

views. Three huge rocks rise in mid-stream, against which the furious river wreaks its rage. Ruskin goes into raptures over this



NEAR THE SOURCE OF THE RHINE.

beautiful fall. He ought to see Niagara. The old town of Schaffhausen, with its castle and minster dating from 1104, and odd

architecture, is exceedingly picturesque.

From Kaiserstuhl to Basle, the river makes so many twists and turns that it almost trebles the distance from the Lake of Constance to the last-named city. Along this stretch it receives several tributaries, the most important being the Aar, which, with its accretions, drains the Bernese Oberland and all the larger Swiss lakes except that of Geneva.

At Basle the Rhine turns to the north. Instead of rushing along over jagged rocks and through narrow ravines, it broadens out and, becoming shallow, divides so as to form numerous islands. Navigation is resumed at Basle, from which point it extends uninterruptedly to the sea. Owing to modern engineering, which has forced its waters into straighter, narrower channels, towns which formerly stood on the Rhine are now connected with it only by canals.

Basle, a thriving town of 45,000 inhabitants, has played an important part in Reformation annals. It is mentioned in 374 as Basilea—hence its name. The minster, founded in 1010, a huge structure of red granite, is one of the finest Protestant churches in Europe. In a quaint relief of the Last Judgment, the risen dead—stiff archaic figures—are naively shown putting on their resurrection garments. Here was held the great Council of Basle, lasting from 1431 to 1448; and here is buried the great Reformer, Ecolampadius, whose fine statue, with a Bible in its hand, stands in the square without. In the Council Hall are frescoes of Holbein's famous Dance of Death, like that at Lucerne. Kings, popes, emperors, lawyers and doctors, lords and ladies, are all compelled to dance a measure with the grim skeleton, Death.

In the museum is a large mechanical head, which, till 1839, stood