Wakeman's Description of the Novelist's Girlhood Surroundings.

GRIFF, THE PRETTY FARM HOME.

Shakespeare's Country Also That of the Modern Female Writer.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.] BEDWOETH, ENG., April 30.-It is not long ago that one of the noblest of American women said to me: "If there is any carthly influence that might repress the presumption, impudence and immodesty of that rapidly-increasing class of my countrywomen who seem possessed of a mad craze to unsex themselves for the pitiable reward of temporary public recognition or notoriety, it would be a genuine study of the genius of George Eliot, coupled with a pilgrimage to the localities upon which her everyoav life as a maid and a woman left | liness and brutality of miser Isaac Evans. the grand impress of their personal worth.

"This much of an object-lesson would be learned-if such women are capable of receiving grave and serious instruction-as would also result from a like study of the genius of Harriet Martineau, the Cary sisters, Rosa Bonheur, Dinah Mulock Craik, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Charlotte Bronte and all other women who are to remain among the Immortals: That where genius has been the original gift of woman, in the precise degree that has been eventually achieved and accorded, has that woman shrunk from offensive exhibitions of woman shrunk from offensive exhibitions of her own personality and importance. Another as impressive truth would have logical revealment. Where any woman charges upon the public with demands for its attention and homage, in the same de-gree of her insist and clamor will it, in time, be withheld and prove her doom to

A Pleasant Region to Visit.

However this may be, remembering George Eliot's work which, in its hold upon the intellect and heart of all English speak ng people, is instinctively grouped with that of Scott and Shakespeare, and her grand, strong plain face which you instinc-tively group with those of Dante, Bronte, Savonarola and Liszt, you come to the pleasant region where she grew to her full stature of person and genius with something akin to the same indefinable feeling of dreamful unreality, touched with reference and almost hushed with awe, as when you tread the quaint streets of old Stratford, close to the shrine of the immortal bard of

Indeed the Shakespeare country is truly George Eliot's land. Stratford, Warwick, Leamington, Coventry and Nuneaton all lie in a direct line from the southwest to the northeast boundaries of Warwickshire. One of the finest highways in England, clm-shaded for more than half its length, con-nects them all. Eliot's Warwickshire was the Arghan of Shakasana. The smiled back from its murmuring waters upon them both. The same billowy hills, gruntle slopes and sunny valleys gave both their inspiration and imagery. Their bearts warmed to the same peasantry. In the sub-tle delineation of these, Eliot was to the early Victorian age, at least in a degree, what Shakespeare was to the early Eliza-bethan. And Shakespeare's birthplace and grave at Stratford are not 30 miles distant from George Eliot's girlhood home. Situation of the Homestead.

It lies on the olden highway between Corentry and Nuneaton. These towns are but nine miles apart. Bedworth, a sleepy old pit village, is midway between; and about half way from Ledworth to Nuncaton, near Arbury Itall, the seat of the Newdigates, is Griff, a fine old English tarm home and stending, belonging to the great Arbury estates now as when George Eliot's (Mary Ann Evans') baby eyes first looked upon the great firs, cestars, clus and limes which shade this old and ample stone structure In this house of many gables and tiny-pane bow windows George Eliot live! from March, 1820, when she was a babe but March, 1820, when she was a babe but mouths old, until March, 1841, when he family removed from Griff to Foleshill Coventry, a period of 21 years. These wer the 21 years in which were nurtured an matured all those bodily, heart and menta forces which gave her the highest place literature of any woman that ever lived.

Her tather, Robert Evans, was a tenant of Mr. Francis Newdigate, at Kirk Halem Derbyshire. On the death of old Sir Roge Newdigate the Arbury estate in Warwick shire came to Francis Newdigate for life, and Robert Evans accompanied him to Arbury as his tenant and agent. By a first wife there had been two children. Their mother died in 1899. Their father married Christiana Pearson in 1813.

