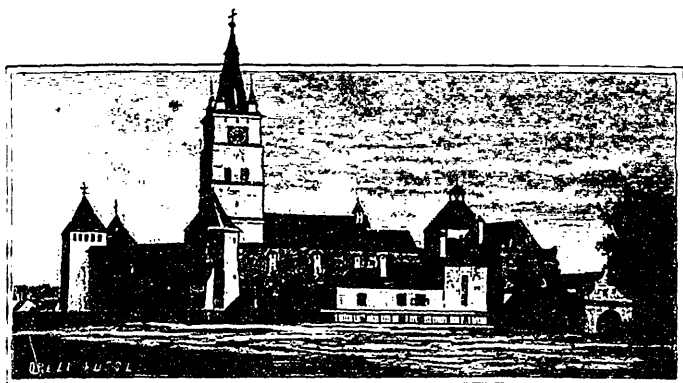


means often resorted to in order to baffle or mislead the enemy. Living in Transylvania, we are sometimes inclined to wonder whether to be besieged by Turks and Tartars be really a thing of the past, and not rather an actual danger for which we must be prepared any day, so strangely are many little observances relating to those times still kept up. Until within a very few years ago the watchman was under the obligation of calling forth into the night with stentorian voice, "Not this way, you villains, not this way; I see you well!"

Also the habit of keeping provisions stored up within the fortified church walls, to this day extant in most Saxon villages, is clearly a remnant of the time when sieges had to be looked for. The outer fortified wall round the church is often divided off into



FORTIFIED CHURCH, NEUSTADT.

deep recesses or alcoves, in each of which stands a large wooden chest securely locked, and filled with grain or flour, while the little surrounding turrets, or chapels, are used as storehouses for home-cured bacon. "We have seven chapels all full of bacon," I was proudly informed by a village churchwarden.

At Hermannstadt several of the ancient towers are yet standing. The old wall that connected these towers has now been pulled down to half its former height. In addition to these walls and bastions, with their forty towers, the town was defended by broad moats, which completely encircle it. (See initial cut).

"Gray walls and turrets pierce the air,
Grimly aloft they tower;
Vainly the storm vents its fury there,—
Proudly they challenge its power:
"Strong oaks before the storm-wind fall,
Ancient races must all decay,
Ruin and mould are over all,
We alone stand for aye!"