VOL. IX.

THIODOLF THE ICELANDER. North? They have now known us Væringers for many and eventful years; I will answer tor it ST BARON DR LA MOTTE PODQUE. they will receive thee as beseems a hero. But CHAPTER XXXVI. In the meanwhile all the Væringers had assem-

bled, and kindly grasping of hands, and touching of shields and swords, had passed again and again between them and the followers of Thiodolf .-Then Helmfrid held up his spear, and all stood still, while the old hero signed to Thiodolf to give him the shield, and lifted up his voice to The others chimed in after their fashion; and this sort of alternate song rose up from under the shade of the laurel-trees into the blue morn-

ing sky: mm.MFBID.

How is it called, that royal tree. With verdant, glittering boughs, That strews the path of victory. And wreathes the conqueror's brows?

тшороы.

O linden-tree, thou shinest fair, The first of noble trees; Thy branches court the summer air, And wave before the breeze.

omiavilli),

High words, bold youth, of sounding breath, The linden wins from thee; And yot thou standest here beneath A far more noble tree.

THODOLP

These graves, with princely canopy. Shut out the nountide rays; But, abt their name is strange to me. And strange to northern lays.

BRIMERID.

Laurel, young soldier-time we name This tree in hero songs; It horalds forth the victor's farce, And to the brave belouge.

THIODOLF.

Fuir laurel! ever fresh and green, Whose bright loaves never fail-Here Helmfrid's glittering spear was seen; Hail to the laurel | hail |

HELMPRID.

And thou, my shield I well proved to stand The stroke of forman's blade --A hero gave thee to my hand Beneath the laurel-shade.

rmodone.

I loosed that golden shield so true From off a linden tree; Then hail unto the linden too; And, laurel, hall to thee!

THIODOLY'S WARRIORS. ve shild on of our home beloved Ye noble trees, so high and strong, Whose grateful shade we oft have proved, For ever live in minstrel-song!

RELEGED'S WARRIORS. Ye lofty stems that court the breeze. And spread abroad your leafy boughs;

Ye joyous, brilliant laurel-trees. For ever wreathe our victor-brows! ALL TOGSTHEE. Verdant laurel-linden fair-

Both together twine our hair ;

Both together shower down A never-fading hero-crown!

CHAPTER XXXVII. One bright autumn day many joyous crowds were seen in the crescent in which the princely city of Constantinople is built down to the sea. Idle groups hurried to the beach, heralds shouted and at the windows and balconies were seen lovely and richly adorned women; for the criers had made known that the great Væringer chief, the noble Helmfrid, was returning from his expedition with lightly waving sails, and two other northern ships in his company. While those on the shore looked with eager curiosity at the vessels, no less eager glances were sent from them towards land. Pietro and Malgherita, although from childhood accustomed to pomp and state, yet well nigh closed their dazzled eyes before such surpassing splendor. The sea, in its mid-day clearness, gave back, as if from a mirror the brightness of the surrounding palaces, churches and towers. Above the golden roofs and domes and images was the soft blue sky and brilliant sunshine. Nearer and nearer came the murmur of the populous city; the strains of music from warlike bands and from joyous groups of women, occasionally sounded. Every minute Thiodolf became more thoughtful and more grave; and at length he said to Helmfrid, with shame

glowing in his cheeks: " Master, what am I to do amidst that polished wise people? They have learned the hest and the fairest of all knowledge, as may be seen even from their buildings. I shall seem among them like a bear in a pleasure garden. Were they but beleaguered, or in any fearful extremity out ustrades. Above, in the lofty saloon, there of which they might be helped by weapons, then I would ride out to them, delivering them, and rejoicing that they must love and honor me whether they would or no; but now! dear master, take a for a moment they almost doubted whether, by little care of me, or, rather, much care, for believe

me, I shall be in great straits." "The case is not so bad as it seems to thee," answered Helmirid. " Dost thou then think, my noble boy, that they know not, in yonder glitter- armor, pressed rapidly beneath the lofty arches opposite direction, while I passed on with a cerlag city, what is the worth of a brave son of the and all greeted the mighty Væringer chief and tain tair lady to the port of Marseilles."

