

Then, leading them, we slowly but safely descended to the valley. Conies and ptarmigans were seen again, and the Alpine bogs passed; but there was no time to tarry: the sun, so bright upon the mountain-top, had here already left every thing to shadow. However, once below the snow and ice of this October winter, and upon good roads, we sped along at a swift canter, and shortly after dark dismounted before the Barton House, in Georgetown, receiving congratulations on our successful ascent at so late and unpropitious a season, while Mr. Bailey emphatically declared it the last trip which he would make that year.

Withal it was a delightful ride, entertaining and instructive; and a ride of about thirty miles, the ascent and descent of a monarch mountain—chief of its range, and fourteen or fifteen thousand feet in altitude—is not made every day between sunrise and sunset. The Rocky Mountains are not seen till these peaks have been climbed; but in the summer season access to them is less difficult, even ladies making the ascent.

Geologically, there is hardly a more interesting ground than the region around Gray's Peaks. I have referred to the evidences of glacial action in their immediate neighborhood: the proofs of such action are conclusive. There are moraines and moraine dams and frozen lakelets, and I was informed by miners of the Stevens mine that frost is found two hundred feet deep in the gravel, and that it seems to be rather increasing in depth than decreasing. If this be so, it is a sufficient refutation of the theory recently advanced—that there is no line of perpetual congelation among the Colorado mountains; and it would prove that the present lack of ice-fields and great glaciers is owing to the deficient rain and snow fall, and the dryness of the atmosphere consequent upon the great distance of the oceans. The accompanying map of this mountain neighborhood will be sufficient proof to any geologist of the previous existence of glaciers there, and exhibits, also, the timber line, or height to which the forest rises.

The glacial evidences have, however, been obscured by subsequent dynamic action—frost force—the exposure to frost and heat having broken the cliff edges and shivered the rocks till moraines are covered and valleys filled with sharp angular fragments of stone. Nothing but glacial power could have grooved and cut the deep valleys through the mountains; nothing but frost could have made the crags as rugged and sharp as they now appear.

Again, Green Lake, three miles from Georgetown and some 10,000 feet above the sea, is said to have neither inlet nor outlet, and seems to be a veritable glacial pool. Singular to relate, it is called a "good place for trouting," though how the trout got there

no one seems to know or care; and it is a favorite resort of the pleasure-seekers at Georgetown, who in sail or row boat pass merry hours on its crystal surface.

MALTA.



STRADA REALE.

"But not in silence pass Calypso's isles,
The sister tenants of the middle deep;
There for the weary yet a haven smiles,
Though the fair goddess long hath ceased to weep.
—*Childe Harold, Canto II.*

THE great commercial and strategic advantages derived from its central position, commanding all the chief avenues of traffic and communication between Europe and the Levantine ports, the excellence of its harbor (one of the most commodious and easily approached in the Mediterranean), the strength of its position, and the elaborate nature of its artificial defenses, all combine to give to the island of Malta an importance in the political and mercantile affairs of the nations inhabiting the south of Europe far in advance of that which would seem to be its due, were we to take into consideration solely its size and the number of its population. In all ages it has been considered as the key to the Mediterranean, and its possession was the surest guarantee for the sovereignty of the seas. Its walls stemmed successfully the hitherto irresistible tide of Ottoman invasion, to which even Rhodes, long deemed impregnable, and heroically defended, had to bow. In fact, in modern times it has never been taken save by famine or treason; and despite the advances the last few years have made in the art of human destruction, an unprejudiced observer, scanning the seemingly endless ditches, galleries, scarps and counter-

scarp, and the long rows of grim-looking guns peering out at him, might well determine to seek "the bubble reputation" elsewhere than at "the cannon's mouth."

