

try *Thenth Land*, i.e., the *Land of God*." It would be wearisome merely to name all the palatinates, electorates, marquisates, principalities, duchies, archbishoprics, bishoprics, and independent states, that are fully treated of in connection with the Holy Roman Empire, as Germany was then, in court style, designated. We may only pause a little to smile at the story of the Golden Table, and the legend of the Ratcatcher.

In Lunenburg "the Church of St. Michael has been famous on account of the Golden Table, which is placed before the Great Altar. This Table is of pure *Arabian* gold, 8 foot long, and 4 foot wide. It was, by the Emperor *Otho*, presented to the Church after he had gained it by the dint of Arms from the *Saracens in Italy*. (1) The Rim was embellished with precious Stones of immense Value, and on the Table were chased in three rows several Histories of the Bible. In the year 1698 the Table was stripped of great Part of the Jewels by a Gang of Thieves, who took from it 200 Rubies and Emeralds, together with a large Diamond."

A more wretchedly constructed tale, it would be difficult to conceive of, yet the "*Saracens in Italy*" with such a table, "*Histories of the Bible*," and all, are readily swallowed by Mr. Cowley, at which we cease to wonder, remembering how kindly he took to the Scotch "Geese that breed in Logs of Wood floating in the Sea," the "Floating Island in a Lake," and the "Four-Elements-in-Perfection" fable of Kilkenny.

Now for the Ratcatcher. "Hamelin, a famous city:—In 1284, a Ratcatcher freed this City from those Vermin by playing on a Whistle and thereby enticing them to follow him out of the gate into the River, where they were drowned. The Ratcatcher demanding his Fee of the Inhabitants was denied it. In Revenge he tuned his Pipe

again, and 130 Children followed him that were never heard of since,

and the People date their Deeds, etc., not from the Birth of Christ, but from the Time of the Departure of the Children. In this City also is a rich Salt-pit, which was discovered about 700 Years ago by a Sow wallowing in that Place and drying herself in the Sun, so that she was found covered with fine, white Salt. This Creature is still shewn, preserved in a Glass Chest." For aged salt pork probably nothing can approach that of Hamelin. The piper Ratcatcher incident, we need hardly remind the reader, is the theme of Robert Brownings well-known ballad "The Pied Piper of Hamelin."

Before leaving Germany the temptation is too strong to quote just another account relating to Sonderhausen. "In the Arensal, (of *Sonderhausen*)," says the geography, "is an Idol about a Yard high, which is hollow, what mettle it is of no Body knows. At the Crown of its Head is a Hole, when fill'd with Water, stopped with a Bung, and placed over a Fire, the Idol will sweat prodigiously, the Bung will fly out with a thundering and rattling Noise, and the Water spout from it like Fire, which, if it reaches any Wood will set it in a flame, and cause a horrible stench."

It is perhaps not too far-fetched to suppose that the whole of the foregoing legend is founded upon some tradition of spontaneous combustion in connection with an ancient barrel of *saur-kraut*. At all events the "prodigious sweat" and the "horrible stench" would seem to lend favour to this theory.

The shriek of freedom and Kosciusko's fall are vividly recalled to mind by the statement regarding Poland, that "This whole large Country has a King, who is elected, and is the only elected Kingdom (1) now in Europe."