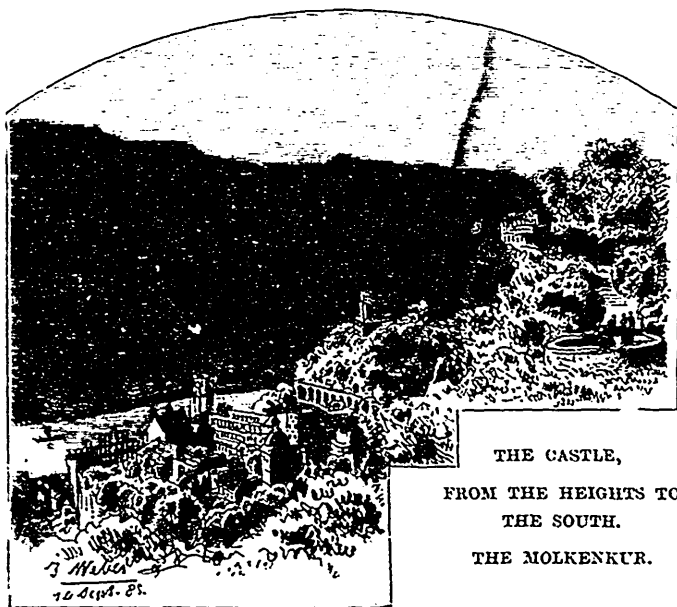


French. One-half of its cliff-like wall, twenty-one feet in thickness, fell into the moat, and, after two hundred years, still lies an unbroken mass. On the ruined "Elizabeth Tower," built for the daughter of James I. of England, grows a tall linden, and in her bridal chamber the swallows make their nests. An air of desolation mantles over all.

The historian Ranke writes thus of this vandalism of his most Christian Majesty Louis XIV.: "Like Spires, so too, Worms, Mannheim and Heidelberg were given over to destruction—the castles and villages, the battlements of the walls and the burghers' dwellings, the council-houses and cathedrals, the bridges arching



the rivers, the tombs of the ancient emperors, the possessions of the living generation and the monuments of the past—priceless in this ancient land of culture.

"Upon the news of the destruction of Heidelberg Louis XIV. caused a solemn *Te Deum* to be sung, and a medal to be struck bearing his own effigy and the inscription '*Rex christianissimus*'; the reverse showed Heidelberg in flames, with the legend '*Heidelberg deleta, 1693.*' It would seem almost like a divine retribution that, exactly one hundred years later, similar outrages were perpetrated upon the royal tombs at St. Denis."

In an old gallery is preserved a collection of historic portraits, relics and antique furniture, china, embroidery, ornaments and weapons of former inmates of the castle. I was specially in-