

ANNALS OF SWITZERLAND.*



TELL'S CHAPEL, LAKE LUCERNE.

It is curious that no concise English account of the romantic and interesting history of Switzerland has been published till Mrs. Colton supplied the need. The growth of the Helvetic Republic, its conflict with the great military powers by which it is surrounded, its heroic struggle for civil and religious liberty, its noble record as the refuge for the oppressed from every clime, especially as furnishing an asylum for the Protestant refugees from England and Scotland when they could find one nowhere else, give a fascination to the annals of the Swiss.

Although Voltaire and other iconoclasts of history, pronounce as legendary the story of William Tell, yet our author gives good reason for maintaining its veneration. As early as 1308 a memorial

chapel was erected on Tell's Platte and ever since on that spot religious service has been celebrated. The story of the apple, which occurs in other legends, is not a necessary part of the history of Tell.

A few years ago the present writer made a pilgrimage along the Axenstrasse to Tell's Chapel. With quickened pulse of expectation, we descended the cliff to the site of the far-famed chapel, so familiar in pictures. But what was our disappointment to find not one stone left on another! That great modern destroyer of the romantic, a railway, was being constructed along the lake margin, and the time-honoured chapel, said to be six hundred years old, had been removed. A workman showed me the plans of a brand-new one which was to be erected near the spot; which I felt to be almost a sacrilege. The book is illustrated with twenty-seven engravings, of which we present an example.

"Annals of Switzerland." By Julia M. Colton. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25.

BOOKS.

Leaving us heirs to amplest heritages
Of all the best thought of the greatest sages,
And giving tongues into the silent dead!

-Longfellow