

Concerning What Befell a Sapper and a Maiden.

1 Now it came to pass, during the time when it was war, that there was a certain man in the Hosts of Can that did linger in the land of En, and his name it was Jeff.

2 And behold, he was exceeding full of beans.

3 And a certain maiden that was of his acquaintance sent unto him tablets of writing from the city of Lon—that is the Greater Smoke—saying unto him:

4 Come, I pray thee, unto thine handmaiden upon the ending of the week, and comfort her in her loneliness, for behold, she is very lonely, and the light of thine eyes hath not cheered her these many moons.

5 And the heart of Jeff was lifted up within him, and he said: Behold, I will go unto the maiden, for she is a goodly maiden and comely withal.

6 Then went he unto the captains of the hosts and said unto them: Grant thy servant, I pray thee, permission to proceed four days journey into the interior—even an Ack-off-Beer 295.

7 For behold, my uncle hath been gathered to his fathers, and hath left many cattle and many talents of silver—also other things.

8 And they all rose up and said unto him: Go in peace unto thine own people, even for the space of six days and two extensions.

9 Then did he salute the captains of the hosts and departed to make him ready.

10 He did shave off his beard with a knife and anointed his body with sweet smelling oils; also did he spread fine powder of talc upon his face, and took fine linen, even issue linen, and cast it upon his limbs.

11 And as he prepared himself he did whistle and gambol about for joy that he should have blinded the captains of the hosts.

12 But the captains they did wink privily the one upon the other, and they did say: Verily, it was good stuff being very old, and wherefore should he not go, for he doeth but little here. Peradventure, when he hath seen the maiden—for beyond doubt it is a maiden—he will be content.

13 Now, as he made him ready and whistled for joy, a thought came unto him, and his joy was stilled.

14 For it came to his mind that he had arranged with another maiden that he should go unto her in the city of Bri, that is the Lesser Smoke, and make merry with her on the morrow.

15 And his heart was downcasted, for she also was a comely maiden and very sociable.

16 Now there was another man of the host, and his name was Mutt, a man exceeding full of guile, and a great warrior.

17 And in the extremity of his grief Jeff came unto Mutt, and said unto him: Wilt thou do a thing for me?

18 And he said: Verily.

19 Then said he unto him: Go, then, I pray thee, upon the morrow unto the city of Bri, to the place of arrival and of departure, at such a time, and wait by the bookstall.

20 And thou shalt there see such a maiden, and by such and such shalt thou know her.

21 Then Mutt said: Behold, I may not do this thing. Is it meet that I should speak with my brother's handmaiden?

22 And he said: It is meet.

23 Thou shalt say unto her: Behold, my brother Jeff hath sent me unto thee to ask thee to excuse him his presence this day, for he goeth unto the Greater Smoke to bury his father's brother, and will see thee another time.

24 Then Mutt, being a man of guile, said: Nay, this that thou wouldst tell the maiden is of those things which are said by many, therefore will I rather tell her that thou art sent by the captains of the hosts upon the business of the regiment.

25 And he said: It is well, tell her all that is in thy heart to tell her, but see that she believeth it, and is not cast down.

26 And he departed unto Lon and came unto the place where he would be.

27 And on the morrow Mutt arose and put on fine raiment and much shining brass, and came unto the city of Bri as Jeff had appointed, and met the maiden.

28 Then told he her all that Jeff had spoken unto him—and more also.

29 Then did she look upon him covertly and from the side, and she saw that he was well favoured and good to look upon.

30 Wherefore she sighed, and said unto him: What doest thou?

31 And he said: Naught.

32 Then she said: Let us therefore walk upon the seashore.

33 And he, being mindful of the old proverb which sayeth a bird on the sand is worth two on the bus, did make reply, saying: Let us.

34 And they did.

35 Even unto the going down of the sun, and they held much converse together.

36 For he spake soft words and flattery unto her, saying: Behold, thine eyes are as twin lakes of lambent flame beneath the ivory of thy brow, and thy hair is as a crown of glory, and falleth as a golden cloud around the beauty of thy neck.

37 Nevertheless was he careful lest he should offend the maiden, for behold, she was his brother's maiden.

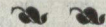
38 And at the going down of the sun they did refresh themselves with meat and wine.

39 And after that they had eaten they did go upon that place which is called the prom, and he did seat her upon a seat and did place his arm around her, for the night it was parky.

40 And he spake more soft words unto her and did kiss her upon the cheek, lest she should say within herself: Behold, this man is slow.

41 And they continued there until the going up of the moon.

42 And the rest of the doings of Mutt they are written in the book of the Chronicles of the Men of Can, and that which happened unto him, is it not written in that book which is called Par Too Orders.



I'm Here.

We regret that in publishing four views of Seaford Camp, last month, we omitted to acknowledge the photographer. The pictures were taken by Mr. Hilton, of Brighton—better known to the troops as "I'm Here." We hasten to rectify our incivility to that well-known and genial gentleman.