

VIEWS OF THE CIRCULAR RAILWAY. Drawn by C. SCHUSTER.

THE ENVIRONS OF VIENNA.

BY EDUARD ZETSCHÉ.

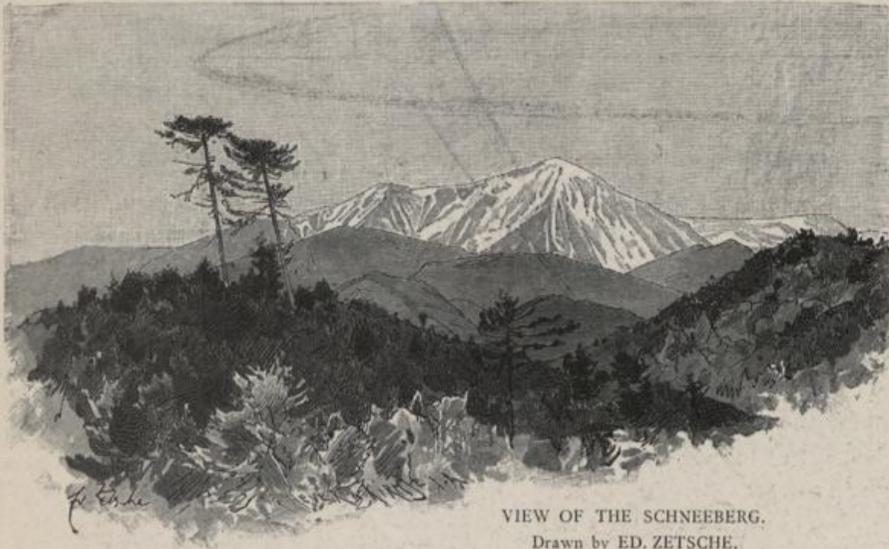
IN sight of the rapid and enormous extensions of modern great cities, their country neighbourhood gains daily in importance. The quicker these lovely spots of green are absorbed by the great stone monsters, the more ardent is the desire of the dwellers within, for those pleasure of refreshing joys, which nature can only procure. Everyone knows how famous the environs of Vienna have been for centuries past on account of the loveliness of the scenery. The pleasant times, however, are gone by when the citizen of Vienna could take his morning walk outside the walls of the city amidst vineyards, gardens and shrubberies. But the wicked new era has procured instead new and rapid means of communication in great number, so that one can reach to day in a few hours spots that formerly by their distance were unattainable. It is in fact to day easier than ever to enjoy the wealth of scenery of the Vienna landscape, which is made so incomparably beautiful by the combination of five great elements, the mighty Danube, the plain of the river March, forests, chains of mountains, and last but not least the city itself. One point especially, affords opportunity to overlook these mighty five at

one glance. This is the summit of the Leopoldsberg, famous besides through the historical events of the siege by the Turks in 1683.

The Mons Cælius, as the Romans named it, forms the last block of the Austrian Alps, and from its top the eye rests upon the endless panorama of the Wiener Wald and on the all-overtowering Schneeberg (2075 meters). The forest, however, is the domineering element. In the

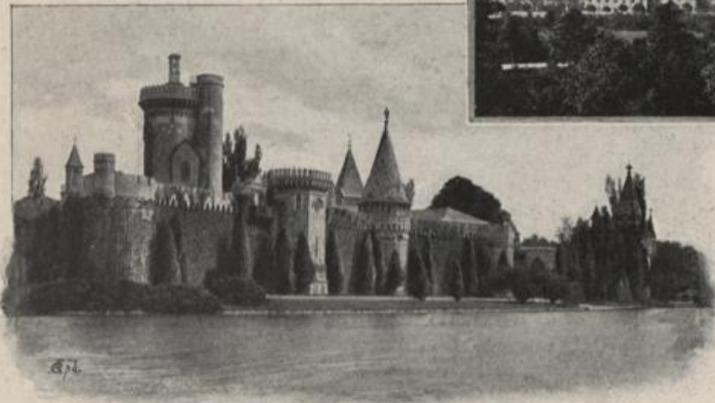


FIREBRIGADE AND OLD ARMORY (NOW CENTRAL FIRE STATION). Drawn by C. SCHUSTER.



