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Nigel

By A. Conan Doyle

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She shook her proud head. "So it seems to you now, fair lord, but it may be otherwise as the years pass. How shall you prove that I am indeed a help and not a hindrance?"

"I will prove it by my deeds, fair and dear lady," said Nigel. Here at the shrine of the holy Catharine, on this, the Feast of Saint Margaret, I take my oath that I will do three deeds in your honor as a proof of my high love before I set eyes upon your face again, and these three deeds shall stand as a proof to you that if I love you dearly, still I will not let the thought of you stand betwixt me and honorable achievement!

Her face shone with her love and her pride. "I also make my oath," said she, "and I do it in the name of the holy Catharine whose shrine is hard by. I swear that I will hold myself for you until these three deeds be done and we meet once more; also that if—which may dear Christ forbid!—you fall in doing them then I shall take the veil in a convent, and look upon no man's face again! Give me your hand, Nigel."

She had taken a little hangle of gold filigree work from her arm and fastened upon it a brilliant wrist, reading aloud to him the engraved motto in old French: "Fais ce que dois, adviegnis que pourra—c'est commande" au chevalier. Then for one moment they lay in each other's arms and with kiss upon kiss, a loving man and a tender woman, they swore their troth to each other. But the old knight was calling impatiently from below and together they hurried down the winding path to where the horses waited under the sandy bluff.

As far as the Shalford crossing Sir John rode by Nigel's arm and many were the last injunctions which he gave him concerning woodcraft, and great his anxiety lest he confuse a spray with a brocket, or either with more the Shalford meadow. Nigel saw that the old man upon the gray cob was riding slowly toward Saint Catharine's Hill, but that the girl was still where he had seen her last, leaning forward in her saddle and straining her eyes to pierce the dark forest which screened her lover from her view. It was but a fleeting glance through a break in the foliage, and yet in after days of stress and toil in far distant lands it was that one little picture—the green meadow, the reeds, the slow blue-winding river, and the eager bending graceful figure upon the white horse—which was the clearest and the dearest image of that England which he had left behind him.

But if Nigel's friends had learned that this was the morning of his leaving, his enemies too were on the alert. The two comrades had just emerged from the Chantry woods and were beginning the ascent of the grassy figure path which leads upward to the old Chapel of the Martyr when with a hiss like an angry snake a long white arrow streaked under Pommers and struck the great bow of the archer. A second whizzed past Nigel's ear, as he tried to turn; but Aylward struck the great war-horse a sharp blow over the haunches, and it had galloped some hundred yards before the rider could pull it up. Aylward followed as hard as he could ride, bending low over his horse's neck, while arrows whizzed all around him.

"By Saint Paul!" said Nigel, tugging at his bridle and white with anger, "they shall not chase me across the country as though I was a frightened doe. Archer, how dare you to lash my horse when I would have turned and ridden in upon them!"

"It is well that I did so," said Aylward, "or by these ten finger-bones! our journey would have begun and ended on the same day. As I glanced round I saw a dozen of them at the least amongst the brushwood. See now how the light glimmers upon their steel caps yonder in the bracken under the great beech tree. Nay, I pray you, my fair lord, do not ride forward. What chance has a man in the open against all these who lie at their ease in the underwood? If you will not take the men of the forest, consider your horse, which would have a cloth-yard shaft feathered in its hide ere it could reach the wood."

Nigel chafed in impotent anger. "Am I to be shot at like a popinjay as a fair, by any reaver or outlaw that seeks a mark for his bow?" he cried. "By Saint Paul, Aylward, I will put on my harness and go further into the meshes."

"Nay my fair lord, I will not help you to your own downfall. It is a match with clogged dice betwixt a horseman on the moor, and archers amid the forest. But these men do no outlaws or they would not dare to draw their bows within a league of the sheriff of Guildford."

"Indeed, Aylward, I think that you speak truth," said Nigel. "It may be that these are the men of the forest of the Posse of Shalford, whom I have given little cause to love me. Ah! there is indeed the very man himself!"

They sat their horses with their backs to the long slope which leads up to the old chapel on the hill. In front of them was the dark ragged edge of the wood, with a sharp twinkling of steel here and there in its shadows which spoke of these lurking foes. But now there was a long moat upon a horn, and at once a score of russet-clad bowmen ran forward from amid the trees, spreading out into a scattered line and closing swiftly in upon the travelers. In the midst of them upon a great gray horse sat

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LAST EDITION

FORTY-FOUR

ARMIES

A Movement towards Calceives More ere Check

Russian Adv Slow but Say Desp

(By Special Wire to LONDON, Nov. 14)—The armies of the Germany remain des West Flanders to-day battle line, where the ankle deep with the another week of interly duels and infant which for more than have been swinging ba and the adverse shift the trenches, and their increase of sickness, lung and throat aff short, trench warfare, borious and exhausting become a great ordeal.

The Germans have ed their attempt to French coast towns, have not advanced, according to the claims they are back on the the Yser, having been release their grip on French coast towns, by them last week. ment of the breadth of the Russian advance, and it shows change there has been either in Belgium or in the Russian advance, are mounting the fire, the defences stre after row from Oute Dutch border and shot lines be broken it will endeavor to win a large and carefully positions.

In the eastern area the Germans are making similar plans in the Russian advance, that great German force concentrated at T and Breslau with the ing the Russians out districts in the provin and Silesia.

A word of caution comes from Petrogr Russians to sweep overnight, as it were, are mounting the fire, the defences stre after row from Oute Dutch border and shot lines be broken it will endeavor to win a large and carefully positions.

In East Prussia the ward movement seem and it is said that generals are imposing tured town fines in the cities of Belgium, the town taken. Th rations against the spread the conflagra southern entrance o Sea, where Indian ed by a British warl a Turkish fort. In the Russians and th still at grips, both s victories.

The spy agitation against the German persons leaving Lo continent must depa ignated railroad stati person and baggage veller is subjected to maps and drawings else that might be in use of the enemy.

STRINGENT M LONDON, Nov. 14 authorities are adopt measures to prevent military news to Gen Cross station has been tential traffic until fu trans for Flushing o Paris will start from, and all passengers w before they enter the luggage will be overh darscock that this ste to prevent espionage of drawings, photog or information to the