

called good looking. As their boat came close to ours, we exchanged the usual salutations of strangers in a strange land, conversed a while about the beauty of the surroundings, and we accepted their polite invitation to take a glass of wine, with which they were well supplied. One of the gentlemen was a German; his accent in pronouncing the English betrayed him. The other was a son of the Empire State. We found them very agreeable company, and, being desirous of cultivating their acquaintance, proposed to approach the shore, beach our boats and pass the day together. They promptly accepted; both boats were headed toward the land, and in a half hour we found ourselves cosily ensconced in one of the numerous shady nooks which abound in this locality.

In the distance, near the shore of the lake, was a small house. Thither we sent the man who had charge of the other boat, to borrow, if possible, the necessary utensils for preparing a meal. He succeeded remarkably well, for in a short time he returned laden down, not only with dishes and pans, but with a full supply of everything that might be wanted; bread, butter, ham, and a multitude of other eatables, not even forgetting the usually required condiments, pepper and salt. The boatman, whom we had remunerated for his trouble, now took charge of the culinary department, made a fire, placed pans and kettles in position, and in less than fifty minutes a very complete meal was prepared.

It is almost superfluous to add that justice was done to both the solid and liquid portions of our repast; wine flowed freely and we felt happy.

The afternoon was spent in a very agreeable manner. Singing was indulged in and our German friend sang "The Watch on the Rhine," all joining in the chorus. The locality we had chosen for our improvised picnic was romantic beyond description. On the one side a turbulent stream, emptying into the lake, on the other a high mountain, rising thousands of feet above our heads; behind us a dense forest, yet untouched by the axe of the settler, and in front the broad expanse of the lake.

We were entirely locked out from the civilized portion of the world, and for the time being forgot all our cares.

Time flew rapidly, and before we were aware of it the sun had set, and the greyish mist which is peculiar to semi-tropical climes, previous to sunrise and just after sunset, made its appearance. One after another the stars became visible in the firmament, a light breeze stole gently over the lake, slightly agitating its surface; the moon appeared over the top of the mountains, throwing her silvery rays upon the waters, which reflected a thousand times in the undulating surface of the now rippled bosom of this magic mirror. It was time to depart, and as we had agreed to pass the remainder of the evening together in Lakeport, we launched our boats and proceeded homeward. When about one-half of the journey had been accomplished, the boats being close together, our German friend proposed the toast "our friendship." We could not refuse, and brought our boat along-side of the other. The toast duly honored, the boats separated. Our friend, leaning over the side too far, lost his balance—a splash—his companion tried to catch him by the arm—another splash, and both were in the water, swimming vigorously for life. We immediately exerted ourselves to rescue them, and after considerable work finally succeeded in saving and helping them into the boat. It was work, hard work, to draw 280 pounds from the water. When everybody was safe we proceeded on our way and reached the hotel in Lakeport about 10 P. M. Our friends, who were not any worse for their involuntary bath, invited us to their room and as we had first responded to "our friendship," they now drank to "our rescue."

The occurrence on the lake naturally led to a closer acquaintance, and, as is usual in cases of sudden emotion, our friends desired to give us a sketch of their lives and the reason why they came to California. The German spoke as follows: "I was born on the banks of the Rhine, of wealthy parents, and passed the years of my childhood in the country, distant from the turmoil and bustle of city life. At the age of eight I was sent to the neighboring village school, and pursued my studies until my fifteenth year, when, according to custom, I was transferred to the college, where I remained till I attained my eighteenth birthday. My father wished me to study law; I preferred medicine, and for this purpose entered the University of Heidelberg. I followed my studies closely, and in due course of time received my diploma of M. D. During my university life I frequently visited my parents, generally passing the winter holidays under the paternal roof. On the Christmas day previous to my finally leaving the university I was at home as usual, and received an invitation to a ball, to be given that evening. Being fond of amusement I was among the first in the ball-room and one of the most active dancers.

"Among the numerous young ladies at the soirée, was one who particularly attracted my attention—a daughter of sunny Spain, Isabella ———, who had been sent to Germany to finish her education. She had a beautiful form, her raven hair falling in long tresses over a Venus-like bust, and eyes that penetrated to the deepest recesses of my soul. She was amiable, graceful, and intelligent. She came, she saw, she conquered. I was her willing slave; my feelings were reciprocated and we were engaged to be married. The consent of her parents was solicited and obtained; my father was eager to contribute to the happiness of his only child and agreed to settle upon me a portion of his estates. I returned to the University, passed the examinations with credit and obtained my diploma. Preparations for our nuptials were being made at