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The young gauger's best instructor

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In the Castle of Konigstein, upon the Banks of the Elbe, 5 English Miles from Dreiden, is the largest Wine-cask in the World. It was begun in 1722, and finished in 1725, under the Direction of General Kyaw. The Length is twenty-eight Feet, the Bung-diameter is twenty-six; and its Shape nearly cylindrical. It consists of 157 Staves, eight Inches thick, and the Heads of 54 Boards; one being composed of twenty-six, and the other of twenty-eight. Each Head weighs 78 Hundred Weight. This Cask, as soon as finished, was filled with 6000 Quintals of good Meissen Wine, which cost 6000 Pounds Sterling, though it was sold at Three-pence-halfpenny per Quart. Before this Cask was finished, the Heidelberg Tun was reckoned the largest in the World; but, according to the common Computation, this at Konigstein contains 649 Hogsheads more than that of Heidelberg.

Upon one of the Heads of this enormous Cask, is a Latin Inscription, which in English is as follows:

“Welcome, Traveller, and admire this Monument, dedicated to Festivity, in order to exhilarate the Mind with a chearful Glass, in the Year 1725, by FREDERICK AUGUSTUS, King of Poland and Elector of Saxony, the Father of his Country, the TITUS of his Age, the Delight of Mankind: Drink therefore to the Health of the Sovereign, the Country, the Electoral Family, and Baron KYAW, Governor of Konigstein; and if thou art able, according to the Dignity of this Cask, (the most capacious of all Casks) drink to the Prosperity of the whole Universe; so farewell.”

The Top of this Cask is railed in, and affords Room sufficient for fifteen or twenty Persons to regale themselves; and several Sorts of large Goblets, called Welcome-Cups, are offered to those, who delight in such Honours.

QUÆRE, How many Hogsheads of English Cyder this Cask will hold, and what the Duty comes to, at 10 Shillings per Hoghead?