

Hausmann's design, as to be commanded by cannon from these strategic points. On either side of these streets rise uniform blocks and wedges of houses, of cream-coloured stone—five, six, or seven stories high, with iron balconies and bright shop fronts. Many of the boulevards are lined with noble trees, giving a refreshing shade and coolness amid the glare and heat of the city. Many of them are also paved with concrete or asphalt, which has the double advantage of being noiseless and of furnishing poor material for the erection of barricades—the favourite amusement of the Parisians in times of political excitement. At night the streets are brilliant with light—electric lamps, glowing like mimic suns; the cafés ablaze with gas, and occupying with their little round tables half of the broad sidewalks; and the numerous shops flashing with jewellery or glowing with costly fabrics.

Oh! those shops—“the ladies' paradise, but the husband's purgatory”—as the guide called them. The ladies of the party fairly revelled in the dear delight—dear in a double sense—of shopping. The brilliant display always makes me think how many things there are I did not want.

PARIS, FROM PONT ROYAL.

