

Rising in the mountains to the south-west, the little river Ilm has at Weimar become a fair-sized stream, though still fordable at any point and navigable only here and there by the row-boat. It makes its way in pleasing windings through the beautiful park, which is Weimar's chief external attraction, past the town and on to join the Saale. In a bend of the stream by the village of Tiefurt, two miles below Weimar, is the park and little chateau, originally a farmhouse, the favorite summer residence of the Dowager Duchess Anna Amalia, niece of Frederick the Great and mother of Karl August. To this gifted little woman of undaunted heart Weimar owes the foundation of its greatness. Married at seventeen and left two years later a widow and the mother of two children, she resolutely set to work to meet the hopes of her people by bringing up her eldest-born to be a fit ruler for the little state whose affairs she, meanwhile, as regent, conducted with consummate skill. Wieland was chosen as tutor for Karl August, and he became the first link in the chain that led to Weimar's literary renown.

In those days Weimar was still a walled town. Round about the main part of it still ran the line of the original wall fortified by round towers at short intervals. Along nearly its whole extent outside was the water-filled moat, and entrance to the inner town lay through guarded arched gates. As a sort of separate fort within the fortification stood the moat-encircled castle, which, however, as Schiller first saw it, was a desolate ruin from the fire of a few years before.

For nearly two years Schiller is in Weimar or its neighborhood when, as the result of his historical studies and largely through Goethe's mediation, he is appointed to lecture on his

tory at Jena, the university town of the Thuringian duchies. His appointment in Jena was at first purely honorary; later, Karl August gave him a yearly allowance of about \$150. The years 1794 to 1799 show a gradual gravitation of Schiller toward Weimar.

His marriage on February 22nd, 1790, to Charlotte von Lengefeld had been the beginning of years of purest domestic happiness. Things go so well that after three years he ventures to buy a house for himself. This is the "Schillerhaus" of present-day pilgrimage, situated on what is now Schillerstrasse, the leading street of Weimar. In this house he spent the last three years of his life. It is a plain structure, with the prevailing stucco facing. Up one flight of stairs dwelt the family; the upper story contained a little ante-room, a reception-room, Schiller's study, and a diminutive bedroom. In these apartments of a homely simplicity are still to be seen, along with many other silent witnesses of his daily life, his plain work-table and the still plainer bedstead of unpolished wood in which the great poet drew his last breath. Few, I imagine, have in later days looked upon them and joined them involuntarily with the noble thoughts that there first found utterance without thinking more nobly of humanity.

Goethe's house on the Goethe-Platz is only some five minutes' walk distant. During the six years of Schiller's residence in Weimar the companionship between him and Goethe was the most important part of their existence. At the home now of one, now of the other, their new productions are read together and discussed. If either is confined to the house, as Schiller so frequently was by illness, or if a journey takes one of them out of town, there is a steady exchange of missives.