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A steam voyage up the Rhine

Hugo, Victor London, 1843

Letter V. [Anfang]

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GIVET.

LETTER V.

Givet, August 1.

GIVET is a clean, hospitable, pretty little town, situated on the banks of the Meuse, which divides it into Great and Little Givet, and at the foot of a lofty precipice of rock, of which the geometrical lines of the fortress of Charlemont somewhat disfigure the brow.

The inn, called the Mont d'Or, is pretty good; though, being the only one, it can compel its customers to swallow whatever it pleases. The steeple of Little Givet is covered with slate; but that of the Great Givet is of a more complicated order of architecture. The architect must certainly be indebted for his plan to the square-crowned cap of some priest or lawyer, with a reversed salad-bowl placed upon it; to which is added a sugar-basin; and, over all, a bottle, in the neck of which is stuck the image of a sun, overtopped by the figure of chanticleer, pertly perched on one leg, upon the highest vertical ray. Supposing him to have devoted one day a-piece to each of these bright inventions, he may fairly have rested on the seventh, satisfied with his work. It must have been a Fle-