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THE WARTBURG.

There is, perhaps, no country richer than Germany in famous fortresses and palaces, both mediæval and modern; and assuredly no land can boast of a people possessing a nobler vein of patriotic feeling, or habits of thought better fitted to appreciate the numerous touching and inspiring associations clinging to tower and keep. And very frequently these abodes of strength and beauty have exercised their elevating influence on visitors from afar, awakening and strengthening loving reverence for the faith and heroism which have rendered not a few of these edifices hallowed ground.

It is scarcely necessary to observe that the Rhine castles, about which so much has been said and sung, do not monopolize these historic glories and ennobling influences, since, more or less, every part of Germany presents some similar claim to honourable mention; and none holds a stronger one than the pleasant, forest-clad land of Thuringia, with its numerous little cities of quaint, time-worn architecture, and usually crowned by "Burg," or "Schloss," of ancient or modern renown. There is Gotha, dominated by its massive *Friedenstein*, a huge edifice built by the noble-minded Duke Ernest the Pious, at the close of the Thirty Years' War, the immediate object of its erection being to give bread to a people reduced by the protracted strife to starvation-point. This palace, imposing by reason of its grand dimensions and commanding site, though not specially distinguished by elegance of design, is still held in high esteem for its godly and beneficent founder's sake; while its extensive and beautiful grounds must be dear to the good and true everywhere as the beloved scene of the boyish sports and studies of Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Then, near the southern boundary of Thuringia, the far more ancient and picturesque Castle of Coburg—still in excellent preservation—overlooks the city of the same name. This is the "sure stronghold" where Luther, finding for a season safety and repose, conferred on the Church a precious and abiding boon, by penning his famous version of Psalm xli. : "*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott.*"

Nor should the fine modern Palace of Weimar be overlooked, resplendent