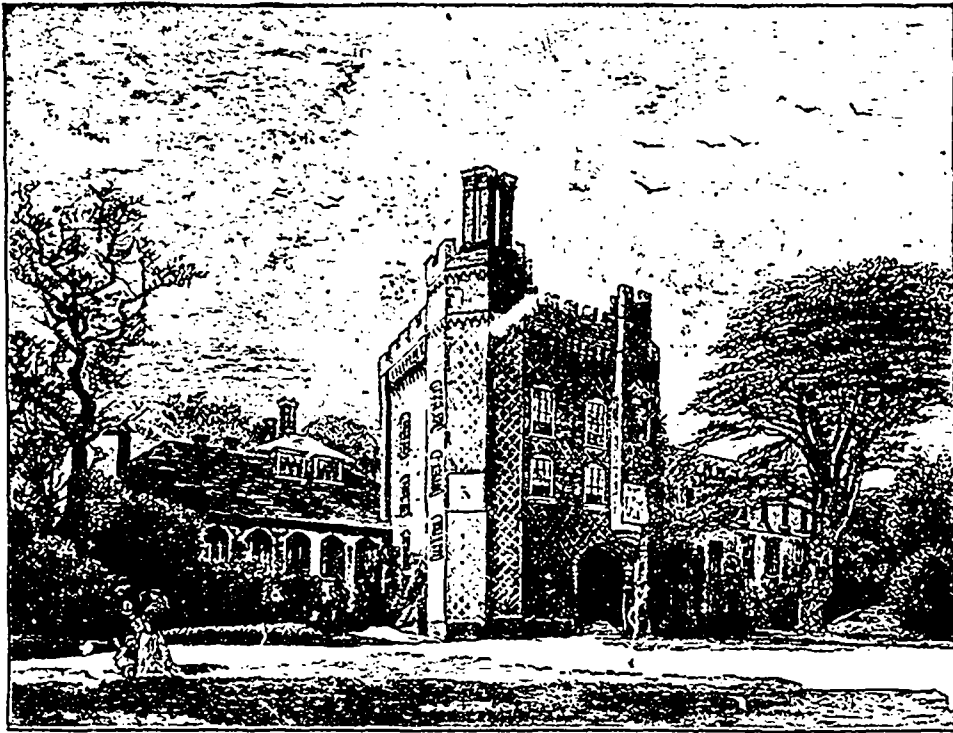




FARNHAM CASTLE.—See page 153.

THE COMING OF THE LORD.

BY MRS. FEGLEY, OF THE HURON W.A.

DURING the past year, while acknowledging with thankfulness the many mercies vouchsafed to us who are workers in the Woman's Auxiliary, I have still felt, and doubtless many of my dear sisters present have felt the same, that there has been much to battle with, in the indifference, not only to our work, but to the cause of missions generally among those whom we would fain see interested, not only for our sakes, not only for the dear Lord's sake, but for their own sakes. Many of us, I am sure, have tried in various ways to arouse this needed interest, and still the number of active members in many branches of our work bears but a small proportion to the number of nominal members, to say nothing of those who take no part whatever in missionary work. As we have gathered together week after week through the past year, few in number, I am afraid that often, like Martha of old, our hearts have cried out, "Lord, dost Thou not care that our sisters leave us to serve alone?" But if so, small wonder is it that others are not attracted to a service which such a cry would prove was to us not a joy, but a wearisome duty.

Rather, let each member be so filled with love for our dear Master, and with such an

earnest desire to do all we can to hasten that blessed day of which He speaks in John xiv., "If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also," that others seeing our real joy in service may long to share it.

As the strongest inducement to increased activity amongst our members should be the thought that at any moment He whom we love and for whom we labor may come, I have thought that a few words connecting our work with that return might be profitable, and perchance might stir us up to renewed energy in our work of helping on the cause of missions.

We are told in God's Word that our Lord delays His coming simply because of His long-suffering to us-ward; that He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, and for this cause He made His disciples "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"; and for eighteen hundred long years He has been patiently waiting, and is waiting still. The same tender love that led Him to yearn over Jerusalem, crying, "How oft would I have gathered thee, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" still cries in accents of inexpressible tenderness, "Come unto me, and him that cometh I will in no wise cast out."

Now, what is our part in the spread of this blessed gospel, or good news? Someone has