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The upper Rhine

the scenery of its banks and the manners of its people

Mayence to the lake of Constance

Mayhew, Henry

London, 1858

Interpolated Rhenish Scenes-Lindau

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Visual Library

Interpolated Rhenish Scenes.

(18.)

LINDAU.

We are now in the kingdom of Bavaria, and the sentry-boxes and railings (which at Constanz were striped yellow and red, as indicative of the duchy of Baden, and at Friedrichshafen green and red, as distinctive of the kingdom of Wirtemburg) are now chequered blue and white, as the national colours of Bavaria. Indeed, every fresh half-hour here brings us into connexion with some new Government, and custom-house officers swarm as thickly as policemen in better-regulated towns; whilst there are as many different uniforms for the soldiers as there are liveries to the footmen waiting in the hall of our Italian Opera on a "Drawing-room night."

The Bavarian territory bordering the Lake of Constanz reaches from Kressbronn, a little below Lindau, to Wiedach, a little above it.

Lindau is a kind of Upper-Rhenish Holland, being a city built out in the water, and surrounded with a thick wattle-work of piles. Indeed the town is dammed and double dammed (if we may be allowed the expression without offending ears polite) all round with rows of piles, the tips of which peep above the water like the stumps of so many monster rushes. The island city is connected with the land at the back by a long wooden bridge, on the one hand, and an equally long railway embankment, thrown up across the water, on the other.

Seen from the deck of the steamer in the middle of the Lake, Lindau is a pretty-enough object, bristling with its many old towers and church-steeples, and belted with its

rampart-walls, while the Vorarlberg hills rise in fine pyramidal masses up close at the back of it—these hills being, as it were, the last ripple of the expiring land-wave that once swept over Switzerland, and tossed up the plains there in Alpine billows, raising a very tempest of mountains in the solid earth!

The two towers that are seen as we approach the island-city from the Lake, and which remind one somewhat of the palace at Friedrichshafen, are the twin-turrets of the sister churches—the one Protestant, the other Catholic; whilst the turret standing close at the water's edge is the old battlemented *Diebs-thurm* (thief's tower), that is now but a mere useless mediæval toy.

The *Hafen* lies round the corner, and was at the time of our visit not yet finished, but, as at the neighbouring city of Friedrichshafen, the "*Bahn-hof*" (railway-station) stood close at the back of it, and there were large storehouses ready for the bonding of goods.

The town stretches away in a line from the harbour, which is at the upper end of the island, and though possessing few objects of special interest, has still neither the desolate look of Friedrichshafen nor the unpicturesque character of Constanz. The *Maximilian-Strasse* is perhaps the busiest thoroughfare, and here the houses have castellated gables, and pedimented roofs, and colonnaded ground-floors, and frescoed walls, and, indeed, a host of other such middle-age ornaments. The "*Land-thor*" (country gate) lies at the rear, at the point immediately behind the two church towers, and is a neat-enough modern structure, with a planted glacis-like Platz immediately on one side of it.

In this neighbourhood, too, lies the "*Heidenmauer*," (Heathen's Wall), which is said to date as far back as the Romans, by whom a settlement was originally established

at this part of the Lake. The wall, as at present standing, is merely a sharp corner of some old rampart, the solid masonry of which projects in places as if a number of bond-stones had been left for joining on to some other structure. On the top of this wall, too, a great bush of a tree grows from between the crevices of the stone-work.

Lindau was originally two small islands, though it is now but one. It was, according to the earliest records, a Roman settlement, and called *Lindaugia*, *Lindavia*, and, finally, *Lindau*—the name, it is said, being given to it on account of the Linden-trees that grew by the Powder-mill. The Lindauers, we are told, were the first fishermen upon the Lake.

Many centuries ago a cloister was founded upon it by one Lord Adelbert, who, during a violent storm upon the water, made a vow that if he were spared he would build a church to the Virgin, and who, on being landed at Lindau, caused the chapel to the cloister to be erected. Rudolph of Hapsburg speaks of Lindau as being a royal residenz. In 1396 the citizens rebelled against Maximilian I., when the principal traitors were beheaded in the town. In 1496, an Imperial Diet was held in Lindau; in 1530, the town adopted the principles of the Reformation.

During the Thirty Years' War it was fortified and enclosed within walls, and remained a place of special security till a few score years ago. It has suffered from fire repeatedly, having been burnt down in the years 948, 1264, 1339, 1720, and 1723, and was severely scourged also by the pest in the seventeenth century, when not less than 2000 of its people were destroyed by the plague.

Since 1801, Lindau has belonged to the Bavarians, and numbers now 3300 inhabitants, who are mostly Protestants; and possesses, besides a hafen and a railway, a college of Natural Philosophy and a theatre.

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