

hearty adoption of Protestantism with its liberal and progressive ideas, assisted in sustaining the prosperity of the city, until partly



OLD TOWERS, NUREMBERG.

through the opening of other routes for commerce, but chiefly through the calamities of the Thirty Years' War, there ensued a period of decline. Of late, however, the activity and success of Nurembergers have more than revived; their city is now known as the "toy-shop of Europe;" and the suburbs abound in large and prosperous manufactories. The railway-carriage works employ nearly four thousand men; while Nuremberg seems the European centre for stationery of every kind,

for wood-carvings and for fancy articles generally. It is stated that the lead pencils manufactured here amount to more than two hundred millions annually!

Longfellow thus sums up, in musical verse, many of the stirring memories of the grand old town:—

In the valley of the Pegnitz, where across broad meadow-lands
Rise the blue Franconian Mountains, Nuremberg, the ancient, stands.

Quaint old town of toil and traffic, quaint old town of art and song,
Memories haunt thy pointed gables, like the rooks around them throng;

Memories of the Middle Ages, when the emperors, rough and bold,
Had their dwellings in thy castle, time-defying, centuries old;

And thy brave and thrifty burghers boasted in their uncouth rhyme,*
That their great imperial city stretched its hand through every clime.

In the court-yard of the castle, bound with many an iron band,
Stands the mighty linden planted by Queen's Cunigunde's hand:

* An old popular proverb of the town runs thus:—

*"Nurnberg's Hand
Geht durch alle Land."*

*"Nuremberg's hand
Goes through every land."*