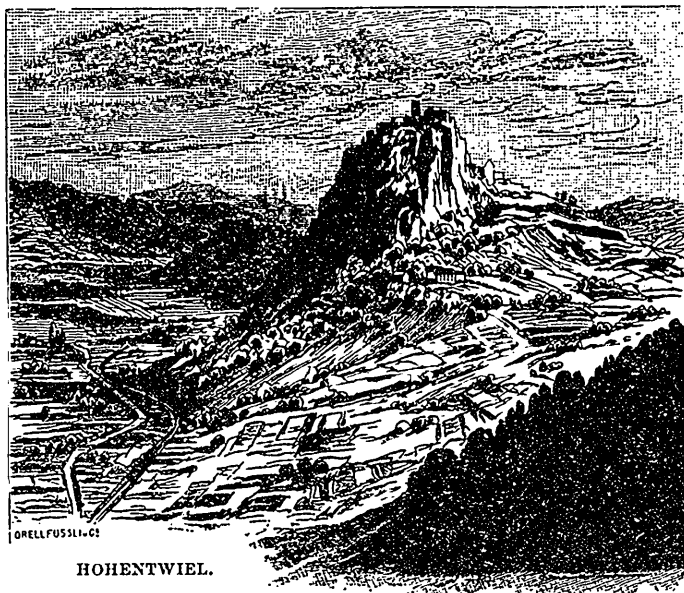


domain. Several times aggressive travellers, taking no heed of the placard reserving the car, attempted to enter. But one glance at the document was sufficient to make them promptly retreat. One particularly aggressive individual, who was very near-sighted, attempted to force his way into the car with a great bundle of belongings. As for my letter, he would take no notice of it till I insisted on his reading it, when, with most profound apologies, he instantly withdrew.

The wild mountain region, through which we were about to travel—the famous Schwarzwald of German song and story—is a



HOHENTWIEL.

portion of the old Hercynian Forest, which once covered a great part of Central Europe, and later was known as the Swabian Land. Its grandest passes are now traversed by the Black Forest Railway, one of the finest engineering works in Europe. The line reaches its greatest elevation at the first station in the basin of the Danube—Sommerau. Here it is 2729 feet above the level of the sea. Thirty-eight tunnels and 142 bridges follow each other in rapid succession. It was necessary in several places to change the bed of the Danube.

Dr. Hardmeyer, whose monograph on this subject we shall frequently quote, thus rhapsodizes over the engineering achievements:

“Near Hornberg the mountains present so firm and unyielding a front,