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avait prévalu. Au bout de quelque temps, un horizon si borné ne suffit plus; la pensée et l'activité humaine aspirèrent à dépasser la sphère où elles étaient renfermées. La vie errante avait cessé, mais non le goût de son mouvement, de ses aventures. Les peuples se précipitèrent dans les croisades comme dans une nouvelle existence plus riche, plus variée, qui tantôt rappelait l'ancienne liberté de la barbarie, tantôt ouvrait les perspectives d'un vaste avenir.

Telles furent, au XII^e siècle, les deux causes déterminantes des croisades. A la fin du XIII^e siècle ni l'une ni l'autre de ces causes n'existait plus. L'homme et la société étaient tellement changés, que ni l'impulsion morale, ni le besoin social qui avaient précipité l'Europe sur l'Asie ne se faisaient plus sentir. Il y a entre les chroniqueurs des premières croisades et les historiens des dernières, un intervalle immense et qui révèle dans l'état des esprits une révolution véritable.

Englische Sprache:

Hamlet aus »Tales from Shakespeare« von Charles Lamb.

Hamlet Prince of Denmark.

Gertrude, queen of Denmark, becoming a widow by the sudden death of King Hamlet, in less than two months after his death married his brother Claudius, which was noted by all people at the time for a strange act of indiscretion, or unfeelingness, or worse: for this Claudius did no ways resemble her late husband in the qualities of his person or his mind, but was as contemptible in outward appearance, as he was base and unworthy in disposition; and suspicions did not fail to arise in the minds of some, that he had privately made away with his brother, the late king, with the view of marrying his widow, and ascending the throne of Denmark, to the exclusion of young Hamlet, the son of the buried king, and lawful successor to the throne.

But upon no one did this unadvised action of the queen make such impression as upon this young prince, who loved and venerated the memory of his dead father almost to idolatry, and being of a nice sense of honour, and a most exquisite practiser of propriety himself, did sorely take to heart this unworthy conduct of his mother Gertrude: insomuch that, between grief for his father's death and shame for his mother's marriage, this young prince was overclouded with a deep melancholy, and lost all his mirth and all his good looks; all his customary pleasure in books forsook him, his princely exercises and sports, proper to his youth, were no longer acceptable; he grew weary of the world, which seemed to him an unweeded garden, where all the wholesome flowers were choked up, and nothing but weeds could thrive. Not that the prospect of exclusion from the throne, his lawful inheritance, weighed so much upon his spirits, though that to a young and high-minded prince was a bitter wound and a sore indignity; but what so galled him, and took away all his cheerful spirits, was, that his mother had shown herself so forgetful to his father's memory; and such a father! who had been to her so loving and so gentle a husband! and then she always appeared as loving and obedient a wife to him, and would hang upon him as if her affection grew to him: and now within two months or as it seemed to young Hamlet, less than two months, she had married again, married his uncle, her dead husband's brother, in itself a highly improper and unlawful marriage, from the nearness of relationship, but made much more so by the indecent