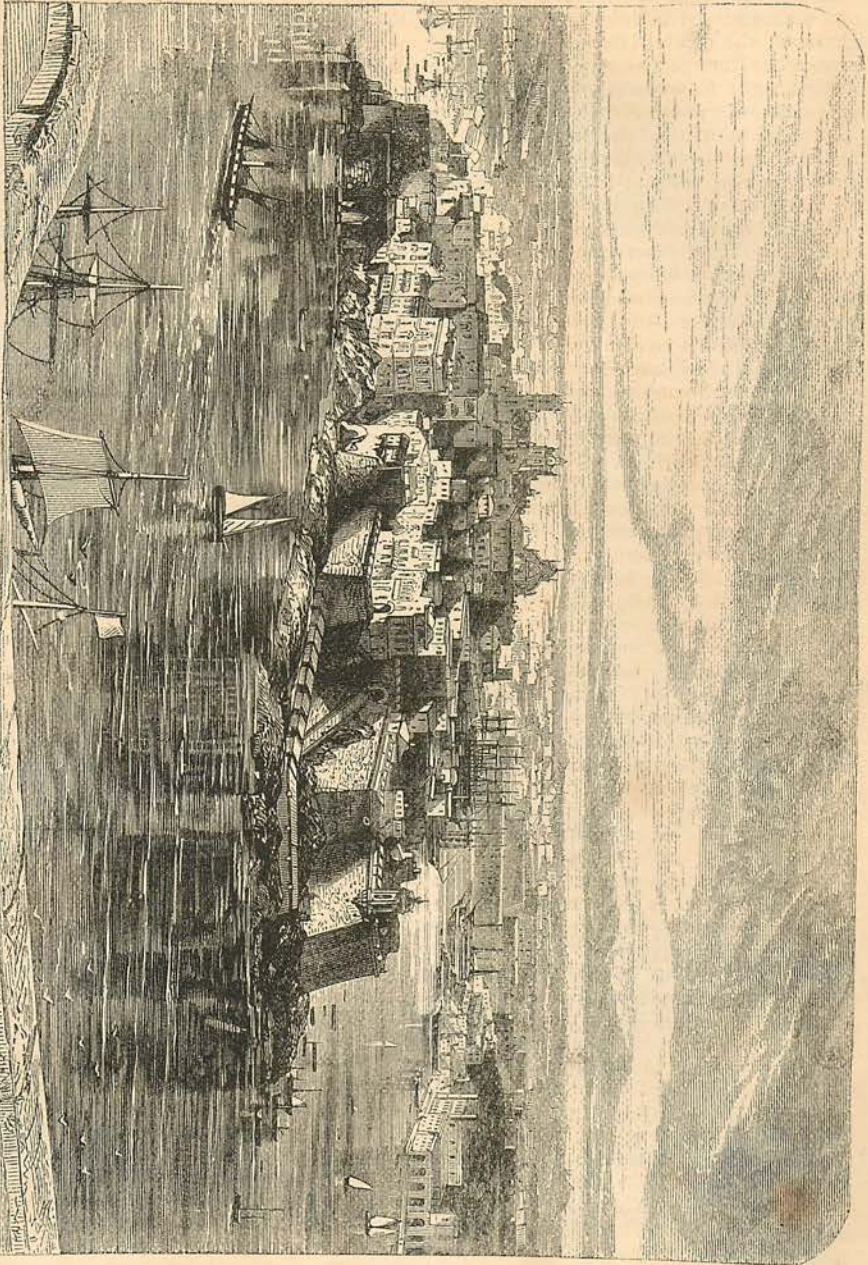
The general aspect of the port of Malta, which is well rendered in the accompanying cut, is picturesquely impressive. The city of Valetta, the capital of the island, was constructed in 1566, after the celebrated repulse of the Ottoman and Tunisian armies and fleets by John de la Valette, Grand Master of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, from whom it received its name. It is built on a promontory between two harbors, and is protected by Fort St. Elmo, which may be observed in the foreground of the engraving. It is decorated with many handsome buildings, which partake of the semi-ecclesiastical, semi-chivalric style natural to so anomalous a corporation as that of the Knights of Malta. The ancient Palace of the Grand Masters is now occupied by the British Governor, and most of the other "hostelries," as they were called, of the different tongues or provinces of the order have been converted into officers' quarters. The principal street of Valetta, the Strada Reale, in which most of these palaces are situated, possesses considerable architectural beauty, as the houses are decorated with much rich and elaborate carving, and generally display the armorial bearings and emblems of their former knightly proprietors. This street runs along a high ridge, and numerous narrow streets descend from it on either side to the harbors. This ridge being very steep, these streets are in reality nothing more than flights of steps, trying to the lungs and temper of the promenade, and commemorated by Byron, in his "Farewell to Malta," in the following lines:

"Adieu, ye cursed streets of stairs:
How surely he who mounts you swears!"

