

Brussels folks. Visited the zoological gardens. Drove through the boulevards. There are many fine buildings in this city. The Royal Park is very grand, surrounded by the Royal Palace and other public buildings in varied and pleasing style of architecture.

Aug. 9th. Sunday. Walked about the city. Visited the botanic garden, large and very interesting. The Rue Royal is a beautiful street of great length lined on each side with the best buildings of the city. There are many interesting monuments.

Aug. 10th. Left Brussels at 10:45 a.m. and arrived at Cologne 6:15 p.m., a long and tedious ride. Put up at the Hotel Du Nord. Very pleasant rooms. Girls went out to see the cathedral which is close by our hotel. Mrs. Van and I preferred an easy chair for the remainder of this day.

Aug. 11th. 3 months to day since we left home. Martha not feeling well to day. Mrs. Van, Julia, and I visited the interiors of the great cathedral. It is very grand, but the ceiling is so very high in the nave that it gives every thing the appearance of being long drawn out, the roof seemingly on stilts. Aside from this disproportion, it is very like other cathedrals, built in Gothic style. For exterior, see photographs accompanying this Journal. After dinner Martha feeling better. We took carriage and visited many places of interest. Our driver, speaking German interpreted by Julia, visited the Church of St. Ursula. Here we were shown the bones of 11000 virgins who with Ursula were on a pilgrimage to Rome, met the savage Huns who killed the whole party, and there are their remains walled up in niches and forming a plinth of bones around the interior of the church about 4 feet high. Occasionally an opening is left in the wall fitted with glass through which you see these revolting remains. Also in the sacristy, or Golden Chamber, are numerous skulls & shin bones, one said to be the veritable Ursula skull. Here we were shown one of the Jars used at the marriage of Canan, held the water which Christ turned into wine. Also 2 of the thorns from the original crown. Of course I do not take any stock in this nonsense. Yet the fellow that showed us the relics looked as solemn as if he believed every word of it. Visited St. Peters church. Here is a fine picture by Rubens of the crucifixion of St Peter with his head downward. The picture is large and forms the altar piece. It is hung on pivots at top & bottom. On the reverse is a copy of the original picture exhibited here to prove that Rubens was the best painter of the two. Who the hindmost fellow was I don't know.

Aug. 12th. Left Cologne at 9 a.m. on steamboat for a trip up the Rhine to this place Mayence where we arrived at 9 p.m. Found pleasant rooms at the Hotel d' Angleterre (English Hotel). We had a very pleasant day on the river. The scenery on either side is picturesque and in many parts grand and imposing. The old castles give additional interest, not only on account of their picturesqueness, but of their history. They were simply dens for robbers who sallied out and levied black mail on all travelers on the Rhine.

August 13th. Visited a very old cathedral built of brick, remarkable for nothing but its antiquity. Took carriage and drove through the city. Were shown the house in which Gutenberg (inventor of printing) formerly resided, also his monument. Went to a very beautiful public garden in the northern suburbs of the city, then through a very extensive park in the southern suburbs,