

1 March 19<sup>th</sup>. Employed guide this morning to pilot us to the places of interest in this historically  
2 interesting old city. Took landau carriage and drove first to the cathedral of St Vitus, a dingy, old Gothic  
3 building. A few good stained glass windows, but our object was to see the shrine and tomb of St John  
4 Nepomuk which is of solid silver and weighs 4,000 lbs. It is a magnificent thing. The casket is elevated  
5 about 6 feet above the floor on a silver pedestal of beautiful design & workmanship. The panels of the  
6 pedestal have figures in the bas relief of the principal events that immortalized the saint, with several  
7 statues of saints and angels surrounding the casket. It appears that this Nepomuk was a priest and  
8 confessor of Queen Wencislaus. The king demanded of the priest to know what his wife had confessed  
9 to him. He refused the information, and the king ordered him to be thrown from the bridge into the  
10 river where he was drowned. For this act, he was canonized by the pope and is held in great reverence  
11 by the Catholics of Bohemia. The bridge is a fine old structure 1,850 feet long. It has 28 statues of saints  
12 arranged on pedestals, 14 on each side of the bridge. They are of stone of colossal size, and make a very  
13 imposing appearance. That of St. John is of bronze, erected on the spot where he was thrown over the  
14 parapet into the river. We visited the "Hradschin," the palace of the Bohemian kings. We were shown  
15 through the principal apartments, one a magnificent hall 160 feet long, 80 feet wide, and 40 feet high.  
16 The entire ceiling supported by truss-work in the roof. The finish of this room is superb, the style  
17 Corinthian, but entirely void of gilt ornament. I like it full as well as any hall we have seen. This hall is  
18 the coronation room. Adjoining it is a similar hall about the same length, but narrower and of less  
19 height, but finished in same style, used as a banqueting room. It is wonderful that any rulers are allowed  
20 to surround themselves with such costly magnificence in the midst of countless hovels of wretchedness.  
21 We were conducted into the old council chamber and looked out of the windows where in 1618 the  
22 deputies of the kingdom threw three imperial commissioners and their secretaries. They fell 80 feet to  
23 the pavement below. These commissioners were bearers of edicts against the Bohemian protestants,  
24 and this act was the commencement of the 30 years war which gave liberty to Germany and ended with  
25 the peace of Westphalia in 1648. Next visited the Thien Kirche. Several interesting monuments here.  
26 Also the identical pulpit occupied by John Huss. He was treacherously burned at Constance by the  
27 Catholics which caused the 7 years Hussite war. Next visited the Wallenstein Palace, containing good  
28 picture gallery. 100 houses were pulled down to make room for this palace. The owner of this place had  
29 five million dollars yearly income. He lived in greater splendor than the king. He was murdered by order  
30 of some jealous rival, and the palace was occupied by the king's troops as barracks for 50 years. The  
31 Wallenstein family have, however, repurchased it of the government. The gardens are well arranged  
32 and must be very beautiful in their season. Visited the Russian church, very peculiar in its architecture  
33 and arrangements. Has a fine lofty dome. Went into the synagogue. The lower part of this building is  
34 1300 years old, the upper part 600, and never has been cleaned since it was built, so the custodian said,  
35 and so it appeared. Next visited the old Jews burying ground. Some of the tomb stones date 1200 years  
36 ago. The cemetery is large, and the tomb stones are so plentiful that in looking over them, it appears as  
37 if the whole place was paved with stones – set on end. Burials have been prohibited here for the last 85  
38 years. Next drove around about the city and saw many very good specimens of architecture. The new  
39 opera house is intended to be of surpassing grandeur. The old gateways and the Rathhaus, or city hall,  
40 are grand old structures full of historical interest. The hands and heads of protestants have been stuck  
41 up on these old gates as a warning to heretics. Out of the windows of this old city hall, the Hussites  
42 threw the German councilors down on the pikes & spears of the mob below. 60 years later the mob  
43 again entered this building and threw the magistrates out of the windows. To-morrow is Saturday and,  
44 by a vote of our party, we propose to spend Sunday in Dresden, so that we shall make short work of this  
45 city. Leave at ten to-morrow.