Birthday of the Famous Weman. Three children were born of this union-Christiana, in 1814, Isaac, in 1816, and Mary Ann (George Eliot), in 1819, at the "South Farm," Arbury, which had been given the lather temperarily. Cross, in his biography of George Eliot, transcribes from an old diary of the father where it had been penued in his own handwriting. penned in his own handwriting:

Nov. 22, 1819-Mary Ann Evans was born at Arbury Farm (this was "South Farm," Arbury) at five o'clock this morning. It was St. Cecilia's day. It is also of record that the child was baptized in the ancient church of Chilvers Coton, which rears its crumbling Norman tower over a and scape that will strongly remind you of the moors about Haworth, where the sisters Bronte straggled nearly all their lives in pathetic silence. This quaint old pile midway between the Griff farmhouse and Nuncaton, and the half dozen houses under its cares, is the Shepperton of "Amos Barton."

The three Evans children, then, most and longest associated with Griff were the three born upon the Arbury estates. Christiana matricia a surroup payand Clark of Meri. married a surgeon, named Clark, of Meri-den, Warwickshire, and died in 1859. George Eliot died in 1899. Isaac, as I learned after arrival here, who had re-mained at Griff and succeeded the novelest's father as its tenant and the Newdigates' arent, suddenly died in his chair on re-turning from service at Chilvers Coton Church, in October, 1899.

Unicyable and Unioved. His children, nephews and nicees of George Eliot, are four in number. It is an unpleasant but truthful statement that while they command a certain deference or account of a relationship without which their own small affairs would never have reached the confines of their little parish, they are uniovable and unloved by the few of quality and the thousands of lowly around them. They are stern, cold, miserly money-grabbers, all; offensively conscious of their radiated importance and snappishly churlish and repeilant to all who bring a blode-hearted reverence to a spot made Gar naughter, a maiden lady of severe and awtul aspect, was Isaac's housekeeper for many years at Griff. She now resides at Reduction, and the lowly of the place dread her austere visage and her cruel platitudes, they itsely confessed to me, when her purse, haso and gentie words might relieve great suffering. A brother, the Rev. Frederic Evans, is the present rector of Bedworth. He performs his canonical offices with metical necuracy and metallic soddenness Cipus his fat "fiving" as though the Al-nights had stranged the parishes and popu-lation of England with especial reference to terrous relations of the Evans family to the affairs, and has no heart or eyes for the poverty and suffering about him.

the Lowest Wages to England, For Bedworth is a pit village, with a few rest negretarth is a pit village, with a few insignificant and struggling manufactories. Wares are at as low a point as at any place in England. There is not half enough for least the very for half the folk to do. These clutch at any line-sustaining labor with positive fermity, and I could take the Rev. Frederic Evans into not only a dozen but a hundred notiful houses in Endreth half. eluteh at any life-sustaining labor with pos-itive fermity; and I could take the Rev. Frederic Evans into not only a dozen but a huadred pitiful homes in Bedworth where

GEORGE ELIOTS HOME. attention, sympathy, consolation, and even now and then a few copper pence, would make the name and the religion of a Bedworth rector stand for much that is seemly

in any minister of Christ.

Another sister is the wife of a clergyman named Griffith. The other brother is Walter Evans, Esq., the present tenant of Griff and agent for Colonel Newdigate, the pres-ent owner of Arbury estate. In all England I have not found any man who has seemed so capable of justly incurring the resent-ment of English pilgrims to an English shrine; and during five years largely passed in wandering up and down the face of this historic land, I have never before come MANY CHILDHOOD FRIENDS LIVING upon any human being who so thoroughly illustrated the fact that in nearly every family of good repute there somewhere runs the currist strain of blood.

All this family who remain are rich through miserliness. The hard, stern nature was not in Robert Evans. It began with Isaac, the novelist's brother, who dropped dead in his chair after all his niggardly gaining. The peasant tolk relate how he watched in the hedges lest his laborers might toss a potato to a hungry cotter or tramp in the highway; how a poor old serv-itor named Crabstock was chased away from Griff because he let a miner's lad keep a turnip that had fallen from his cart; and how another old servant named Jackson hung himself in the farm offices behind Griff from sheer desperation at the niggard-

Mrny Are the Charming Surprises, To the literary pilgrim there are many charming surprises in the neighborhood of Griff during a quest of identification of places and persons with individuality of the novelist. It is a little more than 50 years since George Eliot left Griff forever; quite 40 years since she bade farewell to the vely home at "Bird Grove," Foleshill,

Yet there are scores of folk remaining, igh and lowly, who knew her intimately as maid and woman. Some who were her playmates still survive. A few of those whom she gathered into the college of old Dame Moore, just opposite the gates of Griff, and taught the way of Hope, are still

Griff, and taught the way of Hope, are still here to bless her with quivering voice and tear-dimmed eyes.

