, centrally located factory, where they are joined together, boxed and stored to await the orders of customers.

One can never get a true conception of the immense variety of the dolly folk until one inspects the many hundred species and subordinate species representing all the nations of the earth, which are exhibited here on the shelves of the spacious storerooms. Here are all sizes, from the little two-inch water nymph and the cheap wooden dolls with porcelain heads, to the largest wax, papier-mache and leather dolls. Then there is a large quantity having a wonderful mechanism in their interior arrangement, some that can say "papa" and "mamma," others that articulate a first-class scream or sound a miniature laugh, and others again that can whistle and perform on the flute, drum, violin and other musical instruments.

It is difficult to conjecture what becomes of the unaccountable legions of jumping-jacks, puppies, boobies, porcelain babies and black dollies that are