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Gilmour's, 68 King St.

SCHOOLS OF ST. JOHN ARE LITTLE MORE THAN TRAPS

(Continued from Page One.)

The public should no longer be kept in ignorance of the true state of affairs. The citizens of Montreal and other Canadian cities, as well as in the United States, have been greatly agitated over this matter and have begun a thorough examination of all their public schools, and none too soon; for in many instances they have awakened to the fact that there was little or no protection for the scholars. Your committee earnestly deside that their recommendations, herewith submitted, may receive that careful consideration at your hands which their importance demands, and if you find them reasonable, you will call the attention of the School Trustees to them and instead of being lulled to a false sense of security by their promises to have the defects remedied and your wishes in that regard attended to, that energetic and stringent measures be immediately adopted on your part to insure and enforce the carrying out of your recommendations. The report in detail of our visits to the different schools is hereto attached, and while somewhat minute and lengthy, we could not in justice to the subject entrusted to us make it more condensed. You will find it well worthy of careful perusal.

Briefly, we have to report finding material and patent defects in all the public school buildings, calling for amendment.

First, in the planning of the exists and entrances thereof.

Second, the want of proper fire escapes.

Third, the absence of portable chemical fire extinguishers.

Fourth, the improper location of the smaller children in some of the schools.

Fifth, the infrequent use of the fire drills and the defective fire signal gongs and signalling apparatus.

The citizens will be rather surprised when informed that there is not a properly planned and constructed fire escape on any of your school buildings. The few so-called fire escapes now attached to some of the school buildings are a delusion and a snare; are unsafe, entirely unfitted for the purpose for which they were intended, but admirably well adapted to destroy the lives of the little ones who should ever be compelled to use them. The money expended for constructing the same might just as well have been thrown into the sea for all the good they are. They should be at once removed. They might be erected in some public place as a monument to the intelligence and skill of their designer and constructors. We suppose the same mind which conceived those curiosities known as the perpendicular fire escape ladders attached to the Victoria School Building is to be credited with the designing of the present fire escapes.

Though it will cost considerable to begin anew and provide proper fire escapes, we are of opinion, in justice to the citizens whose servants we are, it must be done, and that too, quickly. We are glad to report, however, that the trustees, viewing these fire escapes as a source rather of danger than protection, have somewhat reduced the danger to the Victoria and St. Joseph schools by having lately thrown across from the second and third flats of Victoria school to the St. Joseph schools two wide bridges, well platformed, and for this great improvement they are deserving of praise. The chief of the fire department, at the request of the school trustees, tested these bridges with several companies of firemen and Salvage Corps No. 1, and found them, so far as strength is concerned, satisfactory. Our detailed report shows certain defects yet existing and recommends improvements thereto, which we have no doubt the trustees will adopt.

In the interests of further security and safety we have to recommend that a number of chemical fire extinguishers of the most approved pattern be installed on the different floors of each school room, as mentioned in the detailed report, in places easily accessible, ready at all times for instant use, properly looked after and instructions given as to their management.

That better and louder sounding fire signal gongs be placed in the Victoria School with better attachments than now exist and so that the danger signal can be given from basement, 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th floors.

That separate fire signal gongs and proper attachments be placed in the Victoria Annex separate from the Victoria and under the control of the teachers in that building, and not of the Principal in the Victoria.

That fire signal gongs of sufficient size and loud in tone with proper attachments for striking the same from all floors be placed in St. Joseph's, St. Malachi's, Leinster, St. Vincent, Winter St., Newman St., and Bentley Street Schools, and in the Albert, La Tour and St. Patrick Schools in Carleton, for the reasons pointed out in our detailed report.

That all class room and cloak room doors be so altered and arranged as to swing either way, or if that cannot be done, to open outwards.

That the partitions mentioned in the detailed report of the Alexandra, Dufferin and Albert Schools be removed, as they interfere with the free exit of the scholars in cases of emergency.