VIEW OF THE SCHNEEBERG.
Drawn by ED. ZETSCHÉ.

immediate vicinity of the town this beautiful beech forest rises with uncommon splendour and richness, its unmixed light-green colour being for the artist's eye perhaps rather monotonous. The limestone mountains South East of the Wiener Wald supply picturesque changes with their dark fir-trees and craggy rocks. Down the slopes toward the east also a number of old churches, and ruins of castles meet the eye of the tourist. Amongst the ruins the following are remarkable for their connection with some of the most important events of the Turkish wars: Rodaun, Perchtoldsdorf, Mödling, the Lichtenstein, Rauhenstein, and Rauhenneck. They have shared their misfortunes with the two great monasteries



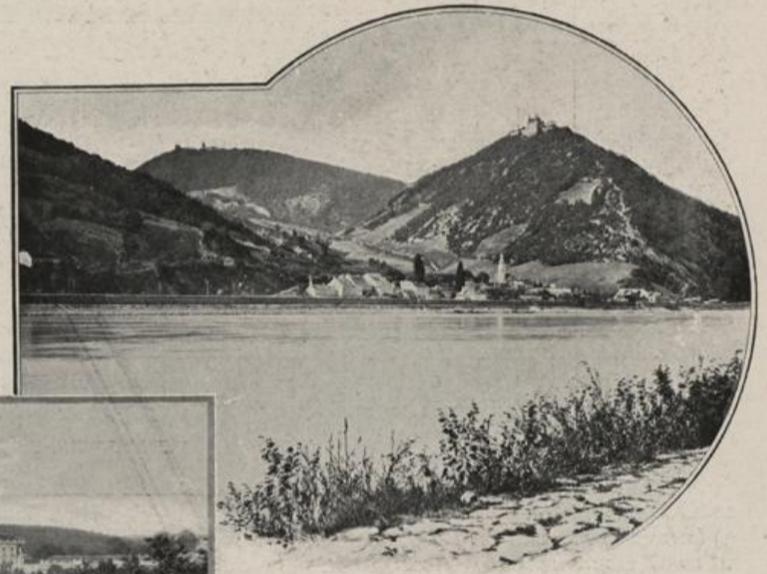
ENVIRONS OF VIENNA: LAXENBURG.

of the Wiener Wald, Heiligenkreuz and Klosterneuburg, which, however, were fortunate to preserve their beauty and wealth. Both are true representatives of their kind, founded in the twelfth century by the Babenberger, the family which then reigned in Austria. They are very rich in architectural lines, in stained glass, in precious relics as well as in valuable manuscripts and well-stocked wine cellars. Klosterneuburg owes its fame for a great part of the people mostly to the latter.

An important position amongst the buildings around Vienna occupies the Franzensburg, which forms a part of the imperial summer residence Laxenburg, which latter has been for centuries the favourite summer resort of the Imperial family. The Franzensburg is a creation of the Emperor FRANZ in the twenties of this century, who also erected the Roman amphitheatre and the aqueduct near Mödling, and it is set up with a quantity of antiquities of all ages, taken mostly out of the churches, the convents and the castles of the country. Laxenburg forms together with Schönbrunn the most popular excursion of the Viennese. From over the plain we are again greeted by the mountains of the Wiener Wald, which entice us, to exchange parks and palaces

for the real forest-glades and valleys around Sparbach and Wildegg, and the Helenenthal with the hills of the Anninger and Lindkogel so rich in magnificent views.

Of all the many tourists who have so greatly enjoyed the beautiful environs of Vienna, doubtless those have been the most grateful, who have at the same time also been the most famous, those genial men, who loved the Wiener Wald Mountains so passionately, who sung their praise in immortal poems, and who were here inspired to sing their sweetest lays. Surely, the Wiener Wald may boast, that within its shadows, such works, as BEETHOVEN'S Pastoral Symphony and SCHUBERT'S Müllerlieder saw first light, and that STIFTER'S Feldblumen, SAAR'S Marianne and EICHENDORFF'S Taugenichts, have their scenes laid in some of its loveliest spots. All these immortals would be highly surprised, were they to return to visit these spots at the present time. Where formerly a mountainous wilderness



