## FIFTY YEARS AFTER: A SCHOOL GIRL ABROAD FIFTY YEARS AGO

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Fifty Years After: A School Girl Abroad Fifty Years Ago by Mary Wiley Staver

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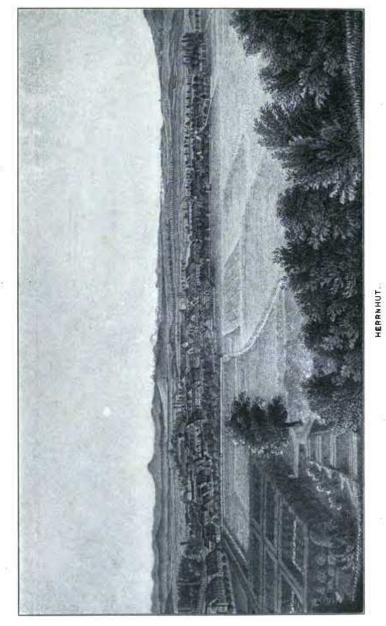
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MARY WILEY STAVER

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### Fifty Years After

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A School Girl Abroad Fifty Years Ago

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"Ob, how the world has altered since some fifty years ago." -Eliss Cost

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BY MARY WILEY-STAVER

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"And never yet Did man cegtet When be was old and gray; That be when young Dad wandered long In countries far away."

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THE TREASURED MEMORY

#### OP MY REQUIRE

#### Menry M. Miley

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TO MY REOTHER

#### John L. Miley,

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#### "Journal"

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#### preface.

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**S**EARCH as we may the chronicles of time, we find no similarly brief period in the least comparable to the past fifty years, in the advancement of civilization, and its so richly abounding results. We are startled into amazement as we try to recall how, with leaps and bounds as it were, developments, undreamed of a half Century ago, have, during that short space of time come to us all along the line of progress. In the Arts and industries. In inventions, so helpful and acceptable, suddenly brought to our aid, and as suddenly and decidedly in a short time, as if ages had intervened, becoming useless and obsolete as newer and better superseded them.

With a bearing on the "Journal" I mentally dwell more particularly upon the marvelous changes in the modes of transportation, comparing the meagre facilities of fifty years ago with the luxurious comfort of travel of the present day. Then, if J do not err, the whole world's railroads consisted of some thirty-five bundred miles, transporting passengers at an average speed of about twenty miles an hour. To-day over four hundred thousand miles of railroad are stretched over the world, their comfortably improved ordinary passenger cars and richly accoutred Pullmans, rushing along at the bewildering speed of sixty and seventy miles an hour. And the wondrous change in ocean travet. The slow sailing ships the only opportunities then, aside from the one or two comparatively primitive steamers, for ocean voyages, carrying the possibly one thousand or less number of yearly cabin passengers in their homely furnished and sparse of comfort saloons, their uncertain voyages of rarely less than three weeks, more frequently wearily prolonged into a much greater length of time, forming an amazing contrast to the wondrous steamer palaces of the various lines, American, Cunard and numerous others now scouring the three thousand miles of ocean surface in the short space of six days, aiding the some ninety thousand yearly passengers enjoying the indescribably rich and luxuriant appointments of the spacious saloons and long sweep of deck-surface on which resting or walking they continually inhale the exhilarating breeze, to realize an entrancing phase of Elysian dreams.

Yet, with it all, I invariably tone down to the assured fact that of all tourists of a later or earlier period none can, or could have enjoyed more their opportunities, than did, in the freshness of her early life, she who, with glad fidelity detailed hers in this Journal.

MARY WILEY STAVER.

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