That no part of entrance doors of school buildings shall be allowed to remain bolted during school sessions, and that the attention of the different school Principals be called to this and a stringent adhesion to this rule be exacted from all principals and janitors.

That the exit doors of the Aberdeen School be altered so as to open outwards or inwards instead of as at present arranged. We refer to the exit doors at head of steps inside vestibule facing Erin Street.

That the use of the room on the third flat of the High School building as a chemistry room or laboratory, be discontinued and removed from the building for the reasons stated in our detailed report.

And finally that the school trustees be requested to remove the smaller children in the upper floor class rooms to the rooms on the first floor whenever it is possible to do so.

We are well aware that to carry out all our recommendations will cause considerable expense to be incurred, but that question should not be allowed to weigh with you for one instant in view of the necessity of protecting the lives of the scholars.

We desire to thank Superintendent Bridges and all the school principals for the courteous manner in which they received us, as well as for their readiness to answer all our questions and proffer valuable suggestions.

In presenting this report upon the schools we have been actuated by the sole desire of endeavoring to have such improvements made as are absolutely necessary, and not for the purpose of fault finding. We have only stated the facts as we found them to exist; having done so, we feel that our work has been fully and conscientiously performed, and it now devolves upon you, gentlemen of the common council, to take such immediate steps as you may deem advisable to see that the suggested reforms and improvements be carried out in their entirety.

THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

We have further to say that we examined the Public Hospital fire escapes and the interior of the building, and, while those at present on the building are much better in design than those of the schools, are of opinion slight improvements should be made even to them, such as having platformed level steps to replace those now in use. We found that the fire escape on the eastern end of the building had not been as yet accepted from the contractor, because of not being according to specifications, and will not be until it is made satisfactory to the commissioners. There are no fire escapes on the front of the building, and we think that the same should be provided immediately to meet all cases of emergency. It must be remembered that the inmates of this institution are deprived of their health, and are invalids, which is all the more reason for having the additional escapes. The interior of the building was in admirable order. Full pails of water are on every floor, ready for use, and they have a two inch stand pipe with hose at all times ready for service. We would suggests to the commissioners that in addition to these precautions they consider the advisability of placing a number of suitable chemical fire extinguishers on each floor, ready for immediate service. We saw two small ones of antiquated design, which, in our opinion, are insufficient. For further particulars as to the hospital we refer you to the report in detail.

IN THE THEATRE.

The last places visited were the Opera House and the York Theatre, and notwithstanding the fears expressed by many persons to the contrary, we found great improvements have been made thereto since they were inspected by the former committee whose recommendations have been carried out, and we are of the opinion that these two places of amusement are just as safe as any in Canada. In this we may be mistaken, but that is our report. The Princess moving picture show hall in Berryman's Hall building, and the Cedars, in North End, were also visited and necessary improvements have been made and are ordered to be made as to stationary benches and chairs under directions of the Inspector of Buildings and Chief of Fire Department. There are no moving picture displays now in the Opera House. So far as the moving picture establishments on Charlotte street are concerned, we are of the opinion that they are unsafe, as the buildings are certainly unsuited for the purposes. An inspection of these two places should convince you our opinion is well founded. The operating room is directly over the entrances which are too cramped for safe exits, and it would be a matter of difficulty for the operator to escape in case of fire from the quarters in which the instruments are places. The Bijou Theatre seems both properly constructed and in good condition.

Since making our inspection of these Charlotte street buildings we find that one of the proprietors, Austin and Kerr have taken quarters from D. R. Jack on Union street and will run the Bijou. We found the Bijou is fire proof and the only objection in our opinion is that loose chairs are being used and one row of them directly in front of the side exit. We asked the proprietors to have the chairs secured to the floor and made stationary. The proprietors of the other Charlotte street show room adjoining those of Austin and Kerr are about removing to the John White building, Charlotte street.

THE ODDFELLOW'S HALL.