On the opposite side of the Grand Harbor from Valetta lie the towns of Vittoriosa and Senglea, which, in point of fact, are merely detached quarters of the same city. They are protected by strong lines of batteries and detached forts. In the city of Florian, which joins Valetta, are large barracks for the troops, and great magazines of wheat and other stores to provide for the contingencies of a siege. The island of Malta is now administered by a Governor appointed by the crown of Great Britain, although the inhabitants retain the greater portion of their own laws and customs, and are permitted to choose their own municipal officers. The Governor, as has been already mentioned, resides in the Palace of the Grand Masters of the order, a stately building of great extent, and adorned with many trophies and reminiscences of the ancient warlike triumphs of the knights, but rather too sombre and ecclesiastical in its

style for the requirements of its present occupant.

The cathedral is a building of large size, and profusely ornamented, but not displaying much taste either in its architecture or internal decorations. Among the latter are the armorial shields of four hundred of the knights who lie buried within its vaults, and likewise funereal effigies of De l'Isle Adam and La Valette, two of the most distinguished warriors of the order. The treasury, although it was partially confiscated by Napoleon I. during the French occupation of the island, yet contains some very valuable jewelry and goldsmiths' work, which the ingenuity of the priests enabled them to preserve from spoliation: among the rest, the altar rails of one of the chapels, which are of solid silver, and which they saved from French rapaciousness by painting them wood-color. The oldest portion of the city is that composed of Vittoriosa and Senglea, or "Valetta over the Water," as it is popularly called. It contains the dock-yards, biscuit bakery, marine stores, arsenal, and other establishments for the use of the army and navy, which are on a very extensive scale, as Malta is pre-eminently a garrison town. Outside of the town is situated the Governor's Summer Palace of Monte Verdala, and close to this is a species of park, composed of a tract of low woodlands, laid out in roads and walks, and much affected by the inhabitants. It is called the "Borchetto." The general appearance of the island is not inaptly described by the term, "an inhabited quarry," applied to it by some inappreciative tourist, as it is composed of bare limestone, with scarcely any water, and, in consequence, a very sparse natural vegetation. There are, however, many flourishing orchards and vegetable gardens, the soil to form which has been imported from Sicily; but as they are all inclosed in high limestone walls to keep off the prevalent sirocco winds, they do not present any enlivening feature to the landscape. From the light color and dusty nature of the soil, the want of shade and the glare of the summer sun, ophthalmia is by no means unfrequent, especially among the rural population, as the narrow streets and high houses in the cities afford their denizens comparative protection. Notwithstanding the uninviting appearance of the scenery, and the badness of the roads, which are paved with the *débris* of the hard limestone rock, rendering them both unsafe and injurious to horses, riding is one of the chief amusements, at least among the foreign residents, for whose use a considerable number of horses of the so-called "barb" breed are imported from Tunis, Tripoli, and the French possessions on the African coast. The most daring and reckless, although scarcely the most skillful, equestrians are to



CITY OF VALETTA, CAPITAL OF MALTA.

be found among the naval officers, whose cavalry manœuvres, usually executed at full speed, are not unfrequently dangerous not only to their own necks and limbs, but to those of the inoffensive and timid tourist, whose efforts to avoid them in their fell career are rendered ineffectual by the high walls which inclose every lane. The condition of the cultivators of the soil is prosperous, as they find a ready sale for their veg-

etables to the fleet and garrison, while the Maltese oranges command a good price, and are in much demand for exportation on account of their delicate flavor and thin skins. The agricultural portion of the community inhabits twenty-two villages of varying size, each of which boasts an immense, often disproportionate, church, for the appearance of that edifice seems to a Maltese the purest test of religion.