My own discoveries of those who had lived about Griff when the members of George Eliot's family were all together here, include John Marston, an old wheelwright, whose smithy still stands near the steading; "Bill" Jaques, 77 years of age, a schoolmate of Isaac Evans and a playmate of the novelist; the old man, Crabstock, whose generosity with a single turnin lest whose generosity with a single turnip lest him his place at Griff; Richard Emmons, living at Stockingford, now a very old man and reputed by the peasantry to have "hat-fuls of sovereigns," who was, in turn, field laborer, house servant and footman at Griff, footman at "Birds Lodge" and finally house servant back at Griff for Isaac Evans, until his death in 1890; and William Moore, now 73 years of age, who lives at Collycrott, a little miners' hamlet between Bedworth

Scripture Teacher to the Poor. The latter is the son of the veritable Dame Moore who kept the Dame's School opposite Griff's gates. It was in his mother's cottage that George Eliot, then a maiden of 15, gathered together the children of

the miners and cotters about Griff and taught them, for several years, for an hour nects them all. Eliot's Warwickshire was the Arden of Shakespeare. The same Aven her ragged charges to Chilvers Coton Church In the afternoon they all came together again when she taught them from the Scriptures and some simple melodies of

the time

"God bless ee, sir!" said old William
Moore, the tears trickling down his
wrinkled face, "I can see 'er hangel tace—
she wor a plain sort o' hangel, sir—this
minute afore my eyes. Mary Ann teached
t' class fur nigh outo five year. She wor a
great schollard, sir, an'a 'ooman true."

You will turn away from Griff with 'a
blessing for the father who made this girl
his inseparable companion until her years his inseparable companion until her years of womanhood had come, and almost with a blessing on Griff itself, despite the bateful simosphere of to-day, for what came out of this olden fireside circle; circling and widening until it had zoned with the fruit of one woman's genius all our good old globe, EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

| | | 4. |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Marriage I | icenses Issued Yesterday | |
| Name. | Resider | ice. |
| Maria Krisko. Pani Treder Catharine Czapie Matidas Balinke Marianna Laneil Jareb Haluegger. Jarie Gerz. George F. Magin Mary M. Stier. Benjamin Moltor Abertha Singlete Walter Linlers, Johanna Yeung. Edward Peterson Annie Erfeksson James H. Bower. | ji. Pitt | sbur sbur sbur sbur sbur sbur sbur sbur |

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DIED.

ANDERSON—On Friday morning, May 6, at 6:30, J. Wade Anderson, youngest son of William and Salinda Anderson, aged 5 years and I month.

Funeral services at the residence of his

grandfather, Matthew Anderson, Oakmont, Allegheny Valley Railroad, SATURDAY NORN-ING, May 7, at 12 o'clock. Friends of the family respectfully invited to attend. BRACKEN—At her residence, 2519 Mulber-ry alley, on Friday, May 6, 1892 at 2,45 a. M., Mrs. Margaret Bracker, aged 59 years. Funeral notice hereafter.

BYRNE-On Friday, May 6, 1892, at 11 A. M., Christopher Byrke, father of T. Byrne and Mrs. P. Brennan, aged 80 years. Funeral from his late residence 5168 Butler street, on Monday, at 8 A. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to at-

CALDWELL—On Wednesday, May 4, 1892, ft 9 r. m., Pro'. J. M.CALDWELL of Allegheny, in his 70th year.