A five story brick building occupied by Mr. Kerr as a commercial college on 3rd and 4th floors, by the School Trustees on ground floor and by others on the 2nd floor. The entrance doors from Union Street are defective in the turning of the door handles. Small, narrow swing doors are immediately inside of entrance doors. We recommend that they be removed and full width of stairway left free and open. There is a school room containing about fifty shorthand students or more on 3rd flat directly opposite head of stairway, the doors of which open outwards. There are also school rooms adjoining with doors opening from shorthand school room to the typewriting school door opening outwards and from typewriting room to hall opening inwards.

On the 4th floor front is the school room or college, with fifty or sixty pupils, about one-half dozen being lady pupils. Double exit doors of these rooms open inwards instead of outwards. We recommend this be changed. The exit door from the manager's room opens outwards to class room and from manager's room to hall inwards. The janitor and family reside on the fifth flat. There are no means of escape from the building except by the stairway.

No fire escape. We strongly urge that the owners be forced to erect a safe and proper escape on this building.

Respectfully submitted

I. W. HOLDER, Chairman.
JAMES SPROUL
S. THOMPSON,
Inspector of Buildings.
JOHN KERR,
Chief of Fire Department.

THE ORIGIN OF AILEEN A'ROON.

Most people are familiar with that famous song, "Robin Adair," but few doubtless are aware that it is only a parody of an older and more beautiful Irish song entitled "Aileen A'Roon," which is now almost forgotten, except among the Wicklow peasantry, in which part of Ireland it had its origin. Apart from the beauty of the melody and the pathos of the words, the song possesses an extrinsic interest from the romantic circumstance attached to its composition.

Carol O'Daly, a Wicklow chieftain of the sixteenth century, was the author of "Aileen A'Roon." He was a brother of Donogh More, the chief of one of the most ancient families of Connaught, and had no equal among the youths of that province as regarded either personal qualities or mental accomplishments. His own tastes were peaceful, and he cultivated all the elegant arts with much assiduity. Thus he became renowned for his skill on the harp, so much so, indeed, that no professional would have dared to compete with him. When "Aileen A'Roon" —she whom he has immortalized, and the story of whose love has come down to us "through the long vista of departed years"—was just blooming into womanhood, Carol was a friend of her father, and a visitor at his castle. She was the daughter of "The Kavanagh," an Irish gentleman, residing within the "pale," and being passionately fond of music, O'Daly taught her so to touch the harp that she became, to use his own words, "the only rival of whom he was afraid." Naturally they fell in love with each other, and for a time everything smiled on their love. But the Kavanaghs quarrelled with Donogh More O'Daly, and though no actual contests followed between them, an enduring coldness took the place of their past friendship. Carol was frowned away from the castle of Kavanagh, though he left it not until he had gained a pledge of faith from Aileen, and had in turn vowed to her lasting constancy.

CALUMNIES.

To clear his brother from unjust charges which had caused the English Viceroy to outlaw the whole name and clan, Carol O'Daly left his native district to visit the Viceroy's Court. After he had gone the father of Aileen pressed her to give her hand to a relative—Talbot, the Lord of Malahide; but she refused, pleading her affection for O'Daly and her engagement with him. A short time passed, and finding her inclinations not to be otherwise overcome, her father informed her that her lover was false, and produced witnesses, who so far gained on her credulity as to cause her to assent hastily to the proposed union. As the time fixed for the marriage approached, she became miserable, and regretted what she had done. However, on the day before the wedding an old attendant brought her a note from the absent Carl. He had heard of the intended marriage and of the calumnies invented against him, and he besought her to grant him an interview in order to clear himself in her eyes before it was too late. The night preceding the nuptial morn was the earliest on which he could arrive, and even then it would be only by the utmost speed of his good horse that he could accomplish the journey.
The original No. 2. :hqmheTde hkl,'

A SINGLE HARP.

