

*ser-Brunnen* (Ogre's-fountain), on the Corn-house-square, receives its name from a figure (probably Saturn) devouring a child, with others stuck in his girdle and pockets ready for consumption. Some bear the figures of armed warriors, such as David; another is surmounted by a female figure; but the favourite device is the *Bear*, the armorial bearings of the canton, which is what the French heralds call an "armoiric parlante;" the word "*Bern*" signifying a bear, in old German, or rather in the Saxon dialect. Indeed, the animal is as great a favourite here as in the house of Bradwardine. Thus, the upper fountain in the principal street is surmounted by a bear in armour, with breast-plate, thigh pieces, and helmet; a sword at his side, and a banner in his paw. The *Schützen Brunnen* is the figure of a Swiss cross-bowman of former days, attended by a young bear as squire; and two stone bears, larger than life, stand as sentinels on either side of the Morat gate.

Along the line of the principal street are three antique watch-towers. The *Clock tower* (*Zeitglochenturm*) stands nearly in the centre of the town, though, when originally built, in 1191, by Berchtold V., of Zähringen, it guarded the outer wall. Its droll clockwork puppets are objects of wonder to an admiring crowd of gaping idlers. A minute before the hour strikes, first, a wooden cock appears, crows twice, and flaps his wings; and while a puppet strikes the hour on a bell, a procession of bears issues out, and passes in front of a figure on a throne, who marks the hour by gaping and by lowering his sceptre. Further on in the street stands the *Käfigt Thurm* (cage tower), now used as a prison; and beyond it *Christopher's tower*, also called *Go-liath's*, from the figure of a giant upon it.

The great charm of Berne is the view of the Bernese Alps, which the

town and every eminence in its neighbourhood command in clear weather. This is excellently seen from the *Platform*, a lofty terrace, planted with shady rows of trees, overlooking the Aar, behind the Minster. Nearly a dozen snowy peaks of the great chain are visible from hence; they appear in the following order, beginning from the E.: — 1. Wetterterhorn; 2. Schreckhorn; 3. Finster-Aarhorn; 4. Eigher; 5. Mönch; 6. Jungfrau; 8. Gletscherhorn; 9. Mittaghorn; 10. Blumli's Alp; 11. In the middle distance, Niesen; 12. Stockhorn.

There cannot be a more sublime sight than this view at sunset; especially at such times as, from a peculiar state of the atmosphere, the slanting rays are reflected from the Alpine snows in hues of glowing pink. It is hardly possible to gaze on these Alps and glaciers without desiring to explore their recesses, which enclose some of the most magnificent scenery in Switzerland. The *Platform* itself, supported by a massive wall of masonry, rises 108 feet above the Aar; yet an inscription on the parapet records that a young student, mounted on a spirited horse, which had been frightened by some children, and leaped the precipice, reached the bottom with no other hurt than a few broken ribs. The horse was killed on the spot. The rider became minister of Kerzera, and lived to a good old age!

The *Minster*, a very beautiful Gothic building, was begun 1421, and finished 1457. One of its architects was the son of Erwin of Steinbach, who built Strasburg minster; and many of the ornaments, — such as the open parapet running round the roof, and varying in pattern between each buttress, — are not inferior in design or execution to those of Strasburg. The chief ornament is the great W. portal, bearing sculptured reliefs of the Last Judgment, flanked by figures of the wise and foolish Virgins, &c. The interior is not remarkable. In