

The Rockwood Review.

There is much in this old town that is extremely interesting. Here for instance Luther preached in some of the churches, which are yet in a good state of preservation. We have heard grand concerts in one of them, in which Bach was for many years Cantor, and much of his music is still rendered there. It has a memorial window to each of these great men.

Here Mendelssohn for long conducted the old Gervandhaus Concerts, Wagner was born here, Schiller lived here, Goethe got some of his inspiration for writing Faust in an underground room here, which contains frescoes of his time, and a mighty barrel for beer hundreds of years old.

But rapid changes are taking place, new buildings are going up. So great was the change from the time M—— was here before, that he scarcely knew the place at all. The old town that was formerly fortified, and had a wall round it, forms now the centre part of a much larger portion. The walls were removed, and a beautiful wide promenade two miles long now encircles the old town. The old fortress and castle have been mostly torn down since we came here to make room for fine buildings. The town still stands, and it is hoped may be allowed to remain. For hundreds of years, and until the railways, telegraphs, &c., were in use, Leipzig was noted for its annual Fairs, to which merchants and people from all parts of Germany, Russia and other places brought their furs, crockery, cloth, etc., to be sold, and great trading was carried on. These fairs still survive, but they have degenerated. Many side-shows, circuses, etc., fill up the empty places, and the quality of the wares are much inferior. Still we saw what they were like, as one has been held during the past three weeks. All the principal squares in the city were filled with temporary wooden structures, which looked as if they might have been

used for the same purpose for 50 years back, and probably they have for wood is scarce and costly, and after the fair was over they were carefully taken apart and carried away. The letting of these places brings quite a little revenue to the city. There was a great display of crockery and glassware of every description, but chiefly such as were for common use. Then woollen goods, stockings, prints, lace braids, buttons, jewellery, toys, etc., in endless variety. Booths with candy, cake and especially hot sausages and rolls, were also without number. During the whole three weeks we never saw a person intoxicated, or in the least way noisy, though often the streets and squares were crowded with people. Thousands came in from the country, especially on Sunday, which is counted one of the best Fair days. After the morning church service, all the stores were opened, and there was no appearance of Sunday in the city except in the holiday dress of the people. At a certain hour in the evening every place was closed, and perfect quiet prevailed.

We are pleased to see the squares free and clean again. They have been thoroughly swept and covered with fresh gravel. The perfect order that prevails in every large gathering always impresses us. M—— went to see bicycle races yesterday, and he says there were probably 10,000 spectators, but there was no more confusion or inconvenience than if there had been only 200. People delight in walking—that is their recreation on Sunday afternoon and holidays. Thousands upon thousands wend their way into the distant parks and out into the country, often whole families together. At the concerts and theatres there is no display, the plainest dressed person and even the very poor may go without attracting any notice, and many of the best foreigners take the cheapest seats without feeling their pride in any way touched.