

newly-translated Testament, the crosses and shrines disappeared, and the good deeds of the real woman have outlived a mere belief in the supernatural traditions of the mediæval Church, leaving after them, however, a delightful fragrance of poetry and romance.

Few places cradle more poetic memories. Every old burg is a storehouse of romance, and not a mountain stream or wild glen but has a tale to tell of the crusading days, when minstrels held tournaments of song in the great halls, and Walter von der Vogelwied sang his quaint, sweet lays in "peasant's hut and baron's hall."

Feudalism and the mediæval Church struck their roots deep into the soil, and traces of their strength still remain in the walls



BIRTHPLACE OF SEBASTIAN BACH, EISENACH.

of the old monasteries and gigantic castles. No other place is so deeply identified with Luther. Nearly the whole of his life was passed within walking distance of Eisenach. At Erfurt he put on the cowl; across the fields he travelled, a monk, from one religious house to another; in the Augustinian Convent are the cell and silent confessional that witnessed his fiercest spiritual struggles; in the Altenstein woods he was captured, and in the Wartburg he translated the New Testament.

Eisenach, the once flourishing capital of the Thuringian Wald, is one of the most picturesque of mediæval towns, nestled down within the shadow of the three hills, and watched over by the square towers of an old castle. In one of its quaint streets is the house in which Luther lived, and in the Wartburg castle near by