

C H A P. XIX.

MONASTERY OF ST. BENEDICT—NEITRA—TYRNAU—PRESBURG
—COACHES AN HUNGARIAN INVENTION.

SUNDAY October the 6th, I left the wall-less inn-less city of Konigsberg, and took leave at once of my honest burgo-master, and of the mining country, and began to look towards Presburg. As I did not set out till the afternoon, I only made one stage, to Saint Benedict. The road was so bad, that, though I had four horses, I walked all the way; but as the weather was fine, and the country through which I passed pleasant, time did not appear long.

The monastery, situated on a rock, presents itself like a castle, and commands an extensive view of the country below—*Colles Benedictus amabat*. The rocks which I had an opportunity of seeing in this afternoon's journey, were composed of the breccia so often spoken of; and this I have now found in every country where porphyrous hills have prevailed. From my inn I walked up to the convent. I found the nest, and a very comfortable one, but the birds were flown, or rather kicked out. In some unfortunate public calamity the monks were driven out, and when peace returned, the chapter of Gran seized

upon it and still keeps it ; so I only found a canon, who acts as steward, and the requisite inferior officers. The canon invited me to sup with him, which I did ; and the parish priest was of the party : but neither of them spoke either French or German ; Latin therefore was the only medium of discourse. After supper a droll ceremony took place, the origin and meaning of which I could not learn : a kind of club or large *spatula* was brought, with which I was to receive three thumps on the back. But as the canon was a *homo quadratus*, I declined the honour ; yet submitted on his promising to bestow this mark of attention and kindness with moderation : after this I was handed the *album*.

Since leaving Uihelly and its neighbourhood, I had not once seen the vine : here again the vineyards begin ; but this is too elevated a situation for them, and they do not give a generous wine.

Next morning I set off for Neitra. I now left the narrow valleys and the hills, and entered an extensive plain. What lies near St. Benedict belongs to the convent, this seems therefore to be situated like an *aërie*.—At Maroth, where the Cardinal Migazzi has a seat, I was detained a good while for horses ; and then in the evening my driver lost his way ; and it was ten at night before I arrived at Neitra. And now my troubles were not at an end ; a great, a very great, man had just arrived before me, and had occupied all the spare rooms, which, in a large building in Hungary like a mansion house, are often only

only two or three. Though I can bear to see the favourites of fortune figure away in a high style of life without repining, which is more than most democrats can do; yet I must say, that often when they have occupied too much room in an inn, I have wished them at York. Though I will not meddle with so intricate a subject as the *Jus Naturæ*, or natural law, which has led so many of late into dangerous errors; yet I will say, that this great traveller had an undoubted *natural* right to occupy more space than his *brother citizens*. As such, without repining at my own insignificance, I left him in possession of his natural rights, and was obliged to take up with a bed of straw.——This great traveller was a giant between seven and eight feet high, who travelled about to make the most of his greatness.

Neitra is a very considerable town, and agreeably situated upon a rising ground in a fine plain, and half surrounded by a river of the same name. Within the fortress is the episcopal palace. The market was well supplied, and had a fine show of fruit. The rising grounds in the neighbourhood are planted with vines, which yield pretty good wine. The rock on which the town is built is primitive lime-stone. I only remained here till noon, and then travelled through a flat well-cultivated corn country to Freystadt, a trifling market town. The inn was pretty good, and not occupied by a giant; and as the evening was coming on apace, and there was no probability of obtaining horses immediately, I determined to pass the

night here, and I ordered my horses for break of day. But no driver came to rouse me in the morning; and when I got up to enquire the cause of this neglect, I learned that my horses had come at the appointed time, but that a great man, yet not a giant, some deputy magistrate's deputy, had insisted on having them, and had set off with them, and that I must be pleased to wait a *few hours* till the judge could procure me another set. As they were gone, there was no remedy; but hearing that one of the accomplices was left behind, I boldly walked into his room, and reasoned with him in forcible language upon the injustice of the proceeding; but he addressed me in Latin with a *Domine clarissime generosissime illustrissime spectabilis*, &c. &c. &c. telling me that he was very sorry for it, but that he had nothing to do in the affair, and that I ought to address myself to the gentleman who was just gone.

