
Stories of English and Foreign Life

Howitt Mary Botham

Title: Stories of English and Foreign Life

Author: Howitt Mary Botham

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LONDON:

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JANUARY 5, 1934

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MARGARET VON EHRENBERG.

CHAPTER I.

GOSSIP OVER A NEW PICTURE, WHICH INTRODUCES THE READER TO SEVERAL NEW FRIENDS.

It was the brightest of bright holidays in the good city of Munich. The bells had been ringing people all the forenoon into the various churches throughout that Catholic town; and now the gay crowds, enlivened by the brilliant costumes of peasants, were swarming out of the churches again. Rejoicing strains of martial music pealed down the broad and beautiful *Ludwig Strasse* from the alcove at the upper end, where a military band had taken its place and commenced the splendid overture to "Norma." Students in their pretty gay scarlet, green, cherry-colour, and white *corps-caps* jauntily set upon their "ambrosial locks;" young painters with a dash of the mediæval in their attire; dandy young officers, with most wasp-like waists and the longest of jangling sabres; and ladies and children, in all the elegance of their fresh holiday toilettes, attended by gentlemen in the most delicate primrose-coloured gloves, were parading about in the square before the musicians, or chatting in coquettish groups. And now the soldiers, rolling up their music-books, descend from the alcove, and playing a lively air march across the square; and immediately almost the gay throng disperses,—numbers betaking themselves to the *Kunst-Verein* (Art-Union) exhibition of paintings, each week exhibited in one of the galleries running along a side of the *Hof-Garten*,—that pleasant summer resort for smokers, coffee-drinkers, and idlers of all kinds.