



*The Market-Place in Bremen
in the 16th Century* *

*In the background House Schütting,
seat of the Chamber of Commerce.
The houses on the left were pulled
down to give room for the Stock
Exchange and the Cotton Exchange.
From a model in the Focke Museum.
Phot. Hans Priess. Bremen* *

*The Market-Place
at the present time, with the
Old Town Hall and the Roland
Statue on the right.*
Phot. J. Becker, Bremen *



Richard Krebs:

THE GATEWAY TO ROMANCE

THE old Hanseatic City of Bremen may well be termed the Gateway to Romance, the portal to the most romantic country of the North, Germany, a scenic land rich with a glamorous, adventurous past, and a boiling, yet charming presence. The stream of travel into this stronghold of untold fascination and vivid interest flows unceasingly through the Port of Bremen from all the seven seas. This town, 1200 years ago a quaint fishermen's abode on the Weser dunes, has pushed to the fore in a relentless cycle of enterprise until today it has become the first passenger

center and the second commercial metropolis of Germany.

Once, long, long ago a group of inland fugitives fled down the Weser river. One evening, as the sun raked the earth with crimson javelins, they landed at the dune which now bears the Cathedral, and built a fire in the face of the biting North wind. While searching for firewood, one of their men beheld a moor-hen as she protected her brood with sheltering wings from a circling vulture far overhead. He told his comrades of what he had seen.

Fate had offered them a symbol of safety. The fugitives took it as a good omen and decided to settle down, as it were, seventy miles from the North Sea shore. So they founded Bremen.

Years passed. Decades skimmed to oblivion. Winter storms ravaged the land and fled before the advancing sun that heralds the coming of spring. The village waxed larger. The nearby sea instilled hardness and fearlessness into the hearts of the people. They became fishermen, sailors, traders, merchants. Then the dominant Catholic Church