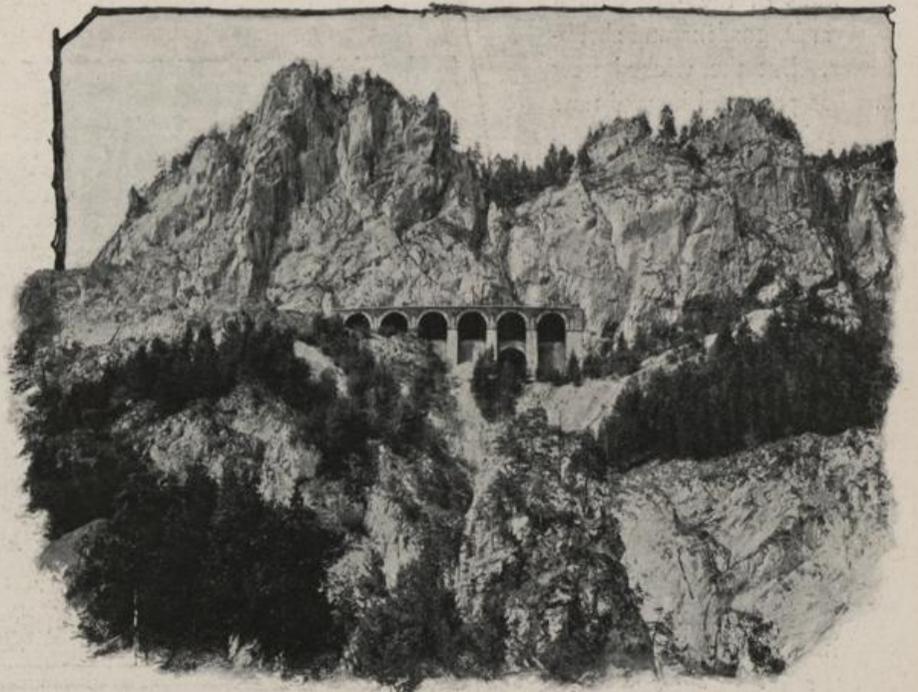
LEOPOLDSBERG AND KAHLENBERG.



SCHÖNBRUNN.

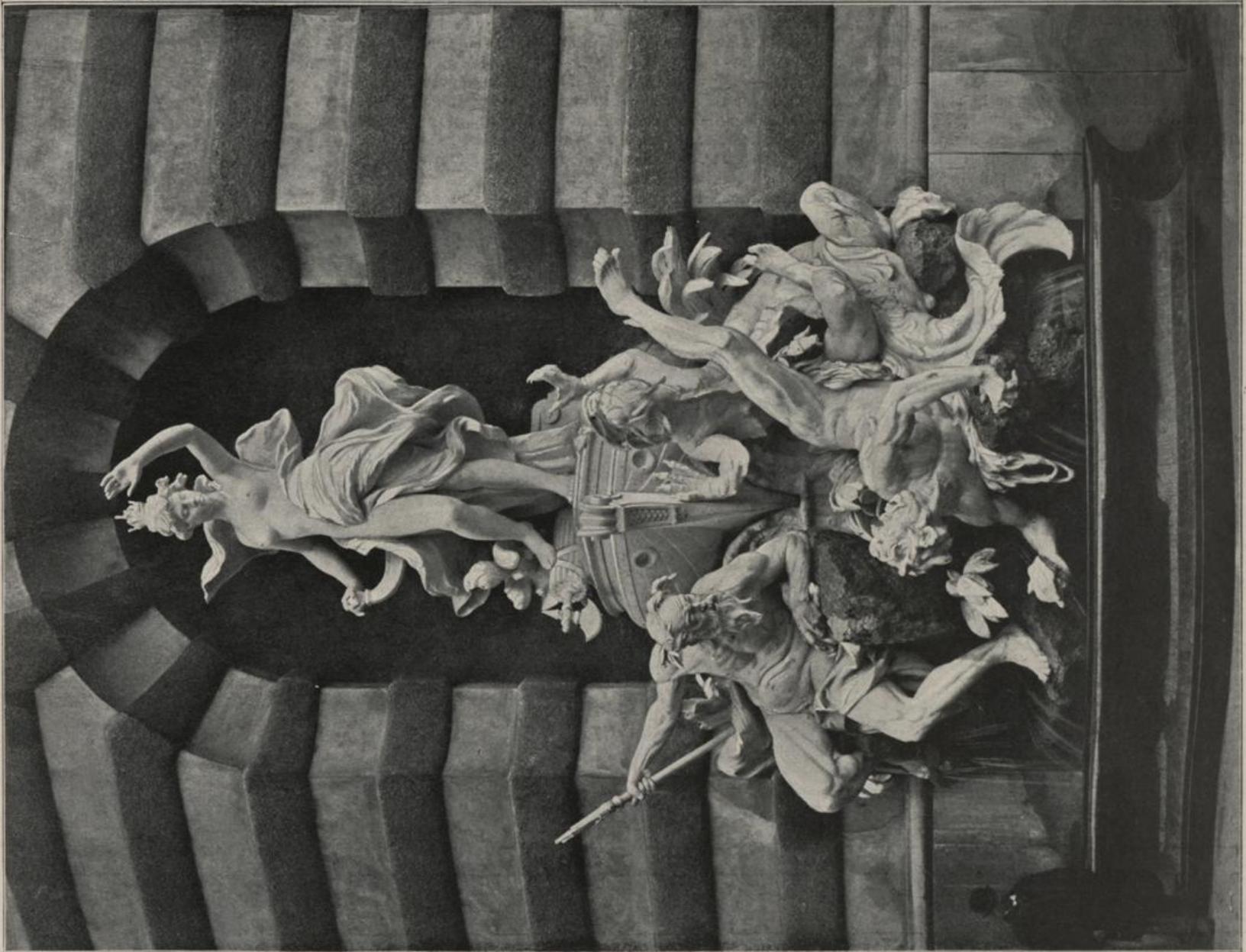
existed, handsome residences are dotted about, on the Semmering and the Schneeberg; on the former an ever-increasing number of hotels and villas are rising up, and on the stormy summit of the Schneeberg at a height of 1700 meter a stately as well as luxuriously fitted hotel has been erected.

