

THE Methodist Magazine.

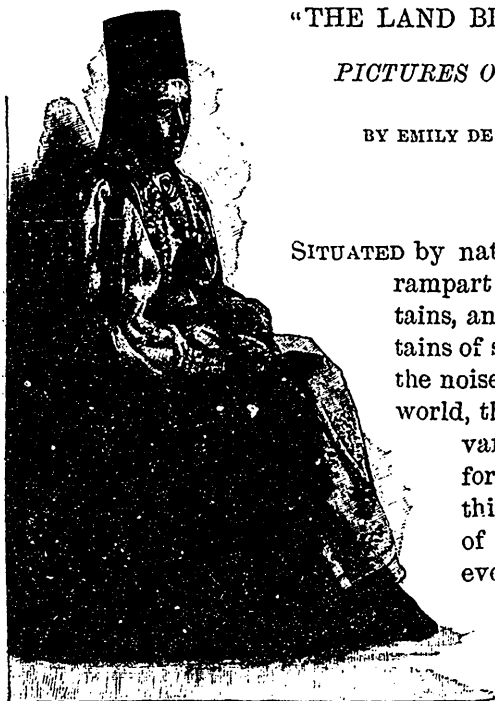
July, 1891.

"THE LAND BEYOND THE FOREST."

PICTURES OF TRANSYLVANIA.

BY EMILY DE LASZOWSKA-GERARD.*

I.



SAXON WOMAN OF TRANSYLVANIA.

SITUATED by nature within a formidable rampart of snow-tipped mountains, and shielded by heavy curtains of shrouding forests against the noise and turmoil of the outer world, the very name of Transylvania tells us that it was formerly regarded as something apart, something out of reach, whose existence even for a time was enveloped in mystery. In olden times these gloomy forest gorges were tenanted only by the solitary bear or by packs of hungry

wolves, while the mistrustful lynx looked down from the giddy heights, and the chamois leaped unchecked from rock to rock. The people who lived westward of this mountain rampart, know-

*This vivacious writer is the wife of an officer in the Austrian military service. She had special opportunity during a prolonged residence to study the character, institutions, customs, and folk-lore of the interesting people of Transylvania. Her book on the subject (New York: Harper Bros.) is one of permanent value. From it we abridge the following pages.