

NOTES ON EUROPEAN TRAVEL.

On crossing the German border, and entering the land of William Tell, my first stopping place was Bale, a most beautiful and wealthy city of 70,000 inhabitants. The streets are wide, somewhat crooked, but nicely paved. Here the waters of the Rhine were clear, flowing among the rugged rocks and crags. A quarter of a century ago Bale was a strictly fortified military post. The cathedral, dating from 1010, was despoiled of all its artistic decorations in 1529, during the Reformation. In 1852 it was redecorated with great richness and elegance. It is now a Protestant church. Erasmus, who died in Bale, 1536, is buried near the altar. My next stopping place, 50 miles south-east of Bale, was Lucerne, a city of 17,000 inhabitants, situated at the outlet of the most beautiful lake in Switzerland, near Mt. Pelatus and Mt. Rigi. The buildings are very fine, large substantial stone structures with streets wide and adorned with shade trees. From my hotel window I could see a hundred snow-capped Alpine peaks glittering in the sunlight. The town is surrounded by walls erected in 1351, and went to sea, of course, the celebrated "Lion of Lucerne." The cathedral—the statue of a dying lion, 28 feet long, cut in the face of a cliff, commemorating 800 soldiers of the Swiss Guard, who died in defence of the papal residence in Paris, 1792. About five miles away, reached partly by steamer and partly by mountain railway, is the top of Rigi, 6,000 feet above the sea. From this summit one gets an extraordinary view, covering an area of more than 7,000 square miles. More than a hundred peaks of the Alps, some of which are over 12,000 feet high, are clearly visible. The plains below are dotted with lakes, beautiful villages, and fertile fields. On one field at the base, two battles were fought—Murgarten in 1315, and another with the French, 1738. The largest lake I visited in Switzerland was Geneva, a charming city of 70,000 inhabitants, situated at the foot of the beautiful lake and divided into two parts by the swift-rushing blue waters of the river Rhone. The hotels that line the shore of the lake are magnificent stone structures. As I walked about its beautiful streets, I could hardly realize the important part it has played in history since it was fortified by Julius Caesar, 2,000 years ago. The cathedral, erected by the German Emperor Conrad II, 1024, contains Calvin's chair, (in which I sat), standing near the high, small, old-fashioned pulpit. During the Reformation the images were removed, and it is now a plain Presbyterian church. I visited Calvin's house, and also the house of Rousseau. Both are large, plain, substantial stone buildings, and both are now used as a museum. Over the main door of Calvin's house I noticed the following inscription: "Calvinus hic habitavit, in domo Domini propinquum Mense." The Lord is my fortress. The Lake of Geneva—in the shape of a half moon—is 50 miles long and nine wide at the widest part. It is very deep, in some places 1,800 feet. Scores of beautiful villages line the shores, and the scenery is magnificent. The water is of an intensely deep blue; other Swiss lakes greenish blue. From Geneva to Lausanne, I went by rail for Pexes, where, then took a steamer up the lake a couple of hours. Near the upper end is the castle of Chillon, whose dungeons and illustrious prisoners have been immortalized by Byron. While at Lausanne—a place of 37,000 inhabitants—I visited the cathedral, built 1293-1275, and consecrated by Pope Gregory X. Here, occurred, in 1536, the celebrated disputation of Calvin, Farel and Viret, resulting in a great victory for Protestantism. The Roman Catholic images have all been removed, and it is now like the cathedral at Geneva—a plain Presbyterian church. From Lucerne down into Italy, I went by the famous St. Gothard route, the Switzerland-Milan railway, 140 miles long, built from 1872 to 1882. Our train went through 34 miles of tunnels, the longest tunnel being nine miles. On my return from Italy I came by the Mt. Cenis route through the Alps. This tunnel is only eight miles long, begun 1857 and completed 1870 at a cost of \$15,000,000. At the time, it was considered a piece of engineering skill, but was then far less than the shade of the more recent route by the way of the St. Gothard Pass, which, for bold engineering, undoubtedly has no equal in the world. Five times the road enters a mountain, and making a complete spiral circuit, emerges directly above the entrance. And several times, on looking out of the window, I saw two, and sometimes three, tracks away down the mountain side, one far below another, and all neatly parallel, and which we had passed