Having been now plagued twice in four-and-twenty hours with great men; great either in person or in office, I thought it best, to prevent any further annoyance, to put myself under the protection of some other great man: therefore, as soon as I had got my breakfast, I walked up to the *chateau* of Count Erdödy, one of the greatest magnates of the kingdom. This nobleman received me in the most friendly manner, and greatly disapproved of the illiberal treatment I had received; but the count, though lord lieutenant of one of the counties, had nothing to do with the police here, and only could interfere as a private man of great rank and fortune. He invited me to spend the
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day with him, and conducted me about his grounds, which he is only beginning to put in order, and they are to be *à l'Anglaise*: there is great *capability*. His green-house is a very fine one, and the view from his *chateau* is delightful. The dinner, though there was only the count, his mistress and myself, was very elegant; and every thing was served up in silver by a great retinue of servants.

After dinner I set off for Tyrnau. A little to the right lies the fortress of Leopold-stadt in a plain: it was built by Leopold the Great. The road was so good (and indeed ever since I left St. Benedict, I had no reason to complain), that in three hours I found myself at Tyrnau. This afternoon's ride was likewise through a corn country.

The number of churches, and the towers upon the walls, announce, at a distance, Tyrnau to advantage, but they do not deceive you. Tyrnau may be ranked amongst the first towns of the kingdom; it is regular, well built; the streets are broad; and, on account of the number of its churches and convents, it has often been called the Little Rome. The inhabitants amount to about 7000. Till the reign of Theresa, or her son Joseph, it was the seat of the university which is now at Peste, as the centre of the kingdom. The buildings belonging to it, with others of suppressed institutions of a similar nature, have been converted into a hospital for invalids. The men and officers, which amount to about a thousand, are well lodged.

The next afternoon I continued my journey to Presburg, which is two stages distant, on a very good road, through a flat corn country. Though it was night, yet being moon-light, I could see two or three gentlemen's seats, or noblemen's chateaux, as I passed along. As most of the inns were shut when I arrived, I was afraid my driver had carried me to a bad one; but in the morning when I walked out, I observed over the door of the inn an inscription, which announced, that on such a day Joseph the Second had honoured it with his presence.

Presburg may be considered as the metropolis of the kingdom; for Bude has been so often, and for so long a time, in the power of the Turks, that this city has generally been the seat of government, and the place where the diets have been held, and the coronation ceremonies performed.—It is well built, and in a fine situation on the banks of the rapid Danube, which is here 250 yards broad. The inhabitants amount to about eight-and-twenty thousand, one fourth of which are Lutherans. These are the most opulent part of the community, and pay nearly one-half of the *contribution*. They have two chapels, one for the German language; and this is very large, well built, and commodious; and another for the Hungarian and Slavonian languages. One half of the city magistrates are chosen from this sect. The Calvinists are too few in number to have a public place of worship. The theatre is good. The casino and other coffee-houses would be admired at Paris or London, and the hapless being called a loungeur may here kill a forenoon or a day, as well as
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in any other great metropolis ; he has all the newspapers, billiards, draughts, and other time-killing apparatus found at Vienna.——Dr. Lumnitzer, author of the *Flora Pofoniensis*, lives here, but he seems to have bid adieu to botany.

Jews are very numerous. Whether they are under a particular police, or whether their frequent delinquencies make a particular mode of trial necessary, I don't know ; but at the town-house, when I went to order horses for my departure, I saw one with fetters on his legs, and tears in his eyes. I was informed he had been accused of buying stolen goods from gipsies, knowing them to be stolen ; and, not acknowledging his crime, he had received a copious bastonading, so copious that when he was permitted to sit down, he found it more convenient to stand up : this indicates that it was not a mere tickling he had received, and shews where the punishment had been applied : he now confessed. This seems to be not much unlike being put to the question ; but I hope the fact was first well proved, and that this was only to make the rogue discover his accomplices. Jews are not suffered in any of the mining towns.

