

**MUNICH, HISTORY,
MONUMENTS,
AND ART**

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Munich, History, Monuments, and Art by Henry Rawle Wadleigh

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HENRY RAWLE WADLEIGH

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THE ISAR,
Photograph by Reineke.

Frontispiece.

MUNICH

HISTORY, MONUMENTS, AND ART

BY

HENRY RAWLE WADLEIGH

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

T. FISHER UNWIN

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MUNICH

CHAPTER I

GENIUS LOCI

"THE only city whose people look happy"—this casual characterisation of Munich by a traveller of experience and ripened judgment at once discloses the genius of the place. Munich is the city of happiness and contentment, placid as a village, rich in opportunities as a metropolis; quiet, spacious, clean, and leisurely. Through her streets no one hurries save the green Isar, rolling rapidly from springs under the blue glacier ice toward the Black Sea. Everywhere the colour of tranquillity and rest meets the eye, the green of the cool north which prevails in every Bavarian scene. One may walk mile after mile through the heart of the city, without losing the freshness of green turf and the grateful shade of trees. Winding ways lead on for hours through the English Garden, most natural and sympathetic of urban parks, until, imperceptibly, they merge into the outlying country. The gardens along the banks of the Isar, varied with bosky glens and brightened by waterfalls, brooks, and miniature lakes, are the triumph of landscape gardening.

And the green spaces here and there in the midst of the city, the Hofgarten, with its festooned walks and cafés where one whiles away his time under the trees, the copious fountains and graceful bridges with their wealth of sculpture, each contributes its share toward giving Munich an outdoor summer charm offered by no other city. Moreover, the width and notable cleanliness of the modern streets, the eclectic variety of the architecture, and the narrow ways and quaint houses of the older city, emerge with singular felicity from their verdurous setting. There are no great distances to be traversed; all is compact; the best, as it should be, in the centre. There are no oppressive contrasts between vulgar riches and sordid poverty, neither East End nor East Side. The princes of the royal house, the great nobles, the solid burghers, and the men who labour for a daily wage, brush elbows with one another upon the streets, while the great democracy of the beer cellars knows no distinction of class. The conductors of the trams bid you a pleasant adieu as you descend from the car, and the cabby wishes you good-morning before he proceeds to ask your direction. "Gemüthlichkeit" reigns, the indispensable but untranslatable virtue of South Germany. One quickly learns to feel that this is a city in which it is good to live. The words of M. Jean Chantavoine, in his excellent monograph upon Munich, summarise the city's charm with the vivid sympathy born of understanding: "The life of Munich, so simple, so cordial, so varied, where work is so easy and leisure so largely distributed, where intelligence and good taste receive so much gratification, without the least strain or irritation of the nerves!"