over within an hour. And though we had gone many miles, we were still no nearer Italy than we were an hour before, but only a little farther up and nearer the snow and ice. In one place the road makes eighty zigzags and gains only three miles actual distance, and during these three miles the train is exposed to mighty avalanches that seemed only hanging a few thousand feet over our heads. And what surprised me much was that during no small part of this half-day's passage of the Alps, I could see beautiful lakes, beautiful and fertile fields, beautiful gardens, beautiful groves of cherry trees loaded with fruit just as luscious as I had seen not long before in such abundance in England and Holland; beautiful little villages, beautiful little churches, thrifty and intelligent looking people. And I realized that I was in the land of William Tell, there was another charm added to the majestic and untamed grandeur of this magnificent scenery. And what historic spots I saw! About two hours' ride beyond Lucerne, on the shore of the Lake of Uri, a pyramid-shaped rock rises 80 feet above the water. It is identified as a monument to Schiller. A mile beyond this is a spot very sacred to the Swiss, from the fact that on November 7, 1807, three patriots met, and took the oath of their country's freedom from Austrian oppression. Not far away, as I looked out of the car-window at my right, I saw far down a broad hill-side and across a lake

a pretty church, with tower and tall spire, standing at the very water's edge. This is known as "Tell's chapel," said to have been erected 1388, marking the spot where the hero leaped ashore from Gessler's boat. A short distance from the railway on our left is the village of Altorf, containing Tell's statue, standing on the spot where it is said he shot the apple from his son's head. About nine miles beyond is Amsteg, and other little villages. We have now reached the great St. Gothard Pass only fairly by-passed. For the next 70 miles of the road towards Milan and the beautiful Italian plains, we passed many battle fields, one of which is near Lat Coman, where Emperor Frederick Barbarossa was defeated May 29, 1176. And during most of this journey the beauty and grandeur of the scenery surpasses description. A score of times, on coming to a view of the mountain tops pointing above the clouds, I could appreciate the words of Tell to his native mountains: "Ye crags and peaks, I'm with you once again; you are my friends, my heads, how proud you are." At seven o'clock in the evening we arrived at Milan, a city having a population of 400,000. It was founded 600 B. C., and some of the oldest remains of its ancient greatness made it the seat of empire. Five popes were born here, and Virgil, born at Mantua, not far away, studied here. In 1162 Frederick Barbarossa, of Germany, totally destroyed the city, but it was rebuilt, and was so prosperous that in 1500, though strictly speaking it is not finished yet, for every year statues are added to the outside and inside. It is 480 feet long, 183 feet wide, height of vaulting 155 feet, and contains 98 Gothic turrets or small towers. About the roof are 3,400 marble statues of "saints" and "heroes"—many of them two or three times life size. There are several thousands of statues in the "saints" inside. The floor is marble mosaic. The roof is supported by 52 columns, each from eight to twelve feet in diameter. Down beneath the choir is a small subterranean passage, and from it a beautiful passage way leads to the chapel of Saint Carlo Borromeo. Here this saint—who died 300 years ago—lies in a silver casket. Diamonds and other jewels, in costly settings, adorn the body, to the value of \$80,000, and about \$200,000, all the gifts of devoted Catholics. As the attendant, with great reverence for the dead, lifted the upper half of the silver casket, the skeleton of Saint Carlo and the jewels appeared. The wonderful marble roof—nearly flat—of the cathedral is reached by 394 stone steps, and the view is fine—thriving cities and extensive plains. Far away in one direction is Mt. St. Bernard, 8,100 feet high. In another direction is the Matterhorn, 14,705 feet high. And above these the eye meets the snowy grandeur of the monarch of mountains, Mt. Blanc, 15,781 feet high. After a friend and myself had wandered a while over the roof, we concluded to descend, but could not find the way out. We went this way and that in search of the place whence we came. We were literally lost in the mazes of forest mazes. Finally, I was found, two men repairing the roof, a statue, who, seeing our plight, kindly led us out of the woods. Several other places of great interest in Milan must pass