I staid here only three or four days, and made but few acquaintance ; yet enough to see that Vienna libertinism had reached Presburg. I wish I could say it had not reached Buda likewise. But how should it be otherwise ? The youth of fashion of both sexes are generally sent to Vienna for their education ; posts of honour and public charges keep many of the nobility here the greatest part of the year,

and its amusements induce most of the opulent to make it their residence for a time. A gentleman to whom I had a letter of introduction, on a very slight acquaintance, invited me to come and drink coffee with him, and promised to treat me with the sight of a beautiful young lady whom he had seduced the day before. As libertines often boast of crimes they have not committed, I hoped it would have been so here, and at the appointed hour I went. Soon after a respectable old gentleman and lady entered the room, and a charming girl, their daughter, accompanied them. Her juvenile appearance, had not her full bosom indicated the reverse, would have led me to think that Love had not yet told her of the charms of his voluptuous banquet; that Nature had not yet invited her; and that Pleasure, awed by her youth, had not yet dared to offer her bewitching hand to lead her to it; I should have thought she was yet free from temptation, and incapable of falling; but alas! it was otherwise. As I looked at her, her cheeks said, we have cherished unhallowed kisses and are ashamed; her eyes, that they had suffered themselves to be closed in the sweet transports of their lovely mistress; and the fair bosom heaved, and told it had scorned the bounds modesty has prescribed, and had invited the amorous embrace: all bespoke her fall, all declared that she had yielded to the alluring voice of seduction, and to the persuasive language of her own desires.

As afterwards we walked through a room, she cast an expressive look at the sofa on which the first familiarities had taken place; where desire, almost unfelt, had been raised into an ardent passion; and
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from whence, now welcoming Pleasure's enchanting invitation, she had been conducted to the altar of Love, there, in exchange for a few short-lived transports, to offer up her innocence, her peace, perhaps her life. But how her lovely bosom heaved as we passed this so late couch of pleasure! How busy were then her thoughts! In the course of the afternoon, sighs and smiles, composed and wandering looks rapidly succeeded each other; and her troubled soul seemed to pass quickly from the recollection of past pleasures, to the anticipation of future sufferings; and from thoughts of repentance to the desire of repetition.—Ah! what misery may not this—this one slip, the tribute of sensibility and youthful nature to Love, have caused! I shudder when I think of it.

What, if from this single embrace prolific Nature, always delighting in the warmth of passion, should have destined my lovely girl to be a — mother? How, on the enlargement of her slender waist, pharisees will have scorned her, and prudes have sneered at her! Will she not have been slighted by our sex, and shunned by her own; and thus have been excluded from society as a disgrace to human nature? Whither will she fly for a protector, when the mother who bore her will not own her, and when the father who begot her shuts the door against her, and those whom she has called by the sacred name of friend, for virtue's sake, will not see her? The cruel spoiler of her innocence and peace triumphs in her ruin, or has forgotten her; to beg she is ashamed, and the hand of charity to such is doubly cold.

Unfortunate, but not debased, she scorns life on the term of prostitution, the last resource of fallen beauty ! And what is now existence ? a burthen only to those of a generous mind. LIFE, light airy spirit, thou reluctantly quittest the happy breast—through innumerable long revolving periods, thou art willing to be its guest, but readily quittest that where misery dwells. Prisons cannot detain thee, nor can chains bind thee. Driven away against thy will thou mayest be, but never held without thy consent ; consolation indeed sweet, but to misery alone. Life will no longer bear the insulting reproaches of a malicious world, it's already on the wing, it longs to be gone, and carelessly flutters over the dreary dominions of the appalling king of terrors, which now have lost their terrific look, and are become the tranquil land of oblivion to misfortune. Now all the ties to mortality are broken, the love of life is gone, the fear of death is over ; and as the clouds of adversity blacken, it spreads its light wings, and takes the wondrous flight, and quits this hard-hearted grovelling world. At the sad news we startle. Some few drop a tear ; whilst the righteous exclaim, Behold the end of the wicked, and the just judgment of an offended Deity!—A DEITY!!—One then that I abhor——Ah! profane not the sacred name of nature's Lord by such suggestions, nor render odious this pleasing sound. Now, light flippant libertine, what hast thou to boast of but—MURDER ? and ye, spotless prudes, who could not be tainted by the company of such a *wretch*, ye are his accomplices.

