

## Concerning Townley Castle.

Very quaint, very retired, very aristocratic looking, is the third member of our Hospital Federation. Its miniature proportions only make it the more distinctive. Its very unassuming height only gives it an air of self-complacency, that does not deign to look over the wall into the common street. In fact its back is altogether turned upon the vulgar thoroughfare, and it presents its aristocratic facade to a screen of secluding trees and shrubs. The sun-dial and the zodiacal clock over the low entrance; the oriental pagoda with its transplanted air; the basket-like rookery that makes one want to whirl it around like a cruet; all these combine to give the place a suggestion of old-worldliness and detachment. In fact, it leaves the impression of being a haughty, reserved stranger, asking only of the world not to intrude or be curious.

And very presumably that was just the attitude of its builders. For local tradition declares that this castle with the English name was of French origin. Certainly its Bourbon architecture does not discredit the story that it was built by certain refugee French nobility, who found the Paris of the Revolution too unfriendly a place to continue residence there. Apparently these *Enigres* did not feel altogether safe, even in free England, for they constructed two subterranean passages and a deep chamber under the castle, as a last line of retreat and obscurity.

Local legend is also quite insistent that Queen Victoria as a very poor princess of some twelve years of age, lived for a season at Townley Castle, with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, while attending school at Ramsgate. Evidently, though, the future Queen-Empress did not take away very pleasant memories of this place, for while she often visited the towns of her father's ducal county, she always avoided Ramsgate afterwards. In this respect Her late Majesty differed from some of the Granville ex-patients who simply can't refrain from re-visiting the East Cliff when they get their furlough.

Most Townley Castle patients have pleasant reasons to know Mr. Levene, the headmaster of the school which has occupied the old Bourbon castle since 1890. Most of Mr. Levene's pupils were English Jews or foreign lads who, for military or commercial purposes, wanted to learn English thoroughly. His German students were recalled to Germany before the middle of July, 1914—just one other evidence of Prussia's deliberate intention to realize "The Day." Several of Mr. Levene's French pupils have won decoration in Joffre's army, and something like 700 Townley Old Boys are fighting for the Allies. One of them Corporal Kreysor, who lived at Port Arthur, Ontario, for several years, received the V. C. for a prodigious bombing exploit at the Lone Pine Trench, Gallipoli.