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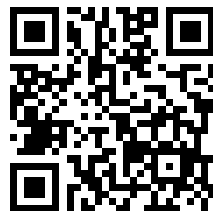
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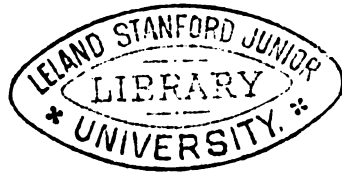
OVERLAND MONTHLY

VOL. XXII.—SECOND SERIES

JULY=DECEMBER, 1893



SAN FRANCISCO
OVERLAND MONTHLY PUBLISHING COMPANY
Pacific Mutual Life Building
1893



A21322

BACON PRINTING COMPANY

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THE
Overland Monthly

Vol. XXII. (Second Series).—July, 1893.—No. 127

[July,

The Wives of Weinsberg.

After Bürger.

OF goodly Weinsberg be it said,
(A town stout as another,)
She hath in every virtue bred
Full many a maid and mother.
“When I to wed make up my mind
A Weinsberg wife I’ll try to find.”

The Kaiser Konrad once fell out
With Weinsberg, (more’s the pity !)
He and his horsemen tramped about
The doughty little city.
They laid the siege, they mined the wall,
They fired away, both great and small.

And when the city still showed fight,
Although on her last ration,
A herald cried, with all his might,
Konrad’s determination :—
“You knaves ! once in your streets, I swear,
Each mother’s son shall swing in air !”

When this intelligence was cried,
Tremendous the commotion :
Speech failed the burghers, terrified
At such an awful notion.
The price of bread was below par,
But good advice more dear by far.

“Unhappy Korydons are we,”
The parsons went lamenting ;
“Kyrie Eleison ! doomed are we,
With no time for repenting ;
Oh, wretched Korydons ! Oh, dear !
Our necks already feel so queer !”

A priest may come to his wits’ end,
Though effort he redouble ;
But on a woman’s wit depend,
Through every kind of trouble !
(The sharpest practice I have known,
By priests and women have been done !)

A young and clever matron (she
Had but one month been married)
Made a suggestion ; all agree ;
By acclamation carried !
Applaud it, readers, I insist,
This word in time, by voice and fist.

In the besiegers’ camp appears,
At midnight from the city,
A lovely embassy ; with tears,
They sue for grace and pity,
These Weinsberg women, on their knees,
They plead ; with no results but these :

“The women should have right of way,
Each with her greatest treasure.
All left behind should be that day
Slain without check or measure.”
Wherefore in somewhat doleful plight,
The women journeyed home that night.

But when the daylight dawned serene,
(I hope you are attending,)
Through Weinsberg's nearest gate was seen,
A troop of women wending ;
And every woman, in a sack,
Carried her husband on her back.

More than one courtier loud averred
The bargain should be broken.
But Konrad said, “The Kaiser's word
Must stand as it is spoken.”
“Fine women,” cried he, “Bravo,—hem ;
I hope *our* wife agrees with them !”

He granted pardon ; gave a ball,
And banquet for the pleasure
Of those fair ladies ; one and all,
He danced with, to gay measure ;
Danced with the Lady Mayoress ;
Danced with the broom-girl, I profess !

Now, can't you tell where Weinsberg lies,
A town with credit laden ?
Hath bred and reared full many a wise
And faithful wife and maiden.
If ever I'm to wed inclined,
A Weinsberg wife I'll try to find.

Katharine Read Lockwood.