The Semmering with its heavenly air, the beautiful mountain castles and luxuriant Alpine vegetation attracts from year to year an ever increasing



SEMMERING (WEINZETTELWAND).

Photos by R. Lechner, Vienna.



THE POWER BY SEA, BY R. WEYR.



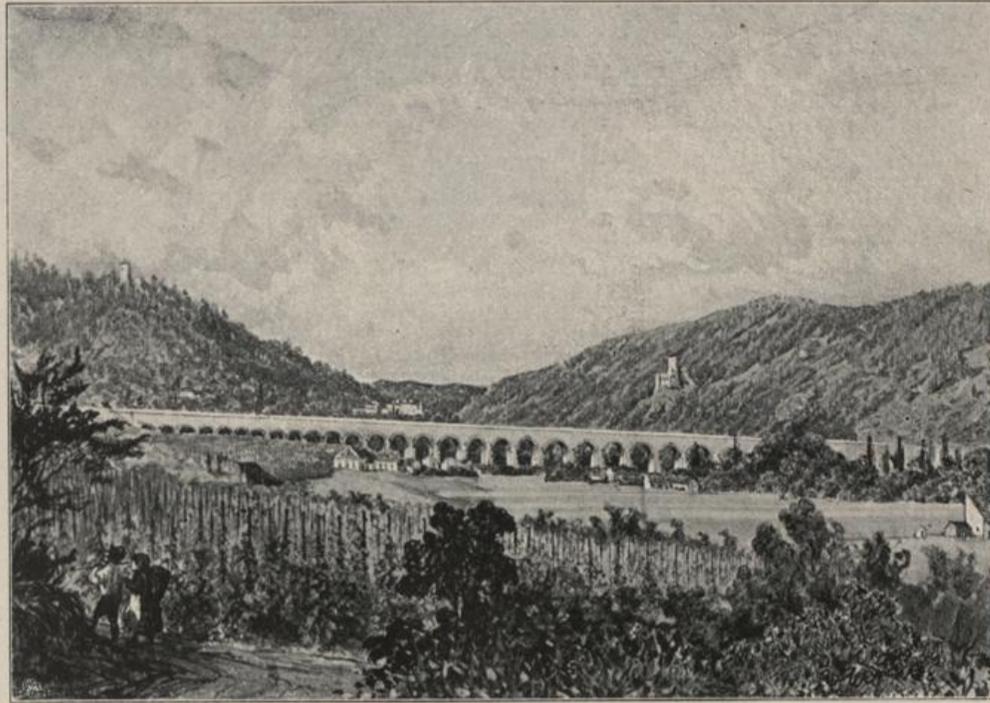
THE NEW FOUNTAINS ON THE FAÇADE OF THE HOFBURG (MICHAELERPLATZ).

THE POWER BY LAND, BY E. HELLMER.

