

base of the mountain. On my immediate right flowed the Lahn to join the Rhine on my immediate left. Directly opposite the castle rose the *Allerheiligenberg* with its pilgrimage chapel. At the confluence of the Lahn and Rhine could be seen the Romanesque Church of St. John, and beyond it Niederlahnstein; farther down the river the Island of *Oberwerth* with its large dwelling house—once a convent; in the background the conspicuous fortress of Ehrenbreitstein; opposite to it Fort Constantine, and between them Coblenz. Seldom have human eyes surveyed a more charming scene. Scarcely a single object necessary to the perfect landscape was wanting. And to crown the whole, jutting headland and river, convent and castle, city and fortress were suffused and transfigured in the mellow splendor of the setting sun.

About seven in the evening we arrived at  
BINGEN.

The beautiful poem of Caroline Norton, called "Bingen on the Rhine," in which she gives touching expression to the thoughts of the German soldier dying far from friends and home, had made me interested beforehand in this place. Our stay here, however, was very short. After a hasty inspection of the chapel of St. Roch, whose August festival is so charmingly described by Goethe, we got on board the cars for

#### FRANKFORT ON THE MAIN,

twenty miles further on; or, as might be said, *Frankfort on the Rhine*, for it is situated at the confluence of these two rivers. Frankfort dates from the time of Charlemagne. In 794 that emperor held a convocation of bishops and dignitaries of the empire in the royal residence from which the city takes its name ('*Franconofort*'—ford of the Franks). Louis the Pious granted the town certain privileges in 822, and from the time of Louis the German, who frequently resided here, it gradually rose to importance. At the present time it is a city of great wealth and of extensive commercial relations, the head House of the Rothschilds being here.

The principal attractions of the city to the tourist are the monuments of Gutenberg, Goethe, and Schiller, the Kaisersaal, Dannecker's Ariadne, and the Palm Garden. Our comparatively short stay in the city—for we were hurrying onward to Leipzig,—forbade us giving as much attention to these several objects as we wished to give them, but my own desires in this respect were gratified on two subsequent occasions, when I passed through the city to and from Paris.

#### THE MONUMENT OF GUTENBERG,

almost the first object which arrests the eye on entering the town from the Railway station, is very fine. It was erected in 1858, and consists of a galvano-plastic group on a sandstone pedestal. The central figure with the types in the left hand is Gutenberg, on his right Fust, on his left Schoffer. On the frieze are portrait-heads of thirteen celebrated printers, with Caxton the Englishman among them. In the four niches beneath are the arms of the four towns where printing was first practiced, namely, Mainz, Frankfort, Venice, and Strassburg. On four separate pedestals are Theology, Poetry, Natural Science, and Industry. The heads of four animals, which serve as water-spouts, indicate the four quarters of the globe and the universal diffusion of the invention. How great the indebtedness of the world to the art of printing, and what astonishing improvement has been made in it since Gutenberg's day! He used none but wooden or cut metal types, and the earliest printed edition of the Bible which appeared in 1450 took seven or eight years for its completion. Now the London *Times* is so rapidly set up and issued that speeches delivered on the evening of one day in the House of Commons may be read at the breakfast tables of the people on the morning of the next day.

There is reason, however, to suspect that the multiplication of books becomes a means of tempting not a few persons to read too much and consequently, to think too little. If fewer books were read, and of those read, if more were thoroughly digested, there