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zahlen wollte? Wäre in Sumiswald eine genügend grosse Erweiterung des heutigen Friedhofes möglich, wenn die 23,007 in der Schweiz lebenden Sumiswalder ohne Ausnahme in der Heimaterde zur letzten Ruhe bestattet werden möchten? Aber Spass beiseite: freuen wir uns, dass der Berner das starke, gesunde Hauptfundament unseres Schweizervolkes bildet und wohl anlässlich der nächsten Volkszählung mit einer vollen Million aufrücken wird, seinem Grundsatz getreu: Nume nid gschprängt, aber gäng hü! (Emmentaler Nachrichten.)

“ WILLIAM TELL ” HAS AGAIN BEEN PERFORMED AT ALTDORF.

Altdorf, the lovely little town near Fluelen, on the Lake of Lucerne, has just terminated a series of William Tell performances, given every Sunday for the past months.

The presentations of Schiller's stirring drama in which William Tell, Altdorf's gallant archer, plays the principal rôle, took place in a beautiful playhouse especially erected for this purpose. Many decades ago the people of Altdorf essayed some outdoor Tell performances, and the success of these proved an incentive for the erection of the first playhouse in 1899. Since then performances have been given at regular intervals during the summer months, except during the last war, and the latest Tell theatre, which was erected in 1925, features all modern improvements in stagecraft.

There are about 200 native actors, and each and

every one is proud to give his talents — which in many instances are truly remarkable — and his time to a cause which is so intensely patriotic. Altdorf at any time is worthy of a visit, but when “ William Tell ” is being portrayed within its ancient walls, foreign visitors from everywhere deem it a privilege to attend one of the performances.

Altdorf, the tiny capital of the canton of Uri, lies in a fertile, fruit growing valley. Mountains rise all around, but its special landmark is the Bannwald, the sacred forest which, since times immemorial, has stood guard against any onslaught of avalanches. In this historic woodland the woodman's axe is forbidden, and a stern legend warns that the hand of any trespasser will in due time grow out of his grave.

It was in the market place of Altdorf where Gessler, the heartless Austrian bailiff, erected his hat, to which every passer-by was required to do homage under severe penalties, and it was in this public square that the famous apple shooting scene subsequently took place. Two octagonally shaped fountains, beautifully adorned with flowers, mark the spots occupied by father and son respectively, and as we survey the distance between them our admiration for this archer knows no bounds. Near the second fountain stands the magnificent Tell memorial, designed by Richard Kissling. The words which Rudolf, Gessler's lieutenant, spoke, according to Schiller's drama, are inscribed in German, and are quoted herewith in their translation:—

“ And while these mountains rest upon their base,
So long will the story of Tell be told.”

