



THE MOUSE TOWER ON THE RHINE.

only by a narrow path. It is the Vautsberg of Longfellow's "Golden Legend." The poet's lines vividly photograph the view of the Rhine Valley from its crumbling ramparts:

Yes, there it flows, for ever, broad and still,
As when the vanguard of the Roman legions
First saw it from the top of yonder hill!
How beautiful it is! Fresh fields of wheat,
Vineyard, and town, and tower with fluttering flag,

The consecrated chapel on the crag,
And the white hamlet gathered round its base,

Like Mary sitting at her Saviour's feet
And looking up at His beloved face!

The Falkenburg, a famous marauders' castle, was besieged by the Emperor Rudolph in the 13th century, and all its robber knights hanged from its walls. Near by is a chapel, built to secure the repose of their souls. The picturesque castle of Nollach frowns down from a height of 600 feet, whose steep slope the knight of Lorch, according to legend, scaled on horseback, by the aid of the mountain sprites, to win the hand of his lady love. The name, Hungry Wolf, of one of

these grim old strongholds, is significant of its ancient rapacity. So impregnable was the castle of Stahleck, that during the Thirty Years' War it withstood eighty distinct sieges. Pfalz is a strange hexagonal, many-turreted ancient toll-house, in mid stream, surmounted by a pentagonal tower, and loop-holed in every direction. Its single entrance is reached by a ladder from the rock on which it stands.

The Lurlie Rock is a high and jutting cliff, on which is the profile of a human face. Here dwelt the lovely siren of German song and story, who, singing her fateful song and combing her golden hair, lured mariners to their ruin in the rapids at her feet. Two cannon on deck were fired off, and woke the wild echoes of the rock, which reverberated like thunder adown the rocky gorge. According to a voracious legend, the Niebelungen treasure is buried beneath the Lurlenberg, if the gnomes, offended at the railway tunnel through their ancient domain, have not carried it off. The fair daughters of the