

A COMPARISON OF THE CHARACTERS OF ROWENA AND REBECCA IN SCOTT'S IVANHOE.

IN comparing the characters of the two heroines of Scott's novel, *Ivanhoe*, perhaps it would be well to take into consideration their ancestry, early surroundings, and all other influences which tended to mould and develop them.

Rowena was descended from Saxon nobles, who were proud, resolute, dignified, with indomitable wills, but brave, frank and honest. She was brought up in the home of her guardian, Cedric, where ever since she was a mere child she had been looked up to, revered and obeyed in every detail; even Cedric bowed to her every wish, and she wanted nothing which he did not immediately get for her.

Compare, now, with this Rebecca's early life. She was a Jewess, the daughter of the accursed race, looked down upon, scorned, and despised by every one, rich and poor alike.

Most of the Jews had a great deal of, money and this the rulers and nobles wrung from them by every species of oppression, even personal torture.

Rebecca's father, Isaac, of York, was a very good type of the race, suspicious, watchful, unforgiving, avaricious and timid, his great love for his daughter being his one redeeming quality. He was very wealthy, and everything money could buy Rebecca had. Yet, though surrounded with riches and luxury, she had always in mind the precarious circumstances in which she was placed, and these reflections had given her a sounder judgment and a temper which otherwise might have been haughty, imperious and obstinate.

Her father had taught her to be courteous to every one with whom she came in contact, and she bore herself with a proud humility, as if submitting to the circumstances in which she was placed, while feeling in her own mind the consciousness that she was entitled to a higher rank from her merit than the religious prejudice of the times permitted her to aspire to.

The appearance of the two girls, both extremely beautiful, was very different. Rowena, being tall and fair, with blue eyes and hair of gold, while Rebecca, on the contrary, was dark complected, with flashing dark eyes and long black hair.

Rowena's disposition was naturally a mild, timid and gentle one, but her early education had hardened it, for, accustomed to see