

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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OUTSIDE.

"HERE is a fountain filled with blood!"
Triumphant was the strain,
And sweet the words whose message found
That wanderer in the rain.
Wayworn and weary, spent with sin,
And dyed with many stains,
Sore needed he the cleansing flood
"Drawn from Immanuel's reins."

He stepped within the open door
To list: the harmonies
Awaked dead echoes in his heart—
His mother's cadences.
"The dying thief!" ("Ah! that am I,
In sin grown old and gray.")
"And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away."

"Thou dying Lamb"—ah! precious words.
He knelt upon the floor
And prayed. Now rose the glorious song—
"Are saved to sin no more."
"Dear Lord," he cried in piteous tones,
Oh! hear a sinner's plea,
And wash me clean in Jesus' blood
From all iniquity."

Now fuller rose the organ tone
Throbbing upon the air,
While blending voices seemed to raise
To heaven that pleading prayer.
And, theme of all the matchless song—
Raising that burdened soul—
Redeeming love, redeeming love!
("By that love make me whole!")

Those lips once but to curses given
Now join the "sweeter song,"
And praises to salvation's power
Unchain the "stammering tongue."
And now the messenger of God
Cries, "Ho! ye thirsting, come."
When, lo! with firm yet humble tread
Returns the wanderer home.



HEVER CASTLE—ENTRANCE GATEWAY, WITH PORTCULLIS.

THE STately HOMES OF ENGLAND.

BY THE EDITOR.

The stately homes of England,
How beautiful they stand
Amid their tall ancestral trees,
O'er all the pleasant land.

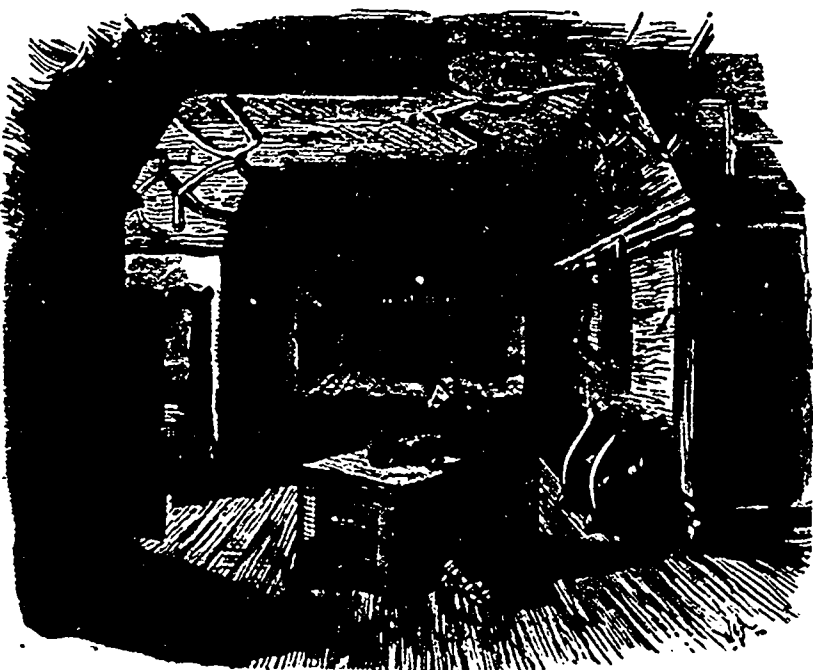
NOTHING more forcibly strikes a traveller from this New World to Great Britain than the number of great estates

and old historic mansions of the English aristocracy. Their gray old towers and ivy-mantled walls are haunted with a thousand thrilling memories "speaking of the past unto the present," and often associated with some of the most noteworthy lives and most notable events in the history of the English-speaking race. He who is familiar with the story of these great houses and of their noble owners, many of whom belong to the most ancient families of the realm, has obtained an insight into English history and English society such as he can obtain in no other way.

A very interesting series of articles on this subject was begun in the February number of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine*, which will be illustrated by over forty splendid engravings, of which we give

a few specimens in this paper. The first picture on this page is that of Hever Castle, the birth place of the unhappy Anne Boleyn, the wife of Henry VIII. and mother of Queen Elizabeth. Well for her if she had never wandered forth from the walls of this grim castle, or reached the perilous eminence of a throne. As you will see, by reading your History of England, on a wretched charge she was beheaded, and her scarce cold body huddled into a chest made to hold arrows, and buried in the gloomy Tower, and next day her cruel Bluebeard of a husband married her rival, Jane Seymour.

The second cut on this page illustrates the quaint old interior of Knole House, in Kent. The house is of many different ages. Its history is written in its varied styles of architecture, from the stern strength of its ancient feudal towers to the elegance and luxury of its more modern apartments. Its most characteristic features are its quaint old low-roofed corridors, one of which, the Retainers' Gallery, we present on this page. It runs the whole length of the house, and is strikingly picturesque. The paneled roof, the old portraits on the wall, and mullioned



RETAINERS' GALLERY, KNOLE HOUSE.



IN THE WINTER GARDEN, SOMERLEYTON.