I staid to see my fallen fair out of the house of seduction. At every
look

look I took at her, and at every word I spoke to her, she seemed to say, And do YOU know what I have been at? Are the prints of my seducer's lips, then, still on my cheeks and bosom? and is the soft languor of love still in my eyes, and all the signs of tumultuous joy now glowing in my countenance?—Yes, sweet girl! I knew of thy weakness, despised thee not, but pitied and forgave thee; and mayest thou never more expose thyself to the sport of fortune, and an ill-natured world; but now, having given thy hand to a lover warm and youthful as thyself, be enjoying in his arms transports unfelt even in thy maiden loves!

Kittfee, a small town, which is supposed by some good antiquarians to have given its name to that vehicle called a coach, as being the place where it was first fabricated, is only two or three miles from hence. Johnson in his great Dictionary says, that the coach is an Hungarian invention; and the words Kittfee and Coach to an antiquarian may be strikingly alike, though to no one else. I think it is Fisher who, in proving the common origin of the Hungarians and the Finlanders, exclaims, "*Quantula est ea differentia nominum Ugur et Vogul.*"

To get rid of this piece of archaology, I will give the reader a translation of a short paper printed in the Hungarian Magazine, and written by D. Cornides. "That vehicle," says he, "which in German is called a Kutsche (coach), and which, on account of its
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great convenience, is introduced into all the countries of Europe, has, as it is well known, in other European languages nearly the same name. This would lead one to conjecture with probability, that the vehicle, and likewise its name, originated, and was in use with one people only, from whence the other nations took the invention and the name.—An infinity of examples of this kind support the justness of my conjecture: thus for example, the French word *minuet* is retained in all other languages, as this dance was invented in France, from whence by degrees it passed into other countries. Such a generally received word is the word *Kutsche*; those, therefore, who have attempted to give the origin of this word, ought, I think, to have examined first in what country coaches were first made. As long as this question remains undetermined, all etymological derivations of the word *Kutsche* rest upon very uncertain conjectures, as it has been observed by the celebrated Swedish Professor, John Ihre, in his *Glossario Suiogothico*, tom. 1. Col. 1178, printed at Upsal in 1760. These are his words: ‘*Kusk, auriga. Proprie ipsum carpentum videtur denotare. Gall. Cocher. Hisp. id. Ital. Cocchio, Angl. Coach, Hung. Cotczy. Belg. Gœtse, Germ. Kutsche: qui vero ejusmodi vehicula dirigit, Anglis Coachman dicitur, quod brevius aliæ linguæ reddidere, ut Galli Cocher, nos Kusk, dicentes. Cujus vero originis sit, dictu difficile est, quum ignoremus, cujus populi inventum sint camerata hæc vehicula. Latinum facit Menagius, & quidem longo circuitu a *vehiculum* formatum; Junius paulo minus operose Græcum, ab *ὄχεω*, veho; Wachterus Germanicum*

a *kutten*, tegere; Lye, Belgicum a *kochsin* cubere, ut proprie lecticam significet. Prætereo alias aliorum conjecturas.’

“ I venture to prove by evident testimonies, that this carriage originated in Hungary, and that it has received the name Kutsche from the place of its invention, or nativity, if I may so express myself, and that it has been propagated to other nations. I will bring forward my sureties. The first is John Lifthius, Bishop of Wesprim, and Chancellor to the Court, one of the most able men of his time; he had written with his own hand several short but very useful remarks on the margin of the Decades of Bonfinius, which he had received from the celebrated John Sambucus, as a present, on the tenth of June 1568, which P. Pray, so justly famed on account of his historical knowledge of his country, to whom it now belongs, was so kind as to communicate to me. Among the remarks of Lifthius upon some of the passages of Bonfinius, the following appear to me particularly remarkable. Bonfin. decad. 4. lib. 1. relates that the King, Matthias Corvinus, often used to have for his amusement combats on horseback and in carriages, and makes use of the expression: ‘ Aurigatione assidua usus est, &c.’ This expression of Bonfinius gave Lifthius the occasion to subjoin this marginal interpretation: ‘ Bizony Kochis nem v’olt. Romanus enim ille mos jam olim tum deserat, nisi forte dicere velit, curru Kochy (it is pronounced Kotsi) vectum, cujus Rex primus inventor fuit.’ The second witness I have to produce in support of my assertion, is Stephan Broderethus, who, in the description of the
battle