If the rural districts of Malta may, without wishing to be invidious, be termed monotonous, the capital labors under no such reproach, although the population appears at first sight to contain an overwhelming proportion of "padres," red-coats, and goats. The numbers of the latter class of inhabitants are due to the absence of cows, who would require too much forage; whereas the hardy goat is cheaply fed, and gives an abundant supply of milk, which, if not so well flavored as the more usual lactean preparation, is very wholesome and nourishing, and is even recommended to invalids. The former semi-ecclesiastical government naturally left behind a great number of religious institutions, which have been left unmolested under British rule, and have engendered considerable superstition and bigotry among the natives, who are completely under the influence of their priests.

A stranger arriving from Europe would be surprised at the many and various costumes he would meet in the streets. Here all nations of the Levant appear to congregate; the solemn Turk, the loquacious Greek, the white-burnoused Arab, and the swarthy Moor come and go, intermixed with the brilliant uniforms of army and navy officers, who are continually hurrying in all directions as their duty calls them. Malta is essentially a military station, and its society is entirely composed of officers, their families, and adjuncts, although in the winter season a good many visitors, especially yachtsmen from English and French ports, are to be found. A good deal of gayety goes on during the winter: balls are given by the officers of the different regiments, by the Governor and other high officials, and by British and foreign men-of-war, who frequently visit the harbor. The natives do not participate to any great extent in the amusements of their rulers, with whom they are not on a very cordial footing—an unpleasant state of things, for which both parties are perhaps equally to blame. An unfortunate incident which occurred about ten years ago contributed to increase the ill feeling which is perhaps inevitable between a purely military and a purely civil society, of different nationalities and interests, and confined within the narrow limits of a garrison town. A Maltese gentleman of high rank was elected a member of the English Club, a very popular institution of the city, from which, up to that period, natives had been excluded. Being a man of prepossessing exterior and polished manners, he was well received, and acquired the esteem of all who came in contact with him. Soon after his admission many members of the club commenced to miss jewelry and other valuables which they had temporarily deposited there while attending to their several duties or pursuits. For a long time no clew was obtained as to the

identity of the evil-doer, but finally, by some imprudence on his part, the distinguished visitor was taken in the act of "annexing" a gentleman's dressing-case, prosecuted, and convicted of the offense. Slight disturbances between the garrison and inhabitants are frequent, and produce irritation, as they bring the military and civil authorities into conflict, each espousing the cause of its own subordinates.

The Maltese are an industrious and ingenious race, noted especially for the manufacture of the well-known filigree brooches and other articles of jewelry, which form a considerable branch of exportation. Maltese lace has a world-wide reputation and a ready sale. Several very important lines of steamboats have dépôts at Malta, especially the P. and O. (Peninsular and Oriental) Mail Company to India, the French "Messageries Nationales," the Austrian Lloyd steamers, and several local and coasting lines. Bible scholars will not require to be reminded of the interesting associations Malta preserves with reference to the Apostle Paul, who was shipwrecked here on his way from Palestine to Rome when about to be tried before Cæsar.

DISARMED.

O LOVE! so sweet at first!
So bitter in the end!
I name thee fiercest foe,
As well as falsest friend.
What shall I do with these
Poor withered flowers of May—
Thy tenderest promises—
All worthless in a day?

How art thou swift to slay,
Despite thy clinging clasp,
Thy long caressing look,
Thy subtle, thrilling grasp!
Ay, swifter far to slay
Than thou art strong to save;
Thou renderest but a blow
For all I ever gave.

Oh, grasping as the grave!
Go, go! and come no more—
But canst thou set my heart
Just where it was before?
Too selfish in thy need!
Go, leave me to my tears,
The only gifts of thine
That shall outlast the years.

Yet shall outlast the years
One other, cherished thing,
Slight as the vagrant plume
Shed from some passing wing:
The memory of thy first
Divine, half-timid kiss.
Go! I forgive thee all
In weeping over this!