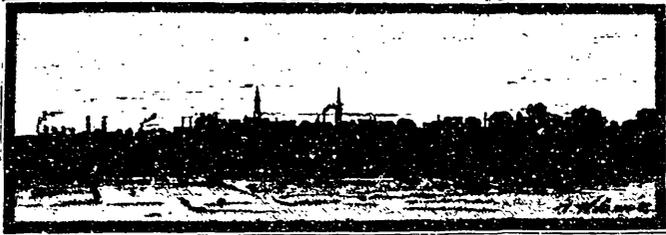


HOME LIFE IN GERMANY.

BY A. J. BELL, PH.D.



"EVENING FALLS THE EVENTIDE."
(Sunset view of Offenbury.)



GERMAN FLOWER-GIRL.

One of my most vivid recollections from student life in Germany is of a talk with a thoughtful and accomplished student friend on this subject, in the course of which he said: "But you English have the advantage of us, in that you have the word Home. I have often read of the beauty and emotional power with which this word is used by

your poets, and understand that no other language has a word that will quite express all its shades of meaning, or the deep and familiar power with which it appeals to the heart."

I think my friend was right, for in the languages derived from Latin,—the Romance group,—there is no one word, to my knowledge, that has the power, simplicity, and width of meaning that belongs to our English word Home. German, a language cognate with English, that has the word Heim, our "Home," and in Luther's day used it in a variety of meanings approaching that expressed by the English word, has, under French influence in the seventeenth century, adopted the phrases "nach Hause," and "zu Hause,"—in English "to house," and "at house," to express two of its most prominent applications, and so narrowed its sphere of use and robbed it of much of its old force. Our word Home, the German Heim, seems to mean primarily a village,—its diminutive is hamlet—and to be cognate with the Greek Kome, a village. But while we can trace the joyous and humane heart of Greece in the derivatives, Comus, the village revel, the name of Milton's famous poem, and