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CATHOLIC

truly thou must take more gentle and courteous manners; and thou wilt do so, for gentleness and courtesy are so firmly rooted in thy noble mind, that they cannot do otherwise than bear flowers. This day I will present thee to the great Greek | befitting demeanor. cinneror.'

" Is he not one of the mightiest warriors in all the world?" asked Thiodolf.

"No," answered Helmfrid, "I cannot boast that of him. He has, indeed, seen few other fights than such as are held before him for his ed it. But when the emperor spoke, Helmfrid entertainment on great occasions. But yet he is the lord of all the East; and if we involuntarily feel respect in the presence of a hero-deeming that one to whom God has given such strength of body must bear within him also a portion of God's omnipotence-shall we not be of humble and serious mind when we stand before a man to whose care so great a portion of Europe and Asia has been entrusted?"

" In truth," said Theodolf, " such a lord must be a very mighty giant; and I think so to beseem myself towards him that he will be satisfied it is !" thought Thodolf to himself. "To him with me."

"Thou shalt also throw many a spear for him and give many a sword-thrust for him," said Helmfrid.

The youth shook joyfully Throng-piercer's silver hilt, and the old man asked him, with a

"Dost thou yet wish to turn back from that

bright capital?" "Turn back?" replied Thiodolf with displeasure; "that never has been, and never will be, my way. What wert thou thinking of, dear old master? Ah! if thou knowest what I have to seek in Constantinople. But though thou knowest not that, yet, let me tell thee, thou shouldst have known that such men as I think not

so easily of turning back,"

The old hero looked at his pupil with great delight. The ships drew to land amidst the loud cries of joy of the people. Heliafrid, quickly springing to the shore, ordered a letter to be brought for Malgherita; and the sorrowing mother, sadly veiling her eyes at the laughing faces of the children, was carried, by her own desire, under Pietro's care, away from the tunult the animal, and struck it on the head with his mailed hand so that it lay motionless, saying, "that poor beast would have been lame forever; now it will have no more pain. I would rather go my way on foot."

But Helmfrid caused to be brought to him a fiery coal-black Arab horse, who joyfully reared up beneath the youth, and seemed to take pleasure in having a rider who could so strongly master him.

As they now rode through the streets to the sound of joyous trumpets, many flowers and wreaths flew down from the balconies out of the hands of fair women. Thiodolf's heart beat high with a hold joy; only he knew not whether he was expected to return thanks and greetings after the courteous fashion of the country, and therefore dared hardly raise his eyes from the ground. But when he saw Helmfrid lowered his spear in the usual way of northern warriors, he gladly did the like; and henceforth he left unsalured neither balcony nor window where women's bright eyes smiled; and the Arab horse foamed and funed at the spur-strokes with which his rider urged him to take the boldest and yet the most graceful springs.

On one side was seen the church of St. Sophia, on the other the Hippodrome. Now to this, now to that, would Thiodolf turn his horse, alternately attracted by the noble and dazzling richness of both the brilliant buildings. Helmfind could with difficulty keep him in the straight road to the imperial palace. But when the palace itself shone out before him. the young Teelander dropped his eyes, and insummed gently and thoughtfully to himself, "Con it he well pleasing to the gods that man should so dare to copy their city Asgard ?"

Having dismounted from their barses, they entered the court, which was perfumed with sweetsmelling should, and cooled with foundalis, and went up stairs of colored marble, with gut balmet their eyes now a rich profusion of polished perphyry tables, and golden frames on the walls, and now so vivid colors of the carpets that some enchantment, the flowers which so richly cover the ground of a grove in spring had not bere sprung up. Chamberlains in their gold embroidered robes, and warriors in gold and silver afterwards you ran off rather too rapidly in an

the tall unknown youth who walked beside him Thiodolf might have taken many of them for the emperor, but the calm, noble pride of his disposition made him not over hasty with his salutations, and he reached at length the chamber where the me."

