



THE "CHESHIRE CHEESE," A LONDON INN.
ONE OF DR. JOHNSON'S HAUNTS.

boy" of a later time; making proud atonement for his anger at the sneers and scornful looks of the daughters of dons, who saw him cross their path "in tattered gown and dirty linen," and with slouching gait. The wit and eloquence, the force and courage, that made him supreme in a company that included Burke, and Reynolds, and Beauclerk, and Goldsmith, gave him in his tatters an undisputed ascendancy. His pride swelled in him to rude indignation, though less fiercely bitter than that of Swift. But the iron of poverty and scorn entered into all his life; the wound was never healed. There was nobility in that pride. Read his letter to Chesterfield. See him spurn the shoes from his door that some well-wishing donor had placed there!

Out of college, without a degree, dabbling in pedagogy and hack literary work, his father dead, and himself on the world well-nigh penniless, he marries. O fie! cries Mrs. Grundy; cannot a man find a woman to marry who is not old enough to be his grandmother? But, we respond, it is his own affair that she was forty-six, while he was

but twenty-six. It is enough that his love was sincere, and his relation with her honourable and endearing. Macaulay, who had such power to enchant or disenchant his subject, has certainly wrought a spell of disenchantment upon the widow Porter. Better we like the dealing of Carlyle: "Their wedded life, as is the common lot, was made up of drizzle and dry weather; but innocence and worth dwelt in it; and, when death had ended it, a certain sacredness. Johnson's deathless affection for his Tetty was always venerable and noble." The day of her ceasing he confesses to have been the saddest that ever befel him. Their first home was at Edial, in the neighbourhood of Lichfield, where he endeavoured to conduct a boarding-school. We have read a copy of his advertisement in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, as it appeared June, 1736. Johnson did not then prove to be the magnet he afterwards became, but even the magnet requires steel particles. In eighteen months he obtained just three pupils, but one was a jewel—David Garrick.

The decisive movement of his