

ing with the feeding of the slave. At this time the workers were bound to the land. A certain section of arable land was the property of feudal lords. A part (in all cases the richest and most productive soil) he retained for his own use, and it was cultivated by his serfs for a certain period, generally three days out of six. The resultant product went to the feudal lord. Other sections of land were set aside for cultivation by the serfs. Whatever they produced thereon was their own. It may be said, in passing, however, that in actual practice what they produced, supposedly for themselves they did not always enjoy. The feudal serfs were always the prey to various "side grafts." Particularly is this true with our old friends of the priestly craft. They were allowed by the feudal lord to exact a heavy toll on the already scanty and meagre product of the serf. Under feudalism we have society divided roughly into two classes—feudal lords and serfs. We find in this period the strengthening of the armed forces going on apace.

Some of us have, perhaps, in our boyhood days, read enthralling romances dealing with the "good old times" of the bold baron and his retainers. Probably such accounts are more or less exaggerated. Still, there is no doubt that the feudal nobility lived exceedingly well, and had a good time—at the serfs' expense. The history of feudalism is marked by many bloody encounters, revolt and rebellions. Time and time again the serfs, driven to desperation, throwing caution to the winds, struck back at the feudal lords. As a general rule there was little intelligence behind these insurrections, although it is interesting to note that in some cases they seemed to have had an inkling of what they wanted—free access to the means of life. In most cases the serfs, ill-