Hour after hour passed and still no sign of Carol's arrivel was heard under the window of the unhappy Aileen. And all the following day she kept her chamber under plea of preparing for the ceremony. The evening came, and the castle was filled with the kin of the Kavanaghs, prepared to hold joyous festival. Aileen, though sick to death at heart, was compelled to grace with her presence the reception of the visitors, to whom she seemed the fairest of human beings. Finding herself rather tired, she was at length compelled to leave the hall for the purpose of composing herself for a short rest. For this purpose she had to pass a corner of the hall, when, rising gently amid the other music, the sounds of a single harp arrested her ear. The air it played was new to her, but of surpassing sweetness, and thrilled her very heart. She looked to the spot where the harper sat, and saw a figure with snowy hair, and bent seemingly with the load of many years. She involuntarily drew nigh to the harper and heard him pour forth the following words in unison with his music and in tones so low that the crowd heeded them not. But the ears of Aileen caught the sounds as fully as if they had been uttered by a thousand voices:

Here is my home to be,
Aileen A'Roon?
Or wilt thou go with me,
Aileen A'Roon?
Far on the mountain side,
Wilt thou become my bride,
Or wilth thou here abide,
Aileen A'Roon?

Think of the happy hours,
Aileen A'Roon,
Wait us among the flowers,
Aileen A'Roon,
None whom you may here see
Even can love like me—
None else would die for thee,
Aileen A'Roon,

Think of my breaking heart,
Aileen A'Roon,
Oh, are we thus to part,
Aileen A'Roon?
Here, then, amidst my foes,
Come I my life to close
Welcome the grave's repose,
Aileen A'Roon,

Blow ne'er fell on me,
Aileen A'Roon,
But was repaid with three,
Aileen A'Roon,
Yet on thy kin my arm
Ne'er shall alight in harm—
Fatal, but strong thy charm
Aileen A'Roon,

Oh, think how fond our love,
Aileen A'Roon,
All other lives above,
Aileen A'Roon,
Ne'er did the tribes of air
Number a truer pair—
Oh, must I now despair,
Aileen A'Roon?

The agitated maiden knew that Carrol was before her, and hope and terror contended so strongly in her breast that she would have fallen had not her nurse, who, having introduced the harper, had been watching the scene, passed quickly to her side and supported her.

THE FLIGHT.

As she was moving out of the hall she whispered to her lover. "Thine, thine only," and Carol broke out into a verse which seemed as a common harper's welcome to a bride, but which bore a different meaning to the ears of the retiring maiden:—

Cead mille failte,
Aileen A'Roon,
Cead mille failte,
Aileen A'Roon.

When the harper had thus sung a "hundred thousand welcomes to Aileen, the treasure of his heart," he was silent, and, rising slowly, left the hall. In a few moments he had made his way to Aileen's apartments, and had folded her in his arms. "'Aileen, beloved,' he cried, "I am here!" "Oh, save me, save me!" was her reply. "I will—I can," he returned. "Horses await us a short distance hence; and there, too, is Donogh More, with many a good arm besides to guard and rescue thee. They would have stormed the castle, Aileen, but I would not shed blood akin to thine. Come, thou shalt be saved without blood." A few minutes later Aileen and O'Daly had fled from the castle. The Kavanaghs soon discovered their loss, and, suspecting the truth, pursued the fugitives, but in vain. A deadly feud was like to have followed, but Donogh More, now restored to peace with the ruling powers, defended the fugitives in such a way as to show the Kavanagh the prudence of coming to terms, which he did shortly afterwards, to the joy of Carol O'Daly and his bride. Such, then, is the real origin of this beautiful song, of which it is said that Handel declared he would rather be the author than of all the great works he had composed.

AMUSEMENTS.

New Show at Princess

The Princess has secured for today five excellent subjects. Owing to a mistake in mailing only two subjects arrived. Three others will arrive on the noon train, however. The pictures are His Pathetic Return, a story after the Prodigal Son type; The Inspector's Tricks. A modern Sherlock Holmes of the Paris police obtains evidence against members of the force in a very ingenious manner, with three others. This will make a very interesting programme, keeping up to their standard of presenting only up-to-date features the management have secured the youngest and one of the best prima donnas in Canada, Miss May Alchorn, who will be heard in the latest illustrated song success, Percy Sayce will be heard in a fine march ballad, When the Birds in Georgia Sing of Tennessee.

