



WORMS CATHEDRAL.

of all, springs the Virgin Mary. In this stern cradle of the Reformation, a mass for the dead was being sung. When the procession of priests and nuns filed out, I was left alone to moralize upon the memories of the past. I afterwards wandered through the narrow streets and bustling market-place and depopulated suburbs, and tried to conjure up the great world-drama of the Diet of Worms, three centuries and a half ago.

The Main joins the Rhine at Mainz, a town founded by the Romans before our era and still possessing many remains of their occupation. Its cathedral, begun in 978, was six times a prey to fire. Alternately used as barracks, stables for cavalry, a magazine for powder and provisions, and even as a slaughter-house, it is nevertheless one of the finest and most interesting specimens of mediaeval architecture.

In sailing down the legend-haunted Rhine, I travelled leisurely, stopping at the more interesting points—Bingen, Coblenz, Bonn, and Cologne. On my way to Bingen—"Sweet Bingen on the

Rhine"—I passed Ingleheim, now a straggling village, once the site of a famous palace of Charlemagne of whose splendour the chroniclers give fabulous accounts—scarce a relic of it now remains. The famous Johannisberg Vineyard is only forty acres in extent, carefully terraced by walls and arches; yet in good years it yields an income of \$40,000. A bottle of the best wine is worth \$9—enough to feed a hungry family for a week.

Between Bingen and Bonn lies the most picturesque part of the many-castled Rhine, whose every crag, and cliff, and ruined tower is rich in legendary lore. It winds with many a curve between vine-covered slopes, crowned with the grim strongholds of the robber knights, who levied toll on the traffic and travel of this great highway of central Europe—even a king on his way to be crowned has been seized and held till ransomed. When they could no longer do it by force, they did it under the forms of law, and, till comparatively late in the present century, trade had to run the gauntlet of twenty-nine custom houses of rival states