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NO. 14.

THE OXFORD FREE LANCE.

FREE AND INDEPENDENT JOURNAL,
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JOHN T. BRITT.

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THE CITY OF SILENCE.

It is just the sweetest city!

Yet sometimes I think we pity

Those who dwell within those pretty

white dwellings on the hill.

It is so peaceful pleasant

And fair to dwellers present;

And the partridge and the pheasant

Feel no fear, it is so still.

Its walls are low and narrow,

And the linnets and the sparrow

Make the only music there. Oh!

So silent are its homes!

Never have its doors a rover;

Myrtle green and redder clover

Grow in wreathed profusion over

Its many earthen domes.

Here are found no wreaths of laurel,

None of bitter rue and sorrel;

Never comes the sound of quarrel

In these quaint and vacant ways.

No sound of stately masses,

Nor of any praising, passes,

Upward through the growing grasses

All the moveless, voiceless days.

Men from other cities wander;

Other home ties sometime sunder;

Not so in the white town yonder

On the wide-browed hill,

Not a shadow of returning,

Not a jot of fear or yearning

In the dwellers' bosoms burning,

Ever came, or ever will.

O, Peace so pure and tender,

So wrapt about in splendor,

So needless of defender

Or champion or aid,

Each life must have its knelling;

Some day he who is telling

Shall come and claim a dwelling

Among your resting dead.

—HARVEY HOWARD.

Home Circle.

PAULINE'S PICTURE.

CHAPTER I.

"And so the shadows fall apart,

And so the west winds play.

And all the windows of my heart

I open to you to-day."

It was a large, handsome old

house that Mrs. Ellison's grandchil-
dren were invited to visit every year.

Then they all met there and a nice

time they used to have, for grand-
ma allowed them to roam from gar-
ret to cellar, if they wished to do so.

But on this particular Christmas

it was to be even pleasanter than
before, for handsome uncle Rob El-
lison had just returned from Europe,
and many were the games he plan-
ned for the young group.

In the morning, the boys skated

with him while the girls rode with

Mrs. Ellison, who, in spite of her

sixty years, was still a very hand-
some woman. But on this event-
ful day of which I am about to

write, they wished to have some

tableaux. So grandma had given

them keys to the many trunks which

stood in the attic, from which they

intended to get their dresses.

They were all up sorting the many

costumes when pretty Laura

Howard who was standing by a

large trunk, called out: "Oh, Grand-
ma, look at this lovely picture of a

young girl. Who can it be?"

Grandma Ellison hurried over to

where she was, a stern expression