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Up the Rhine

Hood, Thomas

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Preface

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PREFACE.

To forestal such Critics as are fond of climbing up a Mât de Cocagne for a Mare's Nest at the top, the following work was constructed, partly on the ground-plan of Humphrey Clinker, but with very inferior materials, and on a much humbler scale. I admire the old mansion too much, to think that any workmanship of mine could erect a house fit to stand in the same row.

Many persons will doubtless differ with me as to the inferences I have drawn from things seen and heard abroad. But we are all liable to mistakes: and I may have been as wrong in my speculations as was another Traveller in Germany, who, seeing a basketful of purple Easter Eggs, exclaimed, " Good heaven! what colour can their hens be !"

Should the members of the present family party be found agreeable or amusing, by the great family circle of the Public, I may be induced, next year, to publish their subsequent Tour in Belgium. In the meantime, my dear Public, to adopt the words of another Traveller :

Where'er I go, whatever realms pass through,
My heart, untravell'd, fondly turns to you.

THOMAS HOOD.

1st December, 1839.