

The giant pines are frequently "bearded with moss," the beard sometimes growing to great length; and in a recently-published edition of "King Arthur's Knights," illustrated by Walter Crane, mention occurs of ancient forests and of trees similarly adorned. In Malory's edition the knights are made to resemble those of his own, the Plantagenet, times—just as in the eighteenth century Hamlet, Macbeth, and other Shakespearean characters used always, when on the stage, to be costumed after the fashion of Georgian days—though the actual Arthurian legends, like those of the "Mabinogion," with some of which they are identical, must be many centuries older than the middle ages. In one Arthurian legend at least, allusion is also made to the ruined Roman cities, then tenanted only by bandits and wild animals, their original inhabitants having left the country "fifty years before"—a date which gives colour to Sir Laurence Gomme's dictum that the traditional Arthur was probably the Roman *dux bellorum* Artorius, who threw in his lot with the Britons when these were fighting the Teutonic invaders from over-seas. Artorius was certainly crowned king at Silchester, Caerlon and London.*

In old provincial English towns one occasionally sees large stones or blocks of masonry, sometimes well and smoothly squared, sometimes in much damaged condition, looking like the spoil of ancient buildings, and serving now as foundation to the later brick-built houses, themselves often several centuries in age. Some such are to be seen at Stratford-on-Avon; while at Anne Hathaway's near-by village of Shottery is a remnant of what may have been one of the many castles erected during Stephen's troublous reign, only to be demolished by his successor, the statesman Second Henry—perhaps the real "greatest of the Plantagenets." It is a large piece of masonry in good condition let into the wall of a Shottery Manor out-house, and still shows the four drilled holes arranged in form of a cross through which, during a siege, arrows and arquebuses could be levelled at the enemy outside. Elsewhere I have, as doubtless have others, noticed what were evidently some of the stone steps of a winding flight within a castle's round tower now doing duty as door-sills, gate-posts, &c.—showing that the ruined Roman cities above-mentioned, the Norman keeps, &c., and, to judge from other signs, even the

*"London." By Sir Laurence Gomme; pp. 77, 130.