

The "*Landgrafenhaus*," as the chief structure raised by Ludwig is called, is of Romanesque or Byzantine architecture, and its first and second stories have probably undergone little alteration since their erection. Of small dimensions, according to modern ideas, its style is both elegant and interesting; the light and graceful stone arcades facing each story, as seen from the inner court, and now freed from the whitewash and clumsy brickwork by which for centuries they were defaced, being specially attractive. Of the interior, the second story is perhaps the most fascinating part, with its legends of the "*Minnesingers*" and their fabulous tournament of song, and its truthful and most pathetic memories of one of the fairest and best of womankind.

By an outer stair from the court, and through a small guard-room, the "*Landgrafenzimmer*," on the second story, is approached—a handsome apartment, whose fittings reproduce faithfully, as far as research and expense can accomplish this end, the presence-chamber of a mediæval prince. The spirited frescoes by the late highly gifted Professor Von Schwind, which now adorn its ancient walls, represent important events in the history of the Landgraves of Thuringia. *En suite* with this reception-room is the Minstrel's Hall, now beautified and enriched with exquisite painting and sculpture. The taste and genius, not to mention the research and learning, applied to the selection or invention of symbolical and suggestive designs and mottoes for this apartment, and, in truth, for the whole palace, cannot fail to impress even the uninitiated beholder; while to some minds these embellishments form in themselves an engrossing theme of study.

The Gallery of St. Elizabeth conducts us to the Chapel of the Wartburg, a vaulted apartment of the palace, long disfigured by whitewash and bizarre decorations of the seventeenth century, but now rejoicing in all its pristine beauty. The windows are filled with stained glass of great antiquity: a fresco of the fourteenth century on one of the walls is liberated from a coating of whitewash, probably applied by Reformers of greater zeal than discretion; while some Latin inscriptions on the walls are replaced by texts of Scripture in German, taken from the list of passages appointed to adorn the interior of churches by

MARTIN LUTHER,

whose sojourn within the walls of the Wartburg—time-worn even in his day—constitute its highest glory. Often must the little chapel have rung with his mighty voice; yet the chief interest is centred in the room once allotted to the Reformer in the "*Ritterhaus*," a quaint building of the fifteenth century, used for the accommodation of knights and squires in the palmy days of the fortress, and situated in the outer court, adjoining the first gateway. The details of Luther's detention at the Wartburg are so well known as to require only very brief recapitulation here. Having been summoned to appear at the Diet of Worms, Luther arrived there on the 16th of April, 1521, confronted his foes with his usual dauntless spirit, and put them to shame by the admirable prudence and energy with which he defended his cause. None of his opponents could gainsay him; the order to retract he set at nought, and was consequently obliged to leave Worms on the 26th of April. Meanwhile the strenuous efforts of the Romanists to destroy Luther moved the Elector Frederick the Wise of Saxony, whose dominions comprised Eisenach and the Wartburg, to interfere for the protection of his illustrious subject. Thus it happened that on the 4th of May, at Altenstein, four hours' ride from Eisenach, Luther was intercepted in his homeward journey by a band of horsemen, commanded by two knights in disguise, one of these being the Governor of the Wartburg. Luther, whenever these feigned foes had secured him, was hurried away to the Wartburg, where the room his memory has made famous was assigned to him, while two pages had orders to wait upon him. Here, wearing the dress of a knight, and under the designation of "*Ritter Georg*," he found a sure defence from his foes, and enjoyed the most generous hospitality. As, for his further safety, few visitors gained