GLANCES AT GERMANY, POLAND, AND THE EUXINE

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Glances at Germany, Poland, and the Euxine by Anonymous

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THE AUTHOR OF "THE TENT," "RHODA," &c.

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CHAPTER I.

Some years ago, before the existence of those marvellously swift conveyances on railroads which are now so general, Mr. Howard, an English gentleman, had occasion to undertake a journey to a remote part of Europe—the Black Sea.

As he could not obtain ample information from the accounts of former travellers as to the best route thither, he took the map of Europe for his guide; and proceeding to Calais, he purchased a light German carriage, and taking posthorses, travelled rapidly, by way of Dunkerque, Lille, Tournai, Bruxelles, Louvain, and Maestricht, to Aix la Chapelle, a large and handsome town of Germany.

The cathedral is a fine Gothic edifice, and is said to contain some extraordinary relics; but they are only exhibited to royal personages. The marble chair, however, on which the embalmed body of Charlemagne was found, in a sitting posture, three hundred years after his death, is shown to strangers. This marble chair served as a throne for several emperors of Germany at their coronations; on those occasions, it was covered with costly materials.

Aix la Chapelle is famous for its mineral waters, and is on that account much resorted to by invalids.

The traveller made the best of his way, by the ancient city of Cologne, and Hessen-Cassel, to



CATSIDRAL OF AIX LA CHAPELLE.