

THE Methodist Magazine.

October, 1891.

PEASANT LIFE IN SWITZERLAND.

BY AN AMERICAN CONSUL.



WAYSIDE CHAPEL IN THE TAUBEERWALD.

THE passing summer tourist learns comparatively little of the details of peasant life in the Swiss cantons. It is only one who has dwelt among the peasant folk and knows them intimately, like the writer of these pages, who can do justice to their industry, intelligence and achievement.

The Swiss peasants are as thrifty farmers as any in the world. An air of neatness, cleanliness and care is found in every country house. Of course, the farms are small—so very small as scarcely to be worth the name; but every inch of ground is tilled to the utmost it can bear. No other tilling would bring the peasants bread to eat. The agricultural implements used, however, are of the

most primitive character, such as the early Romans themselves might have used in ploughing round the walls of ancient