

**WHAT MAY BE DONE IN TWO MONTHS.
A SUMMER'S TOUR THROUGH BELGIUM,
UP THE RHINE, AND
TO THE LAKES OF SWITZERLAND; ALSO
TO CHAMOUNY, AND OVER THE COL-
DE-BALME, TO MARTIGNY**

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What May Be Done in Two Months. A Summer's Tour Through Belgium, up the Rhine, and to the Lakes of Switzerland; Also to Chamouny, and Over the Col-De-Balme, to Martigny by Various

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VARIOUS

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SUMMER'S TOUR,

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AND TO THE

LAKES OF SWITZERLAND;

ALSO,

TO CHAMOUNY,

AND, OVER THE COL-DE-BALME,

TO MARTIGNY, &c.

WITH A TABLE OF ROUTES, DISTANCES, COURSE OF EXCHANGE,

FARES BY DILIGENCES, BOATS, &c.

LONDON:

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1834.

25.



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PREFACE.

THE following Letters were addressed to a friend, while the author was making a very delightful little Tour, during last summer, to recruit his health. They possess no literary merit; and none is claimed for them: but it is hoped that the details which are given, respecting Diligences and Routes, will be found useful to travellers who may be under the necessity of economizing their time.

It has been much the practice, for those who visit Switzerland, to go by Paris and Geneva; and to return by the Rhine and Holland. The greater part of that route lies through the most dreary and uninteresting part of France; and a traveller sees little to reward him for taking so long a journey, till he gains the summit of the Jura Mountains. And, in descending the Rhine, the steam and current, acting together,

PREFACE.

carry the vessel through the water at such a hurried rate, that the splendid scenery of that noble river is passed without being seen. This is not the case in going *up* the river: the current then retards the progress of the boat; and there is time afforded the *voyageur* to enable him to enjoy the sight of the mountains, and vineyards, and ruins, on its beautiful banks.

From Rotterdam to Cologne the country is flat, and the passage tedious. Many parts of Belgium, on the contrary, are well worth visiting, particularly the Valley of the Meuse, which is picturesque in the highest degree.

It is therefore predicated, that, for one whose time is limited, but who is yet anxious to see as much as he can, the best route, and perhaps the best way of pursuing it, would be to follow, as near as may be, the footsteps of the author.

LONDON, *May*, 1834.

LETTER I.

*Hôtel de Flandre, Ghent,
June 2, 1833.*

MY DEAR B—,

YOU say that it is your intention to follow me to the continent; and desire, therefore, that I will give you every species of information, to guide you in your movements. It shall be so. But recollect, if I should be too minute in my details about routes and diligences, the fault will rest with you.

As soon as I was sufficiently recovered from the influenza; which, in my case, left behind a most extraordinary depression of spirits; agreeably to the advice of my medical friend, I procured two months' leave of absence: and having resolved to go up the

Rhine, set about preparing for the *voyage* in good earnest. I was furnished with a French passport, at the office in Poland-street, to proceed to France "*par Calais et le Rhine*": this was endorsed, "*Bon pour aller en Belgique par la frontière de France, ou par Ostende,*" by the Belgian Minister, who resides in Fitzroy-square. After this, I procured the signatures of the Austrian and Prussian Ministers, who live, the former in Chandos-street, and the latter in Great Cumberland-place. There was subsequently added the signature of the Sardinian Envoy, whose domicile is in South-street. No demand was made for fees, at either of the houses, by clerk or porter.

The next thing to be done was, to provide cash for the undertaking; and I went to Coutts's, where I was supplied with a sufficient number of their Twenty-pound circular notes, which are payable in every town of respectability throughout the whole

of the continent, without delay or hindrance, at the regular exchange of the day. The letter which accompanies the notes may be used as an introduction to any of the bankers named in it; and I think there are not less than a hundred.

Mr. Smart, in Princes-street, Leicester-square, gave me thirty Napoleons, for fifteen shillings and eleven pence each; and it is said that this coin passes as freely in every part of Europe as the sovereign does in England.

The Steam-packet on which I took my passage left her station off the Custom House at eight o'clock yesterday morning; and away she went, *fixzing* along, at the rate of nine knots an hour. She appeared to excite as much attention on board the sailing-vessels we passed on the river, as though steam had commenced its fight against wind and tide but yesterday; and it is said, that a thorough bred jack-tar looks upon such