



## HAMBURG MARKET-WOMEN.

THE city of Hamburg, one of the great seaports of Germany, is about eighty miles up the river Elbe. As we approach it by water, forests of ships' masts are seen, and the quays on the banks are covered with goods from almost every land in the world. When we step on shore crowds of people appear to throng the streets, for the city contains about two hundred thousand people. It is said that no city of its size in the world is more busy or wealthy. Its merchants are rich as princes, and as generous as they are rich.

On entering Hamburg for the first time, you are quite bewildered with the din around you. People of all nations are talking together, but if you know no language except English, you can manage tolerably well, for almost everybody speaks English more or less, as a matter of business necessity. When you are settled a little, and have time to look about you, there is plenty to amuse and gratify the taste.

The city is very fine, not so much in respect to its public buildings as its private streets, and mansions, and squares. The great fire of 1842 (which destroyed sixty streets, and nearly two thousand houses) turned out for the good of Hamburg. It spared the finest streets; and, in place of the narrow, dirty rows of lanes which were destroyed, there are now splendid ranges of wide streets, reminding one of the very finest of those of London or Paris. The most remarkable buildings are St. Michael's Church, with a steeple of the vast height of 456 ft., and the Exchange, which, although in the very midst of the great fire, was saved.

The business at the Exchange is chiefly from one to two o'clock, and no stranger

should neglect to visit it, and listen to the noise of the assembled merchants as they buy and sell, and arrange about the coming and going of ships.

The city abounds with good hotels and coffee-houses, and with large and well-conducted public hospitals. The poor are well provided for, and hardly a beggar is to be met with. Schools abound, and nearly all the old monasteries and convents are now turned into benevolent institutions of one kind or other. The religion of four-fifths of the inhabitants is Protestant. There are said to be seven thousand Jews in the city.

The Binnen Alster is a large lake, in the heart of the town; it is charming to lounge here in summer evenings, delighting in the pure, cool air, and the fragrance wafted from the baskets of the flower-girls, and listening to the music of numerous bands. The walks on the tree-planted ramparts inclosing the city are also very fine, and pleasant trips may be made in the suburbs.

One of the best sights in Hamburg, as in other foreign cities, is to be found in the great market. Here you may see the country people in their peculiar dresses, offering for sale the produce of their gardens and farms. Many of the market-women still dress in the fashion of those of olden times. Some of them wear strange head-wings on each side of the face, made of a kind of cloth. From behind they form a large bow, which hangs over the shoulders. And then a stranger cannot but observe the hat, like a basket turned upside down, and the finely-worked body-dress, as a breast-plate; together with the deeply-fringed sash, which make her an object of special attraction to a visitor from a foreign land.



HAMBURG MARKET-WOMAN IN NATIVE COSTUME.