

lections of which form part of an article begun in 1851 for "The Home Book of the Picturesque," afterwards thrown aside to give place to "The Kaatskill Mountains." In 1802 he became a law-clerk in the office of Josiah Ogden Hoffman, with whose delightful family he formed a lasting intimacy. Soon after this Mr. Irving's health became impaired, and he showed a consumptive tendency which alarmed his friends. In spite of this he began a series of contributions to *The Morning Chronicle*, a daily paper, owned and edited by his brother Peter. These letters were in a humorous vein, and signed "Jonathan Oldstyle." During the following two or three years he spent much time in excursions up the valleys of the Hudson and the Mohawk, and journeys to Montreal, Quebec, Saratoga Springs, and Ogdensburg.

On account of Mr. Irving's delicate health, when he came of age his brothers resolved to send him to Europe at their expense. Accordingly he engaged passage for Bordeaux in May, 1804. After spending six weeks in Bordeaux, he started for the Mediterranean, in company with a young French officer and an eccentric American doctor. An amusing story is told of his stop at Tonneins on the Garonne.

They entered a house where a number of girls were quilting. He could not understand their dialect, but that made no difference. They laughed and joked, and one of them put a needle into his hands and made him go to work. The doctor informed them that Irving was an English prisoner whom the French officer had in charge. Their kind hearts melted: "Poor fellow," said they, "yet he is merry in spite of his troubles." "What will they do with him?" asked one of them.

"Oh, nothing of consequence," replied the doctor; "perhaps shoot him or cut off his head."

The young French girls were really distressed at such a