

by the Cathedral and the Castle, which, rising above the city, present an uncommonly picturesque appearance, and which, as works of architecture, excite our interest in a high degree.

Meissen, in its style of architecture, shows essentially the character of the Renaissance. Such a mighty royal castle as the Albrechtsburg, built in the Gothic style by the founder of the Albertine line (1471-1483), was, with the exception of the Marienburg, produced nowhere else in Germany, during the Middle Ages. Until the year 1710 it was one of the royal residences, but was then superseded by Dresden; until 1863 it was the seat of the celebrated porcelain manufactory founded by Böttger, which has now been transferred to a fine building in the valley of the Triebish. But it is said that now the old deserted castle of the Meissen

princes is to rise again in its old splendour, and to this purpose are to be devoted the funds received in indemnification for the expense of the French war. A part of the five milliards will be sufficient to restore the building, celebrated for its thoroughly artistic vault, to a habitable condition, and in a way in harmony with its original style.

Near the Castle stands the Cathedral, one of the noblest specimens of architecture in the Gothic style, consecrated to St. John, and in its history reaching back to the time of the Saxon emperors. Compared

with similar churches of the Middle Ages, the Meissen Cathedral is not as large; but the beautiful harmony which pervades it fills one with reverence and admiration; and the interior, in spite of many devastations and robberies, is still rich, especially in monuments and epitaphs to the princes and bishops.

From the castle hill one has a magnificent view of the surrounding country, whose beauty Charles V. thought equal to that of middle Italy. The eye sweeps over mountains, valleys, and meadows, and wanders along the Elbe valley, dotted with numerous villages. Vine-covered hills, orchards and woods produce a graceful variety upon the hills, along the river; the Elbe itself



ON THE ELBE.