Funeral from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. A. D. McKee, Farragut street, East End, Pittsburg, on Saturday, May 7, 1892, at

[Greensburg papers please copy.] CARPENTER—At his residence, Sewickley, Pa., on Friday evening, May 6, 1892, at 6:35 o'clock, C. A. Carpenter, in the 56th year of

Notice of funeral hereafter. CREHAN-On May 5, 1892, at midnight, Many Enna, daughter of James and Mary Ellen Crehan, aged 3 years, 11 months and days

Funeral from the parents' residence, No. 12 Tustin street, on SATURDAY (to-day), at 11 A. M. Interment at Noblestown, Pa. Train leaves Union station at 12:40 r. M. DICKEY—At his residence, No. 501 Sheridan avenue, Nineteenth ward, on Thursday, May 5, 1892, at 1:30 P. M., Hobace G. Dickey, in his 26th year.

DORLAND-At Atlantic City, N. J., on May 5, J. M. DORLAND, in the 36th year of his Funeral SATURDAY, 2:30 P. M.

ENGEL.—On Thursday, May 5, 1892, at 3:30 a. M., J. SEPRINE H., twin daughter of George and Mary Engel (nee Fisher), aged 7 years. FAST—At West Penn Hospital, Friday evening, May 6, 1892, at 5 o'clock, Benjamin F. Fast, father-in-law of W.A. Cowan, in the 64th year of his age.

Funeral from his late residence, 39% Race street, Allegheny City, MoxDay affersoon, 12,200 city, city, MoxD

at 2:30 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. FELLOWS-Suddenly, on Thursday, May 1892, at 5 o'clock A. M., JAMES FELLOWS, aged

MATTERN—At his residence, 139 Washington avenue, Allegheny, Thursday, May 5, at 4.39 A. M., Jacob Mattern, father of Robert G. and Frank H. Mattern, aged 86 years. NORTON-On Friday, May 6, 1892 at 2 P. M., SEYWARD NORTON, infant son of W. C. and Birdie Norton, aged 2 months and 3 days. Services at residence, 163 Center avenue, SATURDAY MORNING at 10 o'clock. Interment at Monongahela City.

RAHE—On Friday, May 5, 1892, at 3.45 A. M., Mrs. Mawy Elizabeth Rahe, mother of Joseph Busha, in her 84th year. Funeral notice in Sunday papers. ROSS—On Thursday, May 5, 1892, at 4:40 A. M., Mr. W. M. Ross, eldest son of Hugh and Harriet Ross.

ROSS-On Thursday, May 5, 1892, at 6:30 A M., Mrs. Nora Ross, wife of Sylvester Ross. RUNNER-At Moscow, Idaho, April 21, Marian Anna, wife of Dr. F. F. Runner and only daughter of James H. Stokes, Omaha, Neb., formerly of Pittsburg.

Interred at Omaha APRIL 27. SCHNEIDER-Friday, May 6, at 4:30 r. M.; Mrs. Mary Juliane Schneider, widow of Frank Anthony Schneider, in the 83d year

Funeral Sunday, May 8, from the residence of her son, Anthony Schneider, near Ems-worth, Pa., at 2 P. M. Interment at 3 P. M. in St. Mary's Cemetery, Glenfield. SHINN-On Thursday, May 5, 1892, at 9 o'clock A. M., WM. P. SHINN, aged 58 years. Funeral services at his late residence Penn avenue, near Dallas, on SATURDAY, May 7, at 2 o'clock P. M. Burial private. 2 SPEER-Thursday, May 5, at 10:30 A. M., HENRY SPEER, in his 34th year. Funeral from his late residence, rear of 6359 Penn avenue, on Sunday, May 8, at 2 o'clock P. M. Interment private.

WILLIAM H. WOOD.

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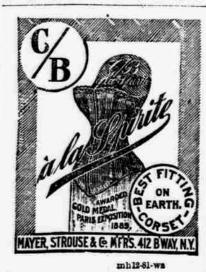
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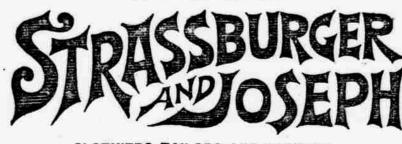
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