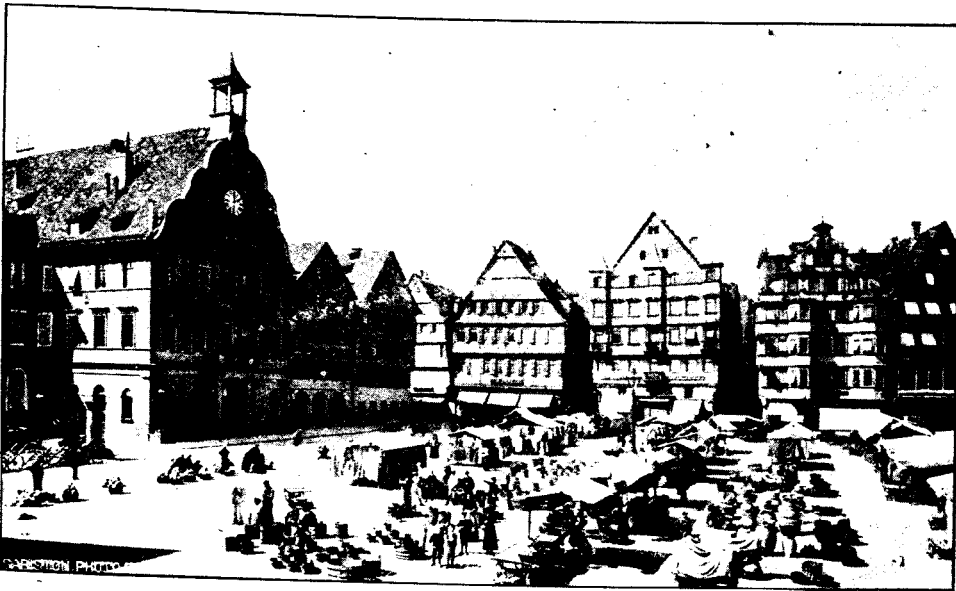


with Christmas cakes, and ornaments of colored glass and tinsel for the Christmas trees, and the quaint dresses of the peasant women; their short skirts, large white aprons and kerchiefs and uncovered heads, make a very "old world" picture.

Oh! by the way, I must tell you of a quaint old custom (one of many) that they have in Stuttgart. At one side of the Market place stands the old "Stiftskirche" (Cathedral), with its high tower encircled by three galleries. At noon every day the door leading to the highest gallery opens, and two men appear dressed in old fashioned costumes, and with trumpets in their hands, they wait till the church clock strikes twelve, then

abodes, all built in the royal park, which extends for several miles along the Neckar till it reaches Cannstatt, such a pretty little suburb on the banks of the river.

Close to Cannstatt is the Wilhelma, a residence built by King Karl's father for a beautiful mistress of his; it is a small building in the Moorish style, but it has a *mile* of glass houses, filled with every variety of tropical plants and palms; here the King and his mistress used to come, with only three or four attendants, and stay for weeks at a time. On the mountain is another lovely villa which the King has lent to the Grand Duchess Vera of Russia, a niece of Queen Olga's.



The Market-place.

sound their trumpets for ten minutes, and disappear till the next day. You feel as you stand in the busy "Markplatz"—surrounded by the peasants and their merchandise, and with the "Rathhaus" and the quaint old buildings in the square, and the trumpeters above you in the old church tower, as if you had suddenly been dropped back into a century ago—and, for anyone coming from such a painfully *new* country as our America, that is a most unwonted and delightful sensation.

But the King's place of residence is not by any means restricted to the modern, hotel-like looking, Palace in the centre of the city. He spends most of his time there through the winter, but he has no less than three other royal

The Park is one of the prettiest things in Stuttgart, with its beautifully kept walks, and long avenues (miles in length) of maple trees. In this Park is the celebrated "Eberhard Gruppe" of statuary and the beautiful old Johanniskirche, (St. John's church). The "Rosenstein" is another of the king's country villas. I heard rather a funny story in connection with this place, and as I was told it by one of Queen Olga's "Ladies in waiting," suppose it to be true.

It seems when the Shah of Persia was in Germany he visited the Grand Duke of Baden-Baden, and, while he was there used to drive around to the different shops in the Grand Duke's carriage, buy whatever took his royal fancy, and *charge*