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Ragatz - June 27th. '59 - 1288.

country or old Briida or the west. But you never see waste places, or where it does not look as if people had lived for years & years. Sometimes there are quite large woods, & you never see any enclosure without many trees of pines; then there great fields of grain or grass, or carefully cultivated vegetables, stretching away without fence or boundary. The carriage roads often shaded by rows of trees. If there are cattle or sheep or flocks, a boy or girl herds them. Some of the houses might be old New-England farm-houses, with white walls & red roofs (only the roofs are tiles,) & others are all roof, breaking out into little gables, that open in little eyes all over them. Sometimes a church-tower has a taper, familiar spire, then it runs up a stodigued tall, square tower ending in a sharp pointed ridged roof.  or else it is a tower with a huge, round bulb. There are fewer scattered houses than at home, a great many more villages; not many have some large houses. And some villages are so drolly like the towns of wooden tops, with cottage, & farm-house, big barn, & grand house, & church with its steeple on its roof, & trees, either locusts trimmed into little balls, or Lombardy poplars in stiff rows, that one can't look at them without laughing. Katherine is perpetually amazed to find what she supposed in her child-hood the romance of manners, actual, living fact. The German rail-roads, I must say, partakes of the character of the German language, & instead of running

My dear Sue,

We reached Nuremberg from Augsburg at 12^{1/2}. Dr. Gray & the girls that to try experimentally one of the And. Class H. C., thinking to try some truly German experiences, but instead of finding anything really old-fashioned & peculiar, they hit only on a sort of commercial travellers inn. One chief difference to my mind, from the more pretentious hotels, was the want of neatness, which as I must stay so much in my room, makes an objection to me, that they don't feel. So I do not recommend "Die Ritter Hahn" to other visitors to Nuremberg. The old town is interesting & curious, surrounded by a wall with many towers, some large round ones chiefly noticeable as being designed by Albert Dürer. I did not think it so attractive as Augsburg, that was more quiet & statelier. Nuremberg had a deal of modern bustle & business about its steep streets & old & new houses. But Dr. Gray said that I did not see the best part of the town or more stately streets. We took a carriage in the afternoon & drove first to the Cathedral, with a beautiful Gothic porch. Inside not so striking, though St. Sebald's where there is a most wonderful elaborate bronze canopy of some old tomb of the 16th. century ^{that tomb of St. Sebald}. Outside in the Sp.

a fountain below,

is a fine, Gothic monument, spire-like, that puts one
in mind of the Martyrs' Memorial at Oxford. And
in another place was a droll little fountain of a
boy with a fish under each arm, each fish spouting
water! Both surrounded by these beautiful hand-
 wrought iron railings, where the junctions are welded
links, or one bar passed through a hole in another, or
so, so elastic you can shake the whole like chain and
move — These railings are not uncommon, & often of
beautiful & elaborate designs. Then we went to a
little chapel, serving now as a picture gallery for some
of the oldest German painters — Colors brilliant & won-
derful, but not so interesting in subject or treatment
as many we have seen — There were two very neat little
portraits of a painter & his wife by himself, an artist
whose name was new to me & yet which interested you
at once in him also, & a very ugly picture of an old man
with a very pleased expression ^{at}, embracing a very smirking & not at all pretty young lady, who
& represent a man of 54, who married the youngest of six
sisters, she not 19, & chose therefore to be painted — And
their house, very grand for the 16th. century, was pointed out
on the corner opposite, where their descendants still live —
We went to see Albert Dürer's house, an old brown building,
& the rest went in to see the rooms he had lived in — Then
we went to see the handsome ¹⁰⁵ Fisch's house, off out to

see the courtyard inside, very handsome, with such
a fine, winding stone-stair-case, tower-like in the
corner — The houses have their slanting roofs to the street,
instead of the flat, as Augsburg, & all sorts of dormer
windows, generally ending in a little, peaked spire —
Especially a large square one in the middle, which is
often quite ornate — And as we saw those had generally
shutters instead of windows, & saw out of many a pulley
& a basket, & haul up the wood cutting up in the street
below, we came to the conclusion they used these steps
also as cellars, & store wood, etc. The garrets are generally
of many stories, as you see by the rows of little, square
key-holes — Our hotel was close by St. Lawrence Church,
& I could see the spire & rich Eastern door from my
window — After I have done all I can, Dr. Gray & the girls
desert me, & then "prowl", as they call it, exploring all
sorts of odd works & corners, & finding fine things & queer
things — In Nuremberg, of course, they must get toys — But
they only found a good toy-shop just as they left next
morning — We started at 12 for Chemnitz, where we were
to stop & sleep as well & have quite so long a pull to
Dresden — The country in Germany has surprised me
by its richness & cultivation — I should say that was the
great distinction between it & U. S. — Open valleys, rolling
hills, or rich plains, would make us think of Worcester

place & school, & again near Parsony, where is the Repository for Booksellers - We got to Dresden at 4 & found Charles Duran at the Hotel Bellevue waiting for us - He has established himself in a German family at Cassel, & learns German, before trying any medical lectures, & is quite away from any possibility of English speaking - He came to Dresden to see Lippig, & stayed until Tuesday morn, at a quiet little inn. But we went to the Bellevue, partly for its situation, for it is one side on the river & the other on a quiet street, and I got so tired with the continual noise over those stone pavements - Our rooms looked out on the street & from Prof. & Weber's statue, & the Theatre of picture gallery just beyond full before me -

