AME HISTORY is so austere a lady that if one has been so ill-advised as to take a liberty with her, one should hasten to make amends by repentance and confession.
Events have been transposed to the extent of some few months in this narrative in order to preserve the continuity and evenness of the story. I hope so small a divergence amny seem a venial error after so many

centuries. For the rest, it is as accurate as a good deal of research and hard work could make it.

The matter of diction is always a question of taste and discretion in a question of taste and discretion in a historical reproduction. In the year 1350 the upper classes still spoke Norman-French, though they were just beginning to condescend to English. The lower classes spoke the English of the original Piers Tlowman text, which would be considerably more obscure than their superiors French if the two were now reproduced or imitated. The most which the chronicles can do is to catch the cadence and style of their talk, and to ence and style of their talk, and to infuse here and there such a dash of the archaic as may indicate their fash-

ion of speech.

I am aware that there are incidents which may strike the modern reader as butal and repellant. It is useless, however, to draw a Twentieth Century and label it the Fourteenth. It was a sterner age, and men's code of merality, especially in matters of cruelty, was very different. There is

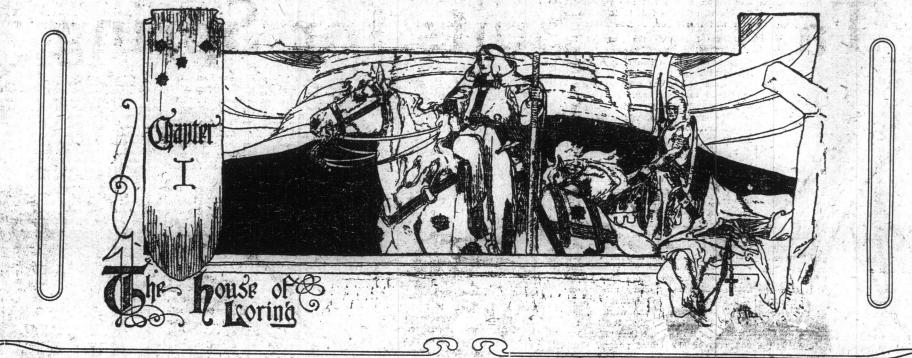
strange thing came upon England, for out of the east there drifted a monstrous cloud, purple and piled heavy with evil, climbing slewly up the hushed heaven. In the shadow of that strange cloud the leaves drooped in the trees, the birds ceased their calling, and the cattle and the sheep sthered cowering under the hedges. A gloom fell upon the land, and men shood with their eyes upon the strange cloud with their eyes upon the strange cloud and a heaviness upon their hearts. They crept into the churches where the trembling people were blessed and shrieven by the trembling priests. Outside no bird flew, and there came no rustling from the woods nor any of the homely sounds of Nature. All was still, and nothing moved, save only the great cloud which no fold from the black horizon. To the west was the light summer sky, to the last brooking cloud-hank.

The work of others. Our many a flew fine divided in what had been the Manor of Tilford, where for meany generations the mobile family of the Lorings had held their rhome.

There was a time when the Lorings had held their country from the North Downs to the Lakes of Frensham, and when their grim castle-keep rising above the green meadows which borters. They crept into the churches where the trembling people were blessed and shrieven by the trembling priests. Outside no bird flew, and there came the Barrons War, in which the King used his Saxon subjects as a whip with which to scourge his Norman barons, and the centre lay the broad Abbey broading cloud-hank.

Saxon subjects as a whip with which to scourge his Norman barons, and there came the firm the black horizon. To the work of the land. From that time the Lorings, with estates sadly curtailed. It was the centre lay the broad Abbey broading cloud-hank.

And there came there came the strange of the first of May, which the Lorings had been the day was the first of May, wh



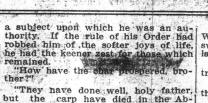
se incleient in the feet for which
The function grows of Civing ravies of

west was the light summer sky, to the east this brooding cloud-bank, craeping ever slowly across until the last thin blue gleam faded away and the whole vast sweep of the heavens was one great leaden arch.

Then the rain began to fall all vears the great leavenit and frater-house, all buzzing with a busy life. Through the open window came their lawsuit with low hum of the voices of the brether as they walked in plous converse laid claim to their richest land, with pecary, turbary and feudal rights over the cloister there rolled the distant the remainder. It lingered on for rise and fall of a Gregorian chant vears this great lawsuit and the down. last thin blue gleam faded away and the whole vast sweep of the heavens was one great leaden arch
Then the rain began to fall. All day it rained, and all the night and all the week and all the month, until folk had forgotten the blue heavens and the gleam of the sunshine. It was finished the men of the Law had divided all the week and all the month, until folk had forgotten the blue heavens and the gleam of the sunshine. It was richest of the estate between them. There was still left the was not heavy, but it was sfeady and

"As well shut up a wolf in our sheepfold. How came a pike in the pond."
There were no pike last year, and a
pike does not fall with the rain nor
rise in the spring. The pond must be
drained, or we shall spend next Lent
upon stockfish, and have the brethren
down wifn great sickness ere Easter
Sunday has come to absolve us from
our abstinence."

"They are an ancient family and of
"They are an ancient family and of
claims of eschage unsettled, and there
is Sergeant Wilkins, the lawyer of
Suint Gregory, when there came a
sudden sound like the rushing torrent,
and the foul fiend sprang over the high
wall which skirts the water-meador
and trushed upon us with the speed of
the wind. The lay brother he struck
to the ground and trampled into to
the ground and trampled into the
mire. Then, seizing the good subprior
in his teeth, he rushed round the field,
swyinging him, as though he were farour abstinence."



tench, brother, gravel for carp.

