

Twenty years ago an American traveler wondered why it was that so few of his countrymen thought it worth while to visit the Pyrenees. Mr. Dix repeats the query to-day, pointing out that not only are the French Pyrenees "one of the loveliest gardens in Europe," but that in other parts of this region the rugged scenery of Switzerland may be found equaled, though not repeated. It will certainly not be the author's fault if Americans longer neglect the country which he has so well described. Perhaps even some American, rather than Englishman, may be the purchaser of the historic walls which he found bearing the inscription in English: "For Sale! This Royal Palace and Castle of the Emperor Charles. appli for informations to Primo Fernandez, Fuenterrabia." Mr. Dix seems to have made an almost ideal summer tour, driving leisurely through valleys and over mountains, climbing peaks ten thousand feet in height above the sea, traversing fertile uplands lying in the rich southern sun, pausing at ancient hostelries, listening to mediæval legends, and studying the local color and the personal characteristics of a simple and interesting people as yet comparatively unspoiled by too frequent contact with the great outside world. The shores of the Biscay Gulf, with its towns of Biarritz and Bayonne—"Bayonne the Invincible;" the country of that ancient people, the Basques, about whose origin philologists still quarrel; San Sebastian, known as "the Brighton of Madrid;" Orthez, rich in memories of Froissart; Pau, "the little Paris of the South;" Luchon, "the Interlaken of the Pyrenees;" and "the valleys of the shadow and of the sun"—these are among some of the more striking resting-places in Mr. Dix's delightful tour, and they are described with a distinctly artistic and individual touch. They are also illustrated by many sketches in pen and ink and reproductions of photographs. The author has a neat gift of characterization, and continues to enliven his sketches with just the right amount of personal interest while avoiding trivial matters. Particularly enjoyable are his excursions into the mediæval history whose adventure, romance, and chivalry are so intimately connected with the old towns and castles of the Pyrenees. Froissart, Henry of Navarre, the Black Prince, Charlemagne, Roland, and other knightly names constantly come to the mind, and suggest many apt quotations and legends from the old chroniclers. Mr. Dix's style is quiet and self-contained, free from the prevailing vice of books of travels of trying to be sprightly at all hazards; and it may be said, in short, that he has found many new points of view of a subject which is still fresh, and has presented his observations in an entertaining and agreeable manner. The volume is well printed, and the cover, in color and design, is in excellent taste.