

Methodist Magazine and Review.

OCTOBER, 1904.

THE STORY OF THE PILGRIM FATHERS.

BY N. PEACOCK.



PRISCILLA, THE PURITAN MAIDEN.



JUST three hundred years ago, in the quaint old town of Gainsborough-on-Trent, a little handful of earnest Christians, afterwards known as the Pilgrim Fathers, separated from the Church for conscience sake, to worship under their own pastor, a step which was the natural outcome of the intense Protestant feeling prevailing in the surrounding district.

It seems strange that on the site of the picturesque Old Hall, within whose walls the Separatist Church was, in all probability, first called into being, once stood the palace in which King Alfred wedded the fair Alswitha, and where Canute, the son of Sweyn, was born. Here, too, in 1541, Henry VIII. held his court, after spending the night at Scrooby Manor House, on his way

to receive the submission and homage of the Yorkshire malcontents. During the persecutions of Queen Mary the Old Hall had already sheltered many a saint. The owner, Anthony Hickman, and his young wife, Lady Rose, the daughter of Sir William Locke, a staunch Protestant, had gladly welcomed to their home Bishop Hooper, John Foxe, John Knox, and many others, some of whom afterwards suffered martyrdom.

In the story of her life during Mary's Reign of Terror, written in the hope that her children "may stand fast in that faith and service of God in which their father and mother do stand so firmly, and manifest such zeal and affection as in this little treatise appeareth," Lady Rose Hickman tells us that they held conventicles in their house with divers godly and well-disposed Christians, and "we and they did table together in a cham-