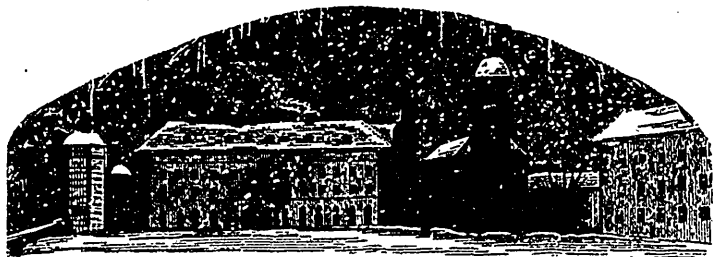


HERE AND THERE IN EUROPE.

II.



VIEW IN DARMSTADT.

ON our way from Northern Germany to the Black Forest we pass through the old Grand Ducal city of Darmstadt, capital of the Grand Duchy of Hesse. It is a handsome town of 44,000 of a population, chiefly Protestants, and possesses a library of 450,000 volumes, and a picture gallery of great value. It has to English-speaking people a pathetic interest as the home of the Princess Alice of England, whose tragic death—a sacrifice to her mother-love—so deeply touched the heart of the nation.

The Black Forest—the famous Schwarzwald of German song and story—is one of the most picturesque regions of Central Europe. Its grandest passes are now traversed by the Black Forest Railway, a singularly bold engineering construction, climbing 2,000 feet in twenty-three miles, and passing through thirty-eight tunnels, and over one hundred and forty-two bridges. Dr. Green thus describes his visit to this romantic region :

“ We adopted the easiest and in some respects the most striking route, taking the main line up the Rhine valley as far as the roadside station of Offenburg, where we changed into the newly opened Black Forest Railway ; at first gently ascending past fair meadows and among wooded hills, but soon finding ourselves amid wilder, grander scenes, zigzagging upward past gigantic pine-clad rocks, where the recent railway workings had laid bare the granite heart of the mountain in great scars, which the kindly vegetation had not yet had time to festoon with beauty ; then along the edge of a steep slope where the forest climbs above and below, across wild glens of stupendous depth, and through