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**Marie Theresienstrasse, Principal Street of Tyrolian Capital,
Innsbruck, Austria.**

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V15684
MARIA THERESIENSTRASSE, PRINCIPAL STREET OF INNSBRUCK,
AUSTRIA

We are looking almost straight north. That gigantic ridge of limestone is part of the Bavarian Alps. The Bavarian frontier line, separating Austria from Germany, runs over those mountains only about ten miles ahead of us. The Swiss frontier is fifty miles away at the southwest, behind us at the left. If we were to follow this street as it leads off before us we should find it leading down to the river Inn. Buildings hide the stream from view as we stand now.

There was a settlement here in ancient Roman times, identified by a bridge across the river, used by soldiers and by traders on their way between Italy and central Europe. In the early days when Christianity was slowly spreading, missionaries went up through here carrying the Gospel message to pagan folks farther north beyond those mountains. Be-

fore Europe even knew of the existence of the American continent, Innsbrück was a prosperous town, the centre of a rich farming and mining district, a station on a great trade route, and the capital of the Counts of the Tyrol.

The old town has had many exciting experiences in war times, for the Tyrol has always been worth fighting for! The monument before us commemorates a time in 1703 when Bavarian and French troops left the city after one of many military struggles. In 1806 Napoleon took it upon himself to give Innsbrück to the Bavarian government, and then there was hot fighting, led by the Tyrolean Andreas Hofer, to maintain freedom from foreign rule. Hofer himself was executed as a rebel, but his life was not given in vain, for Bavaria had to abandon claims to sovereignty here.