battle lost at Mohatsch in 1526, relates the following of Paul Tomory, arch-bishop of Kolotfcha. ‘ Ubi exploratum habuit Turcæ in Hungariam adventum, non contentus id per literas et nuncios sæpe antea regi significâsse, conscensis raptim levibus curribus, quos nos a loco Kokze appellamus, vigesima Martii, ad regem, tunc Vissegradi agentem, repente advolat, &c.’ The third that I ought not to fail producing as surety for me, is Sigismund, Baron of Herberstein, the Imperial Ambassador at the Court of the King of Hungary Louis the II. in his much esteemed Commentario de Rebus Moscoviticis, Basil 1571, fol. page 145, where accidentally mentioning some post stations in Hungary, we find a passage which merits our attention. It is this: ‘ Quarta (respiratio equorum et permutatio) sex infra Jaurinum milliaribus, in pago Cotzi, a quo et vectores currus nomen acceperunt, Cotzique adhuc promiscue appellantur.’—Further, Frederick Nostleder, a writer of the sixteenth century, seems to acknowledge likewise the Hungarian origin of coaches, when, in his work upon the German war, page 612, he expresses himself thus: ‘ The Emperor Charles the V. laid himself to sleep in an Hungarian coach (*Gutschwagen*), as he had the gout.’ All these testimonies hitherto produced, shew the justness of my assertion beyond all doubt; I shall not therefore extend my proofs further, only add a few words on the immoderate use our countrymen made of this national invention at first.

“ As the coach, even in Hungary, in the middle of the sixteenth century,

century was somewhat scarce, it is no wonder if every Hungarian wished to travel in them, and even to use them in the field; and that it was necessary to put a stop to this abuse by a law of the land. For this purpose we find, in the decree of 1523, art. 20. a law which runs thus: 'Et quod nobiles unius sessionis per singula capita pariter insurgere et advenire teneantur, et non in Kotfi, prout *plerique solent*, sed exercituantium more, vel equites vel pedites, ut pugnare possint, venire sint obligati.' It is likewise worth while, on quoting this act, to add this circumstance as a further support of the opinion of the coach being an Hungarian invention; that at first we knew not how to name this carriage in Latin, which was unknown to the Greeks and Romans, but by simply calling it, as in the Hungarian, Kotfi, or sometimes Currum Kotfi. I refer, besides to the lately mentioned act, to several other original papers of this country of those times. Here, for example, belong some passages of the manuscript list of the royal expenditure for the year 1526, of which the inestimable Father Pray, in the *Annal. Reg. Hung. P. V. p. 101.* has communicated to us a valuable fragment, where it is said in the note *g*, 'Pro solutione Kotfy dati sunt in cupreis flor. 50;' and in the note *r*, 'Pro expensis et solutione Kotfy ad Viennam, et ex quo Viennæ tandem equum emere debebit, dati sunt in cupreis floreni 75;' and again in the note *t*, 'Pro solutione trium Curruum Kotfy, &c.' This is enough. Only a short remark on the word Kotfi.

