you that on the whole the scenery of this part of the Elbe and of the Saxon Switzerland resembles that of the north River at West Point, only that at West Point the mountains are higher and more majestic but not so precipitous. It reminded me also of the beautiful valley of the Onion River through which I travelled in my way from Burlington to Boston exactly a year before. The Elbe however will bear no comparison with the Hudson at West Point for breadth and depth. It is a narrow and rapid but shallow stream and that it is only between Prague and Dresden that it banks possess any beauty. From the tops of some of the mountains which here overlook the Elbe the views are exceedingly picturesque, and on the top of every mountain from which such a view is to be had there is sure to find a Beerhouse - a band of music and half a dozen beggars & wandering minstrels of very unpretending character. A German is never contented with gratifying one sense at a time, but drinks Beer, smokes his pipe, listens to music and admires the prospect all at once. Indeed the Germans generally, I have sometimes most peculiar notions. After scrambling for some time up the side of one of these mountains, which are called "Rocksteins" or Castle-rocks, I suddenly found myself on a small piece of level ground, with a wall of rock on one side and a precipice on the other. Before me was a large [illegible] tree, and just at the right hand of the tree was a large rock, I sat myself down upon it, and looking through the branches of the tree had a most beautiful view of the river and the valley below. The effect was very striking indeed. Now that pictures have ceased to interest me, I am very fond of looking at views in this way. There are many other very striking points of view and one two days walk pleasantly. The beauty and luxuriance of Saxon Switzerland as a perfect paradise, but though I have not seen the most beautiful parts of our country yet I could find abundance of scenery at home quite equal to it. We started for Dresden by the Steamboat and first perused the guide book. We arrived at 9 o'clock and after breakfasting proceeded to the Gallery. The Madonna di San Sisto is here, and far exceeds any picture which I have yet seen. There is also a Madonna by Murillo which delighted me exceedingly. It does not strike one very much at first but grows upon you gradually. Of course I cannot attempt any description of such a gallery as this. The best pictures in it are already known to you by engravings - the Reinstein Magdalene of Correggio, the "Dresden Night" by the same and a collection of 2 or 400,000 engravings from the earliest periods of the art to the present time. This we visited of course, though we could see but a small proportion of the whole. The engravings are mostly bound in books and laid upon upon shelves to avoid the necessity of getting each one out separately. Many of the older ones were shown us, some of them quite unique for effect particularly a volume by Rembrandt who like Albert Durer was a great engraver as well as painter. We spent several hours in looking at engravings the director himself showing and explaining everything to us. Another remarkable collection in Dresden is the Porcellain. A museum containing many thousand specimens of porcellain & china of all ages and from all countries - Chinese, Japanese, Sweden, Berlin, Paris, Vienna, London, St Petersburg and Sarah would leave nothing in existence with this collection which is beyond comparison the finest in existence. The figures of most of the vases are beautiful and the paintings especially of the Berlin and Sweden vases exquisite. There are among other things many curious figures of animals as large as life - though perhaps not quite so natural - Bears, Stags, and Birds, Crocodiles and Turtles. The birds beautifully Colored. I forget how many pieces there were in all but there were certainly several thousand and though very well arranged their number and variety was quite bewildering. Dresden is on the whole the pleasantest city to reside in which I have yet been in Germany. It is delightfully situated and the people more refined and polite than Germans generally are, neither refinement nor politeness forming a part of the German character in general. I left it with considerable regret and started alone for Prague, my American friend going in the opposite direction home to Leipsic. I went up the Elbe again by the steamboat as far as a place called Obristruy in Bohemia, whence stages took us a few hours journey to Prague. Of course I passed again through the Saxon Switzerland which continues under the name of the Bohemian Switzerland almost to Prague itself. We left Dresden at 6 in the morning and at daylight the next day reached Obristruy. All my former impressions were confirmed as to the general aspect of the City, which did not look by any means so old as I expected. The houses are indeed mostly quite new, though I soon found many curious old buildings, churches & towers especially. I have a method of my own

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