To be Seen at the Nickel

For Monday and Tuesday at the ever popular Nickel, a long and delightful programme is announced. Another hand-colored Pathe film, The Vestal, is a rare picture of heroic conception. The scenes and the story are of ancient Roman days. It is beautifully expressive, as well as impressive, picturing as it does with wonderful fidelity of detail the customs of those marvellous times of love and war. The Champagne industry is a picture showing views during the process of making this nectar of the kings, that from the vineyard to the shipment gives employment to many thousands of French people. My Watch is Slow, while the title suggests to one's mind many serious consequences, this picture is comedy of the best order, a veritable scream of laughter following the dilemmas of this unfortunate and rather unsophisticated youth who purchased a "lemon" watch, and in consequence was well "stung." The Nickel orchestra have arranged a special musical programme of the best contemporary composers. Mr. Beckley, who soon bids farewell to his many Nickel admirers, sings Yeoman's Wedding Song, by Pamiatowski. Mr. Maxwell, tenor, sings, We'll be Together When the Clouds Roll By. Maxwell can sing it, too. As a special song feature, Miss Davis, one of Montreal's recent successes, will sing Yesterday.

THE LAND OF CLUBS.

Of all the races of men in the world Britons are the most gregarious.

Figures in proof of this statement are forthcoming in the 1908 edition of "Clubs," a useful publication now in its sixteenth year.

In Great Britain and Ireland there are 2,085 while there are 1,095 in foreign countries and British colonies. Golf apparently is the chief excuse for the formation of clubs. Of the above total no fewer than 1,144 are golf clubs.

London's list of clubs shows no signs of degreasing. At present they number 232 of which 30 at least are exclusively ladies' institutions. Indeed one of the most astonishing features of club life is the increase throughout the country in recent years of clubs bevoted exclusively to the fair sex. There are at present 322 of these.

Wherever two or more Britishers meet together in any part of the world their first remark would appear to be: "Let us form a club."

Accordingly, even in far Fiji, for instance, there is more than one club. The Ovalau Club in Levuka, has 50 members, while the Fiji Club, an older institution in Suva, has 65 members.

The social delights of St. James are also simulated in Chefoo and Foochow in China, Kuching, in Borneo; Taiping, Straits Settlements; Beira, in Mozombique; and Nagaski in Japan.

They are all British in origin as well as organization. India is a land of many clubs, where white men meet and try to forget the exigencies of the climate. The Madras with 1,1400, the Quetta with 3,000, and the Gymkhana (Poona) with 1,000 members being among the biggest institutions.

At Benin, somewhere on the Niger Coast Protestorate, there is an enthusiastic band of golfers—twenty in all—who cheerfully pay five shillings per annum for the delights of clubland, and a British captain is the secretary.

Bangkok strikes the note of cosmopolitanism. Its United Club has a membership of 270 but they are of various nationalities. Of course, it has its golf club, which boasts of a membership of 80.

CLOTH TAMS

A cloth tam is a necessity in headwear for every child. Besides being dressy and handy, they stand all sorts of rough wear. We have a splendid assortment for spring in light and medium weights. Made from good cloths — with satin or sateen linings — plain or printed bands, with letters or flags—different size tops.

Blue Cloth - -	50c, 60c, 75c, $1.00, 1.25
Red Serge, -	50c, 75c, 1.00
Fawn Cloth, - - - -	1.50
Felt Hats, $1.00, 1.25, 1.50	Enamel Hats, - 2.50

D. MAGEE'S SONS,
Manufacturing Furriers,
63 King Street.

SHEBA'S VISIT TO SOLOMON.