"Since from all the fore-mentioned clear testimonies it is sufficiently

evident, that the honour of the invention is due to our country, Hungary, and that even the word *Kutsche* owes its origin to a place of this same name in Hungary, we may take it amiss from so patriotic a man as Joseph Benkö, that he should assert in his *Transylvania*, P. I. p. 384, that the Hungarian word *Kotli* is derived from the German word *Kutsche*; since, as we have already seen, the thing is quite the reverse. Even a learned German, a contemporary of King Mathias Corvinus, John Cuspinianus, properly called *Spießhammer*, physician and counsellor to the Emperor Maximilian the First; and who was, as he says himself, within the space of five years sent twenty-four times to Hungary as ambassador, plainly says, in his *Diarium de Congressu Maximiliani I. Caes. cum Vladislao, Ludovico, & Sigismundo, Hungariæ, Bohemiæ, ac Poloniæ Regibus*, in Matt. Bel's *Adparatus ad Hist. Hung. dec. i. Monum. vi. p. 292*, that *Kottfchi* is a native Hungarian word. For when he gives us a description of the solemn entry of the Emperor Maximilian the First, and the three before-mentioned kings, into Vienna, of which ceremony he himself was an eye-witness, and even concerned in, he says, as something characteristic of the Hungarian pomp: ‘*Vehebantur multi [Hungarorum] in curribus illis velocibus, quibus nomen est patria lingua Kottfchi.*’ I must still clear one difficulty out of the way. It is concerning the place where they were first invented, and which is called by Broderith, *Kotcze*; but by the Baron of Herberstein, *Cotzi*.

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Where is this place? it may be asked. In what country are we to look for it? Broderith, it may be said, does not give us his opinion about it, and now nobody knows of a village which, according to the account of the Baron of Herberstein, lay about six miles from Raab and was called Cotzi. However plausible this objection may be, it is very easy to answer it; for, to judge according to the situation of Cotzi as determined by the Baron, Cotzi can be no other than the market-town Kitsee, in the county of Wieselburg: and the small difference of the two names Kotzi and Kitsee ought not to disturb us; for it is highly probable that formerly it was not written and pronounced as it is now, Kitsee, but Kotsee. At least in 1515 Cuspinianus in his *Diarium* called this place Kotsee, as may be seen in Bel, p. 288. where it is said, ‘Qui [Maximiliani I. Caes. Oratores, in quibus et ipse Cuspinianus erat] xiv. die Julii invenerunt Regem Hungariae Uladislauum, cum liberis suis, in quodam castro Kottsee cui adjacet villa prope Danubium.’ And Mat. Bel adds the following note (g) on the word Kottsee, ‘Vetus & genuina apud Germanos Köptsinii, Mosonensium oppidi, adpellatio, a caenoso situ, quem Danubii olim deluvia talem faciebant, deducta: jam Kittzee vocant. Vide operis nostri tom. 5. in Hist. Comitatus Mosonensis, parte Spe. memb. 1. sect. 1. num. 4.’ Likewise Gerhardus de Roo, Librarian in Inspruck to the Arch-Duke, a writer of the 16th century, mentions this market-town under the name Coche, which, according to the French, and at that time the Hungarian, manner of reading, must be pronounced like Kotschee. I will likewise give the

words of this historian: 'Statuit deinde [Comes Cilleiensis] secundo experiri fortunam, & in oppido Coche, quod in Hungariæ finibus situm est, cum suis profectus, &c.' And that this market town must have been called Kotsche in the time of Math. Corvinus, appears from his contemporary Bonfinius, who in dec. iii. lib. 7. writes it likewise Coche: 'Qui,' he says, 'in Ungariæ finibus, ad Coche oppidum, cum gubernatore conveniant, &c.' and with this I conclude my proof.

M. DAN. CORNIDES."

Time had moved rapidly on, and had reached the middle of October. I had yet other countries to see; I must therefore leave Presburg, and Hungary likewise. I crossed the Danube, on leaving this city, on a *pont volant* like that at Komorn, and, after travelling a few miles on a very magnificent road, I reached Wolfsthal, the confines of Austria. Here I bid farewell to my favourite Hungary; and though the country before me, on the banks of the Danube, was remarkably pleasant, and afforded the most beautiful prospects, I could not leave that behind without regret; and I frequently looked back to thank its generous inhabitants for the friendly reception they had given me, and to wish them every kind of public prosperity. The Hungarians are a noble race of men; and, of the variety of nations amongst which I have travelled, the one I esteem the most. This small tribute of praise I owe them, and I pay it with pleasure.