

CHAPTER XXX.

A PECULIAR PEOPLE.

THE Amish sect seem best adapted for living in settlements in a country where protection is afforded them by the people among whom they have chosen to live. A government is established and the administration of justice is carried out for them by others. Holding the beliefs about non-participation in civic affairs, wars, the taking of oaths, and such duties as are required of citizens of modern states, they could not very well form themselves into a self-governing state.

The *lex talionis*, that stern law of the ancient Jewish race, which demanded "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," finds no support from this people, who believe in non-resistance. As a separate community they would be defenceless against attack, the natural equilibrium being attack and defence would be wanting.

Freed from these distractions, they were enabled to develop strength in other directions. They developed individuality and spirituality. As tillers of the soil, for this is their chief occupation, they developed strong characters. Men on the soil grow steadfast, enduring and masterful, though a too