

Athenian weather of the previous winter. Although the bright little *haus frau* assured him that the foggy and dismal November days were cases of "London weather," and not genuine Berlin days; while the sunny and pleasant days were "*kaiser* weather," fit for the emperor, they were fearful that the unfriendly climate would drive them from the many attractions of the great German capital farther south. But the Berlin weather was better than their fears and permitted them to remain. They enjoyed, among other things, the long continued and varied celebration of the 400th anniversary of the birth of Luther, "the teacher of Germany," which was observed with characteristic German thoroughness and enthusiasm throughout the empire.

It is touching to note the yearning of his heart for home, amid all these delights. He writes: "Meanwhile do not be envying me the enjoyment of all these things, since I get them at the expense of being away from home, and from the society of my children and of my old friends and neighbors. It is certainly good for a man, after long, patient years of closely confining work, to get away for a while, and to see other lands and other ways; but for a good, steady diet there is nothing like one's own home; and if Sarah were not with me, I doubt whether all the attractions of Europe could induce me to spend the winter away from Madison."

On the 6th of February, they left Berlin, having spent there just four months, not only rich in varied enjoyment, but of great profit to a scholar of the cultivated taste, and the wide and thorough classical attainments which Dr. Conover possessed. As they were planning to reach home in the early summer, and wished to get some other glimpses of the Old World before returning to America, they now took their flight southward. By way of Munich and the Tyrol they came to Venice, whose peculiar fascinations he greatly enjoyed. And turning northward again at Milan, they passed into Switzerland, where, though early for mountain-climbing, they "took in the beauty and grandeur of the snowy peaks." Thence they came down the Rhine to Col-