

NEISLER

"Sine nomine, homo non est."

- - - - -

Not far from Weil, near Stuttgart, Germany, there stood early in the eighteenth century a stone house that had been standing there for five hundred years. The name of the family who owned it was cut in large quaint letters over the entrance door. It was "Neischler".

For saving the life of the King in the Schwarzwald or Black Forest, this property had been bestowed upon the founder of the house, together with a title, and the office of Grand Marshal, which descended from father to son. In 1730, the name was represented by two sons, Frederic and Johan. They both had to learn a trade, as was the custom in Germany, not only for the nobility but royalty as well. The father of Frederic the Great was a blacksmith, and William I was a printer.

Frederic being the eldest inherited the estate. He was a proud, hard man. When he rode out in his coach drawn by four horses, and any beggar dared approach, he would make one of his men who attended him on horseback beat him away.

John (Johan) had a soft and tender heart, and was filled with disgust at the arrogance and cruelty of the nobility in general and his brother in particular, so he determined to leave his native country, and seek the freedom that he loved in America. He had accumulated a considerable fortune, and was Burgomaster of Van Wiel. He turned all of his property into gold and placed it in the hands of a merchant in Amsterdam.

It was very difficult to find a vessel sailing for America, and he expected to be in the city many weeks, but when he arrived, finding a ship about to leave for Charleston, South Carolina, he had to hurry on board and did not have time to call upon the merchant with whom he had deposited his money, so left a note for him to forward it, but he never saw a dollar of it, though it was a large sum. So it happened that he departed for a strange land without any money except the gold concealed about the persons of himself and wife. It was nine months from the time he left Van Wiel before he landed in Charleston. He left his eldest son, Frederick, in Germany, because he was the heir to the family house and honors, his brother Frederick having no children.