

splendid coffee, excellent cream, cake, honey, and good Tyrolean wine, we never succeeded in running up a bill surpassing five francs ; and when paying, Mrs. Raggebas always forced upon us a quantity of cherries or pears, adding with a reassuring smile in her Swiss dialect, ' Koscht nix.'

She had a maid-servant, who was remarkable also. She was the daughter of a wealthy farmer herself, but not liking her stepmother she preferred serving. She was a rather tall, pleasant-looking girl, with an open though not pretty countenance, who was held in great respect by all the men on account of her strength, which she once used in a very laughable manner. A little stranger, with a high, well-brushed cylinder hat, attempted to flirt with her in a country-like fashion. Looking upon him at first with some amused astonishment, she settled the question by quietly taking hold of his waist with both her hands. Then she lifted up the little amorous man as one does a baby, and ramming his precious beaver against the low ceiling so that it went down over the nose of the stunned little fellow, she went away laughing.

When the weather was not favourable we were occupied at home ; Mrs. Corvin with painting in water colours, and I with learning German, for which I had engaged a teacher from Rorschach. Corvin had discovered in the castle an old library full of curious books, into which he dived with all the zeal of an antiquarian. Salm wrote his *Diary* in Mexico, which