It is a well-known legend that the monarchs of Abyssinia claim their descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, whose visit to the Hebrew potentate is recorded in the Bible. There are, indeed, several versions of the story, but the most interesting and probably the most circumstantial of all is that which a distinguished Frenchman, M. Hugues le Roux, has just brought to light in the pages of "La Revue Hebdomadaire," under the title, "Magda, Queen of Sheba." It consists of extracts from a manuscript copy of the "Keubra Neuguest" or "The Glory of the King," which is the most valued treasure in the possession of the Negus.

The recent history of this literary treasure and how M. le Roux came across it is a romance in itself.

AN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT.

When the British invaded Abyssinia and captured Magdala the troops took possession of the fortress and of the room occupied by their vanquished enemy the Emperor Theodore, who had just committed suicide. Amongst many other treasures carried off by the British was this sacred volume, which was found under His Majesty's pillow. At the urgent request of the Emperor John, Theodore's successor, the manuscript was sent back to Abyssinia with the following inscription:—"This volume was returned to the King of Ethiopia by order of the trustees of the British Museum, December 14, 1872.—J. Winter Jones, Principal Librarian." It was carried about by King John until that monarch was killed in battle by the Mahdists, and was then taken possession of by the present Negus Menelik.

A BEAUTIFUL STORY.

The book is written in the sacred idiom known as "Gheze," which is unintelligible to the Emperor and to his high officials and dignitaries. It is in fact known to very few persons. The question is how did M. le Roux become possessed of the key to this ancient dialect, and is he to be fully trusted as a translator? He explains that it is the custom in Ethiopia (Abyssinia) for the Emperor to send an official to facilitate the passage of an invited guest to the capital. In his case, however, as he needed no such assistance owing to his knowledge of the country, Menelik sent a learned man, the Tigreen Ato-Haile-Mariam, as a more fitting companion. It was this native savant who told him of the existence of the precious manuscript and that it could only be approached in secret, because of the fears and jealousy of the priests and monks. Eventually an apepal was made to the Negus, and by his order the volume, wrapped in fine cloth, bound in goatskin, and consisting of sixty-four leaves, was brought to the tent of M. le Roux, and, with the assistance of Haile-Mariam, the work of translation was begun. The story itself is described as a prose poem which equals the beauty of Homer and the pathos of the Bible. Certainly it possesses sufficient charm, and if based on anything like historical truth it forms a valuable addition to the Biblical record.

AT SOLOMON'S PALACE.

The Queen of Sheba, so runs this ancient narrative, arrived in Jerusalem, and is immediately struck with admiration of the wonders which she sees there, her astonishment being only surpassed by her rapturous delight in the presence of King Solomon.

"My lord," (she says,) "you are happy, for you are dowered with knowledge and wisdom, I would have wished to be in your palace the humblest of your servants, so that I might have washed your feet, listened to your words and obeyed them.. How happy I am when you ask me questions, and when you reply to me! . . . I behold light in the darkness, the pearl in the sea, the morning star in the midst of the constellations, the moon's rays in the morning. This is why I glorify Him who has led me here, Him who has permitted your majesty to be revealed to me, Him who has caused me to walk before your house and hear your voice."

King Solomon is almost as modest in his reply, acknowledging that all his wisdom comes from God. "I am not the Master (he says,) I exist not by means of myself, but by His will. It is through Him that I speak, walk, and think. My wisdom belongs to Him. I was dust. He has formed my body, and He has created me in His own image."

SOLOMON'S RUSE.

The Queen lingers for six months, and then wants to go home, but Solomon is not willing to part with this beautiful woman who has come to him from the ends of the earth. He presses her to stay and to live for a time in his palace. She somewhat reluctantly consents, having first obtained from him an oath that he would treat her honorably. Solomon gave the pledge, and at the same time made the queen swear that she would not touch anything that belonged to him in the palace.

Then the wisest of men resorted to a ruse. He gave the Queen at supper something which made her intolerably thirsty, and she went to the King's room to get some water to quench her thirst. The King sprang up and charged her with breaking her oath, and would only release her on condition that she also release him. The pledge which she had taken seemed preposterous at the time it was demanded; now she understood its meaning. Both the oaths were annulled.