The sacrist leaned forward with the face of one who bears tidings of wee.

There are pike in the Abbot in horror. "As well shut up a wolf in our sheep-fold. How came a pike in the pond? There were no pike last year, and a pike does not fall with the rain nor rise in the spring. The pond must be drained, or we shall spend next Lent upon stockfish and have the brettern.

"They are an ancient family and of good repute. I would not treat them too harshly, brother."

"Amaxed at such a sight, I stood

pond!"

The Abot hardened his heart at the hought. "It was indeed a devil's deed—when we had but newly stocked it with char and with carp. Well, well, the law is the law, and if you can use it to hurt, it is still lawful to do so. Have these claims been advanced?"

do and three aves, when the Devil of opportunity and space and sprang won me. With the help of Saint Bernard to the wall, but not be read for his teeth had found my leg, and the law is the law, and if you can use it to hurt, it is still lawful to do so. Have these claims been advanced?"

lets went down to the Hall yester-night on the matter of the escuage, and came screaming back with this young hethead at their heels. He is small and slight, yet he has the strength of many men in the hour of his wrath. The bailiff swears that he will go no more, save with half a score of archers to uphold him." will go no more, save with anger at score of archers to uphold him."

The Abbot was red with anger at this new offence. "I will teach him that the servants of Holy Church, even though we of the rule of Saint Bernard be the lowlest and humblest of her children, can still defend their own against the froward and the violent! Go, cite this man before the Abbey court. Let him appear in the chapter-house after tierce tomorrow."

You nave indeed to you can be so frightened by the sight of a yellow horse? It is the horse of Franklin Aylward, my father, which has been distrained by us because he owes the Abbey fifty good shillings and can never hope to pay it. Such a horse, they say, is not to be found betwist this and the King's stables at Windstein which saled in whose the very breed which Saladin, whose the very breed which Saladin who was a salading who was a salading whose the very br But the wary sacrist shook his the very breed which Sala "Nay, holy father, the times soul now reeks in Hell, kept are not yet ripe. Give me three days, own use, and even it has been said I pray you, that my case against him under the shefter of his own tent. I may be complete. Bear in mind that the father and the grandfather of this I ordered the variets who had haltered in the King's own service, living in high honor and dying in their knightly duty. The Lady Ermytrude Loring was first lady to the King's mother. Roger FitsAlan of Farnham and Sir bounds," said the Abbot. "If the state of the said of the said that the said the sai Hugh Walcott of Guildford Castle were prior and Brother John be indeed dear

where he would there we less shrines of the saints its holy relic in the center. it the tradition of inces silver votive hearts to At every turn he was how thin was the veil, rent, which screened awful denizers of the u Hence the anne frightened monk seemed er than incredible addressed. The Abbot's paled for a moment, it is plucked the crucifix from rose valiantly to his fee "Lead me to him!" me the foul fiend who his grip upon brethren house of Saint Bernard! my chaplain, brother! B the exorcist with him, a blessed box of relics, and Saint James from unde With these and a contrite heart we may show fro owers of darkness." But the sacrist was of a cal turn of mind. He

faith would grow the

"Is this the way to ente piscum'?" said he sternly. wont to be our gentlest owly carriage in chapte me straightly. In what form foul fiend appeared, and how done this brethren? grievous scathe Have you s

monk's arm with a grip five purple spots for n

chapter-house this very hou Thus adjured, the frightene grew calmer in his bearing, though his white lips and his startled eve the gasping of his breath, told of h inward tremors.

"If it please you, holy father, and you, reverend sacrist it came a

"Bethink you of the pike in the carp do and three aves, when the Devil dropped the subprior and sprang upon

"In what shape then did Satan appear?" the Abbot designation "As a great yellow horse, and the teeth of a griffin." "A yellow horse!" The sacrist glared at the scared monk. "You foolish brother! how will you behave when you have indeed to face the King of Terrors himself if you can be so

"It was an ill day for Waverley tha

and wary and wait until his cup be indeed full."

The Abbot had opened his mouth to reply when the consultation was interrupted by a most unwonted buzz of excitement from among the monks in the cloister below. Questions and answers in excited voices sounded from one side of the ambulatory to the other. Sacrist and Abbot were the other. Sacrist and Abbot were the stair which led to the cloisters.

They no sooner descended than their the stair which led to the cloisters.

They no sooner descended than



Over the Te

Tuesday, March

510

fresses, many of the pure gold and silver mined and smelted a fine wire, which is and afterwards used The "Society

nown life insurance

established in Londo The Czarina has a southeastern ery small wooder silver hooks and h mented on the oudesigns on a ground The shawl which yards square and

Miss Dorothea England, who in ne famous pianist he daughter of Sin Muire Mackenzie crown in chancery who is not taken eral election. It sends out all the election is over, twenty-five tons cording the votes the entire nation.

There can be no do of any girl who has into a gown of her gr that the modern wo than her fer party of women d at afternoon an artist who has seventeenth and costumes. One osaid she would lik gown and soon lipping into the with only was a slim little could indu that not one of ear them.

The famous French hat women are lack umor. He says preciation of humo companionable; he quisite tact that keeing it before your ause she conceals nistake of thinking erhaps I could n ample that women is sense of humor than Mme Bernhardt. She is see tse lightest fling; too subtle for her to show she enjoys it!