

rising rapidly, spread the flames, till the blaze became universal. Fearful, indeed, was the tumult, amid clouds of smoke, heaps of dead bodies, the clash of swords, the crash of falling ruins, and streams of blood. The atmosphere glowed; and the intolerable heat forced at last even the murderers to take refuge in their camp. In less than twelve hours, this strong, populous, and flourishing city, one of the finest in Germany, was reduced to ashes, with the exception of two churches and a few houses. The Administrator, Christian William, after receiving several wounds, was taken prisoner, with three of the burgomasters; most of the officers and magistrates had already met an enviable death.

Scarcely had the fury of the flames abated, when the Imperialists returned to renew the pillage amid the ruins and ashes of the town. Many were suffocated by the smoke; many found rich booty in the cellars, where the citizens had concealed their more valuable effects. On the 13th of May, Tilly himself appeared in the town, after the streets had been cleared of ashes and dead bodies. Horrible and revolting to humanity was the scene that presented itself. The living crawling from under the dead; children wandering about with heart-rending cries, calling for their parents; and infants still sucking the breasts of their lifeless mothers. More than 6,000 bodies were thrown into the Elbe to clear the streets; a much greater number had been consumed by the flames. The whole number of the slain was reckoned at not less than 30,000.

The entrance of the general, which took place on the 14th, put a stop to the plunder, and saved the few who had hitherto contrived to escape. About a thousand people were taken out of the cathedral, where they had remained three days and two nights, without food, and in momentary fear

of death. Tilly promised them quarter, and commanded bread to be distributed among them. *The next day, a solemn mass was performed in the cathedral, and *Te Deum* sung amidst the discharge of artillery. The imperial general rode through the streets, that he might be able, as an eye-witness, to inform his master that no such conquest had been made since the destruction of Troy and Jerusalem. Nor was this an exaggeration, whether we consider the greatness, importance, and prosperity of the city razed, or the fury of its ravagers.—Schiller's "*Thirty Years' War*."

The Canal of Xerxes through the Isthmus of Mount Athos.

That this work was ever undertaken has been repeatedly denied. The credibility of the ancient historian, Herodotus, has in consequence been called in question. The veracity of the "father of history" has, however, been recently proved beyond a doubt.

In a paper read, March, 1846, before the Geographical Society, Lieut. Spratt, R. N., gives the following account of an accurate survey of the isthmus. "The central part of the isthmus," says he, "through which the canal was cut, is hilly, and from the uncertainty which must have existed as to the nature of these hills and the obstacles they might oppose, we learn to estimate the boldness of the monarch's design. That part of the isthmus through which the canal is cut, is a bed of tertiary sands and marls; so that this work of the Persian king, so extolled by ancient authors, is insignificant, compared to many works of the present day.—Evidences of the work are still to be seen in different places, more particularly towards the centre of the isthmus, where there is a succession of swampy hollows which run in nearly a straight line across, and are from 2 to 8 feet deep, and from 60