

Insruck, the chief city of the Tyrol, is situated in the valley of the Inn, nearly midway between the source of this river and its confluence with the Danube.* It was known to the Romans as *Cenipontum*, but not as the capital of the Tyrol: this distinction was held by Meran until the thirteenth century, when certain immunities which were granted to Insruck gave it peculiar advantages, and the rank which it has since held. Insruck lies in a little plain, bounded on the northern side by lofty mountains, which divide the Tyrol from Bavaria, and rise abruptly above the Inn to the height of 7000 feet. On the southern side of the plain lies the Abbey of Wiltau, at the foot of the route which leads to Italy by the Brenner. The road rises immediately beyond the Abbey, and on looking down the valley of the Inn from the ascent, a fine view is presented, including Insruck, the town of Hall, and the valley beyond; but this prospect is soon shut out from the observer as he continues his route up the western side of the valley, through which the Sill flows, a river which has its source in the Brenner. Its deep winding course is seen far beneath the road.

About seven miles from Insruck is the village of Unter-Schönberg, where the Rutzbäch, which descends through the valley of Stubay, falls into the Sill. The stream is crossed, and the road winds up the side of the Schönberg. Near the post-house on this mountain, one of the finest scenes in the Tyrol may be enjoyed, where the deep valley of Stubay lies below, with its dark pine forests sweeping down to the torrent, and the distance bounded by the immense glaciers and peaked summits of the Stubay.†

From Schönberg the road ascends the valley called the Wipp-thal, by the torrent of the Sill; and after passing

* The waters of the Inn are greater than those of the Danube at their confluence; and the loss of its name in the Danube is an undeserved dishonour.

† Plate the First. The inhabitants of this retired and beautiful valley are known in the German States as the best makers of swords, edge-tools, and other cutlery.