I was very tired, so I kept quiet Sunday, except towards evening a little walk on the Brühl terrace, a sort of mall raised high above the river on the edge of the river, & where people were sitting at tables drinking coffee & beer, or eating ices - It was one of the few warm days we have had - Monday morn. Katherine & I went shopping; I was quite disappointed not to find things cheaper, but they say English & Americans have spoiled Dresden - The substantials are about the same as at home, then you get gold leaf paper, ornamental in somewhat cheaper -

Then we looked for a few minutes in the Picture gallery - Sunday evg. Dr. Gray & the girls went to tea at Prof. Kuchenbach's - Monday evg. they went off with Charlie & young Sanders - Some bone sale -

directly at a thing, so in all sorts of curios & triflings to set at it - You emerge from a valley & see your destination in front of you, but to reach it you follow the mean decay of a little stream, & climb the base of the hills, so you see & admire a long time often many directions, before you actually get there - But it suits the Germans, who take life in a slow, & leisurely way & regulate everything with many rules, & don't startle you by saying too suddenly what they mean, but it bears upon you through the gradual course of a sentence - We reached Chemnitz at 9, a long ride. It is a very large, manufacturing town, & quite like a thriving New York city, say Utica or Syracuse - But the street scenes are very different, as I saw next morn., when I enjoyed for an hour or two, the market held along the side-walk opposite - I got up & looked out of the window at 5, saw a little cart drawn by a dog stopping; the man lifted the cover of the cart & took out things, then harnessed the dog, who ran round the cart & suddenly disappeared - When I got up later, there was a long row of women & a few men with tall baskets in front of them & smaller ones around, with butter & little cheeses that looked like cakes, & cherries & a few vegetables, but principally butter & a white substance they were measuring out in cups from tin pans - Dr. Gray rd. at breakfast, made a grime across the St. & returned with some. It was cottage cheese, from lobered milk - But I got quite

interested in the selling, particularly a bright young woman in dark gown & now dark blue plaid cambric apron (the favorite style) & a little plaid-shawl tied over her head. A great leather pocket under her apron where the money was under her chin. She handled her butter so daintily with a white cloth, & it looked so nice all wrapped in nice white cloth - She drove a brisk trade, & presently was dealing out extra cheese. When one stock was finished, new supplies were pulled up from the depots of three big baskets. Then an old woman who sold her cherries & cheese, but her little heap of vegetables would not go at all! - Sometimes a man would stop to buy, but generally women, none with tomatoes or heads unless fine ladies; the head even for smartly dressed women, is uncovered almost every where - Everyone had some sort of basket to carry, & some who seemed maids, & others the wives of mechanics, had these huge baskets on their backs, perhaps two or three smaller inside, for the different articles to be bought - Some seemed ready with empty baskets & wait on ladies buying - Some would buy one pat of butter, others a large basketful - Then there would be a handshaking & a gossip with some old customers, & the old woman had a little pot of coffee on some coals & had her breakfast, & then the young girl set out a piece of bread & meat - The man had a huge basket of dried prunes, he sold a good many, but he had too large a stock - Then some had flowers well, & those went very quickly - As one sold out

she packed the empty baskets & fins into the large ones & shouldering it marched off - Then later came the man pulling the little cart, he lifts the cover & out jumps the dog! Then I saw where the dog had disappeared to - He sits aside in his truck, & his mouth nags! - He walks round & he barks, but when it comes to the muzzle, drops his head & looks unwilling for all the world like our dogs at home! It is rare to see a dog, big or small, unscruppled - Then the cart is loaded up with the empty baskets, & man & dog pull away, & they are gone, round the corner, out, I suppose, & one of the farm-houses in the outskirts - Some were fine dogs - I felt so sorry for one pale woman who could not sell all her cheeses, & shouldered her basket & walked off with her little girl, looking so weary & worn - Perhaps a great deal depended on selling those cheeses - And I had to go before my old woman had sold her vegetables, but she told me as if she had rather take them home again, than sell under her price - The food mother of Humanity unite ever evening the babies & marketing - The baby's wagon is a good, large, basket wagon with a hood, to baby etc or his, sometimes two, on a pillow in the back, & the baskets are tucked in in front & all covered with the down quilt -

We left at 11 - The country few more picturesque, some rough & some green hills, deep valleys & wooded places & little streams. Especially before reaching Greifswald, the great many



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Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane June 27, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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