by. I was exceedingly surprised to observe such thrift in the farming districts of Italy. When I saw the extensive plains and the richness of her soil, I understood how she had supported such dense populations since before the days of the Romans. I was in Northern Italy when the last of the wheat harvest was being stored, and the crop was excellent. Other grains were produced in abundance. From Milan to Venice, 125 miles, there is one beautiful plain of immense fertility and productiveness. As far as the eye could see, to the right and to the left, grains and roots grew luxuriantly right among the thousands of acres of Malbury groves, the latter cultivated for the silk worm. In Southern Italy the oranges, lemons, peaches, to say nothing of the vineyards, bring large returns for labor expended. The farmers, every few years, plow very deep and turn up new earth. I frequently saw teams of four oxen, and a few times of six, drawing huge plows through the rich, deep soil. Of the hundreds of cattle I saw in Italy, all were white. If there were other colors I did not see them. I noticed that the Italian farmers pay little attention to raising superior breeds of horses and cattle as compared with the farmers of England, or even Holland. The Italian horses are neither handsome nor speedy, but have great endurance. Their food consists mostly of grain, very little hay. Owing to the light rain-fall in July and August, the grazing lands are poor, and hence the cattle look plumped. For a period of 1400 years, as everybody knows, Italy suffered untold woes, not only from internal strife but from other European powers, without her up, and paroled her out, and robbed her of her treasures, to suit their own selfish ends. But the end of robbery (French robbery, at least) and despotic tyranny came in 1871, when Napoleon III, withdrew his troops from Rome, being pressed so hotly by the Prussians at home. It is now about 32 years since the unification of Italy commenced; and when she set about freeing herself from her despots she lacked many of the requirements of modern civilization, such as good public roads, ports adapted to modern shipping, common schools, railways and telegraphs. And in 1860, when the consolidation of the kingdom began, there were no schools, in several of the provinces, and these were inferior indeed. In Milan, in Venice and in Rome I talked with intelligent men and asked them many questions concerning their government. They answered me as to their relation to other European powers, particularly Austria and Germany. As we view Italy from the pages of history, from 500 to 1860, who could have dreamed of a kingdom so united today? G. E. T.

In Memory of Miss Sarah Meagher, Dartmouth, N. S. Recent letters from my old home in Nova Scotia bring me the sad news of the death of one to whom has been ministered the "abundant entrance" into the better land. I refer to Miss Sarah Meagher, of Dartmouth, who triumphantly finished her course during the first month of the past year, and most imminently the "fulfillment of joy" and the "pleasures forevermore." My acquaintance with Miss Meagher runs back to the days of my earliest boyhood; during much of this time it was my privilege to know her intimately, as we were members of the same church. In all this time her life has been an inspiration to all who knew her, through its consistency and earnest devotion. As I sit by my table and read the long and most intimate acquaintance, there comes to me so forcibly her harmonious life united in her life the "inner life" of faith and the outer life of "Christian activity"—something not apparent to the eyes of all God's children. With such ardent longing she sought the "living water" which met and satisfied her own needs; with such manifest joy she drew from the "wells of salvation" for the needs of her fellow-men. As I sit here there comes to me a certain Sunday afternoon, now nearly twenty years ago, when as a little boy I accompanied her, at her request, to a distant and needy part of our church to organize a Sunday school. The day was stormy and the walk by no means easy; at that season, but she felt the field was ready for the "imperishable seed of the Word," so she went. We found, perhaps, ten or twelve waiting in the little cold and cheerless school house, but on that day there was started a Sunday school which all these years has continued and is to-day in a prosperous condition, boasting now of a snug and convenient building and the regular ministrations of the gospel. Miss Meagher's eye was always open to such opportunities as these, which never appealed to her sympathy in vain. 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