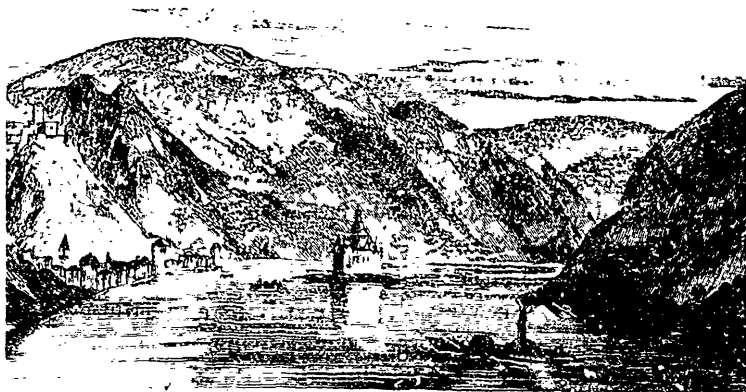


## ON THE RHINE.

BY THE EDITOR.



VIEW OF THE RHINE AND PFALZ CASTLE.

THE storied Rhine, the theme of song and legend, is one of the principal rivers of Europe. Born high up among the Lepontine Alps, in the Swiss Canton of Grison, it reaches the sea after a devious course of eight hundred miles. Although its source is eight hundred feet above the sea level, it descends half that distance as a brawling mountain torrent in the first twelve miles. In its latest stages it creeps sluggishly along in five divergent channels through the lowlands and sand dunes of Holland. It is not unlike some generous youth who exhausts his energies in impetuous early struggles and then sinks into an inglorious and sluggish old age.

The scenery of the Upper Rhine is of the grandest and sublimest description. Huge mountains of the St. Gothard group lift their snow-crowned peaks into the skies, and doff not their white caps even to the regal sun himself. The cut on the opposite page gives an example of the mountain grandeur and mountain gloom of these Alpine fastnesses. The steep cliffs rise abruptly from the water side, their summits wrapped in clouds and mist; the lower slopes afford nutritious pasture for the cattle, sheep and goats. Sometimes the cows climb so high that they do not seem much larger than mice. One marvels how