

The Great Mogul

England that he well deserved the royal favor, the King bade the newly-married couple invite him to the wedding, to which he came in great state. He asked for the Ambassador's sword, averted his eyes, nearly clipped Walter's ear with the blade in delivering the accolade, and duly dubbed him a knight. Here, also, the English Solonion met Sainton. Though his majesty was far too sagacious, in his own estimation, to credit half he was told of the giant's performances at home and in the domains of the Great Mogul, he nevertheless asked Roger what he considered to be his most remarkable achievement.

"Gad!" was the grinning answer, "though I have lopped heads by the score, and fought wi' strange beasts of monstrous size and fury, I think the most wonderful thing I ever did was to get off scot free when your Majesty was ill disposed towards me."

James rubbed his nose dubiously. He took thought, and found that the retort pleased him. So Roger, too, was ordered to kneel, and arose, very red and confused, "Sir Roger Sainton, of Cabota Hall, in the County of York."

A great deal of water had flowed under London Bridge, and under the bridge that spanned the Jumna at Agra as well, when Sir Roger rode up the Vale of Ure one day to dine and sup with his friend Sir Walter. With him, in a carriage, came Matilda, Lady Sainton, and the special purport of the visit was to hear news lately received from India.

Fra Pietro had written, as was his yearly custom,