

## A Book of the Week.

### THE ADVENTURES OF ELIZABETH IN RÜGEN.\*

It is very seldom possible to repeat a success, and to repeat it in exactly the same style. This, however, the delightful Elizabeth seems to accomplish without effort, and, like Old Father William, "to do it again and again."

Not only is there no sign of falling off in the present chapter of her experiences, but it is, perhaps, as humorous as anything she has ever given us. In this dark world, how good a thing is the laughter that springs from a right value of the amusing parts of life! Elizabeth has the crowning virtue of philosophy. Perhaps, if the "Man of Wrath" had resembled the Professor, poor Charlotte's husband, her philosophy might have been the least bit ruffled; but then she would never have made the initial blunder of marrying the Professor.

On the whole, perhaps, the Professor is the most wholly vivid and perfect of all those who move through Elizabeth's pages. The wonder of him is the few words in which the whole man, so typical of his nation and age, is laid before you.

Charlotte was of the greatly daring type of German girl who has gone to Oxford! And at Oxford "she took everything there was to take in the way of honours and prizes, and was the joy and pride of her college. In her last year, a German savant of sixty, an exceedingly bright light in the firmament of European learning, came to Oxford and was fêted."

Charlotte was presented to her great countryman, and she, being very pretty, the great man was delighted, chucked her under the chin, and, when told of her promising career, murmured: "A nice round little girl. A very nice round little girl. *Colossal appetitlich.*" Six months later she married the elderly widower.

"After that I seldom heard from her. She lived in the south of Germany, and every year her professor's fame waxed vaster. Every year, too, she brought a potential professor into the world, and every year death cut short its career after a period varying from ten days to a fortnight, and the *Kreuzzeitung* seemed to be perpetually announcing that *Heute ist meine liebe Frau Charlotte von einem strammen Jungen leicht und glücklich entbunden worden, and Heute starb unser Sohn Bernhard im zarten Alter von zwei Wochen.*

Poor Charlotte gave up the game after the sixth attempt, and, to the hysterical horror of her family, took to lecturing in public.

"How proud you must be of such a clever wife!" said Elizabeth, meeting Charlotte's husband.

"Yes, yes," said he, "so they all tell me. The little Lotte is making a noise. Empty vessels do. But I dare say what she tells them is a very pretty little nonsense."

Charlotte had married a man who, like most Germans, could not take a woman seriously! For the upshot of their marital relations we must refer readers to the book itself. And at this point it becomes apparent that the delights of Charlotte and the Professor have left no room at all for Mrs. Harvey Brownie, or for the episode of the Maiden Aunt, and very little for an opinion upon Rügen, considered as a place in which to tour. As regards this last, I own

\*Macmillan and Co.

that the impression left on my own mind by the perusal is that you might as well try a solitary tout on Hampstead Heath.

Elizabeth evidently made a mistake in the month in which she went; the *Büde-gäste* were everywhere, drinking beer and enjoying their *Kraftig-Mittagstisch*. The Island is doubtless lovely, but it seems to be too small for two people to avoid each other comfortably; and this surely does not make for calm and healing of the mind. One is tempted to think that the writer really meant to warn off the English tourist, and not to encourage her. The only way to settle that would be to go and see. G. M. R.

## What to Read.

"Ireland in the New Century." By the Right Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett, K.C.V.O., F.R.S.

"Duchess Sarah; being the Social History of the Times of Sarah Jennings Duchess of Marlborough, with Glimpses of her Life and Anecdotes of her Contemporaries in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries." Compiled and arranged by one of her descendants (Mrs. Arthur Colville).

"Talks of Napoleon at St. Helena." Translated by M. E. Wormeley Latimer.

"The Mastery of the Pacific." By Archibald Colquhoun.

"The Interloper." By Violet Jacob.

"Glow-Worm Flames." By Agnese Laurie-Walker.

"Jarwick the Prodigal." By Tom Gallon.

"The American Prisoner." By Eden Phillpotts.

## Coming Events.

*March 14th.*—Meeting at the Mansion House, by invitation of the Lady Mayoress, on behalf of the proposed National Training-School for District Midwives. The Countess of Stamford will preside, and the Bishop of London, Dr. Annie McCall, and Miss Alice Gregory will speak. Cards of admission may be obtained of the last-named at the Deanery, St. Paul's, E.C. 3 p.m.

*March 15th.*—The Queen and the Princess of Wales give their patronage to a Morning Concert at Stafford House, in aid of the Industrial Farm at Duxhurst, Reigate.

*March 16th.*—Annual Meeting of the Women's Local Government Society, the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Lady Trevelyan will preside, 3.30 p.m.

*March 21st.*—The Prince and Princess of Wales give their patronage to a Concert in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, 8.30.

*March 24th.*—Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, W., to elect new members and arrange the Annual Meeting.

*March 25th.*—A meeting to lay before the Society of Women Journalists the subject of "State Registration of Trained Nurses," 431, Oxford Street, 4 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m.

*April 8th.*—Conference of Members of Nurses' Leagues and Societies to discuss "Organisation with a view to International Affiliation," by the invitation of Miss Isla Stewart, Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street. Tea 4 p.m.; Conference 4.30 p.m.

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