That night the King had a vision. He saw a brilliant sun, which descended from the heavens, and which poured its rays over Israel. This brightness lasted a certain time, then the sun fled away. It went and stopped over Ethiopia, where it shone brilliantly for some ages. The King waited for its return to Israel, but it did not come back.

"SON OF THE WISE MAN."

Afterwards Solomon saw a second sun, which descended from the heavens and lighted up Judea. It was brighter than the sun which had preceded it but the Israelites blasphemed it because of its heat. They raised their hands against it with sticks and sabres. They wished to extinguish it and the earth trembled and clouds obscured the world. The Israelites believed that they had extinguished the light of that sun, and buried it. They watched its tomb, but in spite of this viligance the sun broke forth again and lighted the world, its light illuminating the sea, Ethiopia and the Empire of Rome. More than ever it departed from Israel.

Solomon expressed his admiration for the courage, beauty and innocence of Queen Magda, and when bidding her farewell he took a ring from his finger and gave it to her as a token.

Queen Magda travelled many months and on her way home gave birth to a son. On re-entering her own country, from which she had been absent so long, she gave the child the name of Bainelekhem, that is to say, "The Son of the Wise Man."

When he was twelve years old the lad began to ask about his father, and his teachers told him that it was King Solomon, and on attaining his twenty-second year he determined to see his father, and started on his journey. On his arrival in the province of Gaza, which Solomon had given to his mother, the people prostrated themselves before him. Those who came from the Palace and had seen the King on his throne were particularly astonished at the resemblance.

Bainelekhem was brought into the presence of the King. When Solomon saw the young man he took him in his arms and kissed him on the mouth, forehead and eyes, and said to him:—'Behold my father David as he was in the days of his youth. He has risen from the dead and returns to me! It is not me that he reproduces. He resembles much more my father in the time of his youth. He is better than I am.'

BAINELEKHEM'S REQUEST.

Solomon clothed his son in golden vestments, put a diadem of gold on his head and diamond rings on his fingers. He seated the youth on a throne similar to his own. Then the son took the ring which his mother had secretly entrusted to him and gave it to his father saying: "'Take your ring and remember the alliance with my mother which you have sealed with your own mouth. I beg you also to give me the vestments which cover the Ark of the Covenant that we may adore them during our life." But Solomon said there was no need of the ring to prove that Bainelekhem was his son.

In reply to the King's urgent request that he should remain in Palestine, the story continues, Bainelekhem said:—"Do not tempt me, for you have a son that you ought to prefer before me. He is called Rehoboam, and was born, according to the law, the son of your legitimate wife. My mother was not your lawful wife."

The King said: "What do you mean? I am not any more, according to the law, the son of my father David! My father took my mother, who was the wife of another; he caused her husband to be killed in battle, and she bore me. God is merciful and has pardoned the offence. . . . I am nearing the age of my father. If God wills I shall very soon rejoin my father and my fathers.

KING DAVID.

"You will remain on my throne and govern in my place. I will give you many queens and many concubines; as many as you wish." The son replied that his mother had made him swear that he would return to her, and he could not abandon his mother or his country.

At last—to conclude this wondrous tale—it was decided that he should return with the vestments of the Sacred Ark and with the eldest sons of the leaders of Israel. Thus Israel would be in two kingdoms, solomon ruling over one and the son of Magda over the other. On the way home it was disclosed to the young man that the Ark itself had been carried off and was in their midst. He was anointed by Zadoc, the High Priest, who gave him the name of David, King of Ethiopia. St. Michael guided the young King, whose path was henceforth attended by miracles.

When David reached Ethiopia his mother willingly gave up the throne in his favor, consecrating him afresh as King. "I chose him (she said) whom God has chosen, who will sustain the tent of God. I love him whom God has loved, the servant of his Law, who will nourish and protect the aged and the orphans.' Henceforth no woman was to reign over the kingdom.