

Sentimental Pilgrims.

CHAUCER chooses April for his pilgrimage, and Will Langland May; but the ideal time is autumn, for then the air is peopled with grey wraiths of the past, and the mellow influence of Time falls softly on the fragrant earth. Right royal is the cloth of gold drifted across the woods, and the whisper of rustling leaves under foot is like the hushed voices of olden days. If a great danger has passed swiftly overhead in the night, and the joy of youth and life is still in the blood, then a reasonable excuse for the pilgrimage is provided; and if the shrine is raised to one who has stood for the rights of the people against the oppressor and perished for justice's sake, then is the goal a happy one indeed.

So it came about that we set forth on a golden October morning by the good white road. The hedges were still green, with a goodly