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number of visitors. The

Schneeberg Railway which has just been opened to traffic, enjoys the great patronage of the Viennese excursionists, which it fully deserves, for within about four hours, the line conveys its passengers to the grandeur of the highland, and enables them to enjoy without trouble and in safety the majestic beauty of the Alps. The noble mountain itself offers, with its ravines, dales and rocks, a rich variation of scenery. Who, however, will describe the majestic spectacle of the sun setting on the



AQUEDUCT NEAR BADEN. After the Water Colour by LAHODA.

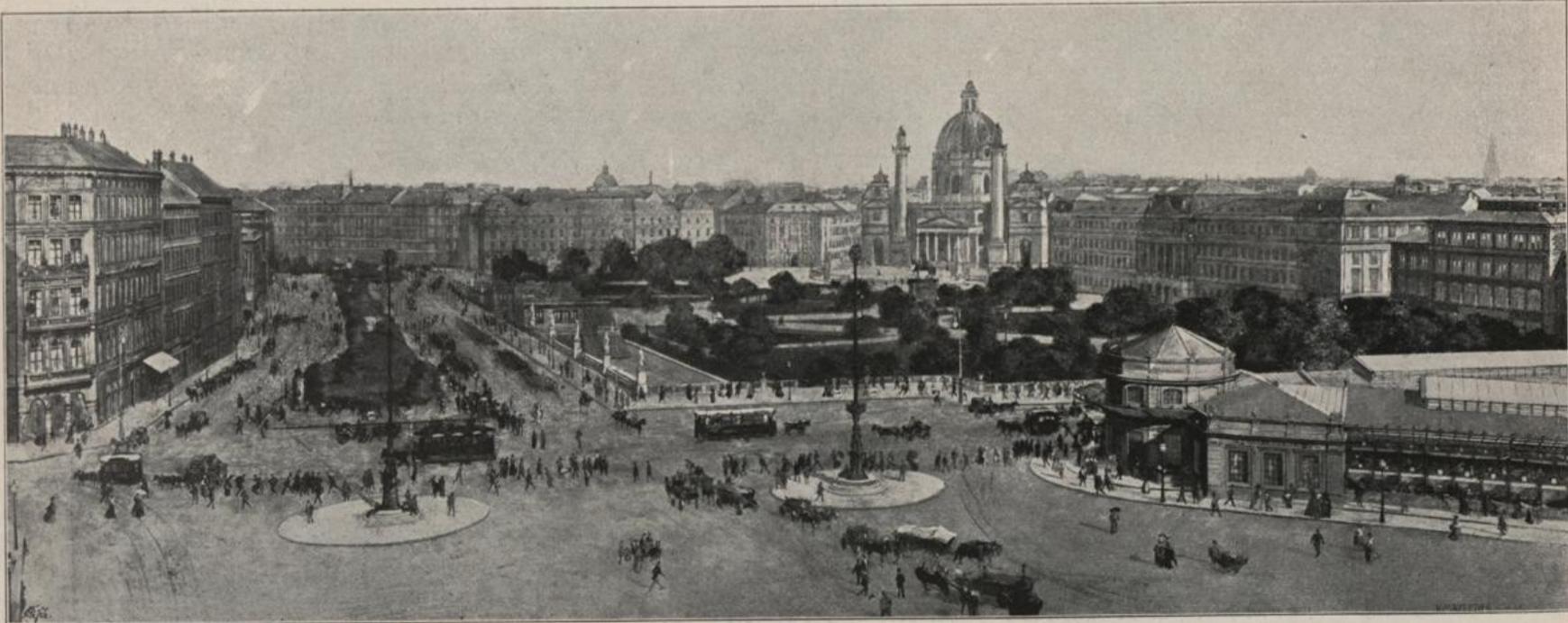
summit of the Rax, or its rising out of the clouds! A sight not less grand is, in time of storm and misty weather, the moving of the clouds over depths and heights of the mountains.

But also the far stretching plain with its numerous hamlets, villages, and townships is worthy of admiration, and yonder appears the capital on the far horizon, showing distinctly the outlines of the lofty spire of St. Stephens. The connection between the Vienna Schneeberg and the city is thus established.

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A VIEW INTO THE FUTURE. THE SQUARE IN FRONT OF ST. CHARLES' CHURCH AND THE WIENZEILE. After a picture drawn by Prof. C. MAYREDR, painted by A. ROLLER.