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emperor awaited his renowned general, in great wonder, it is true, but with the loftiest and most

Around the brilliant throng there stood a train of many attendants and officers, all in such dazzling attire that Thiodolf at first could understand nothing clearly, and he imitated the greetings of his leader without seeing him who receivanswered, the bright eyes of the youth pierced through the surrounding splendour till they reached the ruler, and discovered the figure of an old man somewhat feeble, with a countenance rather troubled than joyous. The first glance truly told him that here there was no question of a powerful warrior, so that he had not needed Helmfrid's previous information; but his own feeligs verified to him the old heroe's words of the reverence felt in presence of a man in whose bands were placed the destinies of so mighty a realm. "So | tinople." are addressed each day joyful thanks and cries for help. Every hour people come to him, who hear from his lips how it is to be with them and

a man face to face." In the midst of these and like thoughts he hardly heard what Helmfrid said in praise and commendation of him. But when the emperor signed to him to come nearer, he went forward with pleased alacrity, and answered to the question of whether he would serve the emperor among the

" Mighty lord and emperor, that is a gigantic chariot which you have to manage, and I wonder where you can find as many noble and obedient horses as you must need. I do me ! will draw vigorously, and I will be a cont too, as for as it can possibly be."

The emperor bent his head with a kind smile, and desired the Væringer chief to receive the young hero and his troop into his company. But Thiodolf had neither eye nor ear for what was into a quiet, retired dwelling. Thiodolf, the farther arranged either with Helmfrid or with few minutes break loose to take revenge, dreat what then would become of the subty of my while, had to choose one among the noble horses other noble state-officers, for his look was fixed his helmet more firmly on, grasped his spear more palace? what of the merchants of the imperial brought to carry the newly returned warriors on a youth who had caught his eye as he stood tightly, and held his shield before his hirast with feity, if their chief should so mornably perish unto the imperial paloce. He sprang upon the near the emperor, arrayed in a brilliant dress, and first and best of them, but it sank beneath him, I treated by many with reverent attention. 'Chat grouning He quickly disentangled himself from very Glykomedon, whom he had seen in the chestnut-forest between Marseilles and the great | the emperor in a grate and lawful fashion. Only of the counsellors knew how to nower. Thiobaron's castle, stood assuredly before him, shining in all the light of court-favor, and of the respect ever paid by courtiers to favourites. Thisdolf gazed on him with unconcealed wrath; a scornful smile seemed to play on the features of the merchant-prince, and words of anger and de- the captain of the troop came forward, and in the Heliafridfiance came almost irrepressibly to the lips of the Icelander; but the presence of the far-ruling Greek emperor, to whom he had just sworn featty, checked him. He remained silent, but fixed such flaming eyes on the cedar floor that it seemed as though it must eatch fire from the two would not. But now it is very different; for hand?" ardent torches.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

The emperor had left the presence-chamber; princes, knights, and courtiers, walked through the ornamented hails, exchanging courteous words; many of them were drawn by the fragrant air from the garden, and a cool breeze, into an open gallery, which, from almost a dizzy hight, gave a view over grottos and fish-ponds woods and meadows, far beyond the city, out upon the glittering sea.

Thiodolf was reminded of the vaulted way which led from the great baron's castle to the park, and although everything here was infinitely more splendid and magnificent, yet a longing for that beloved spot arose in his bosom. "And who knows," he thought to himself, "whether castle, halls, and gardens, yet stand firm as I left them, so frail and perishable a thing is the work of man? That have I learned at Castel-France."

In the midst of such thoughts and recollections Glykomedon had well nigh passed from his mind; but more rapidly did his anger kindle when the haughty courtier- it appeared purposely -- placed bimself in his way, and let fall a strange smile upon lum.

"We have met before!" said Thiodolf; and the dainty merchant-prince was forced to close his eyes for an instant at the angry glow which shone in the blue eyes of the North. But soon, emboldened by the thought of his power at court, and the security of the imperial palace, he said, with light mockery:

"Ay, truly, worthy Sir, we have met before; but alas, for too short a time. At first you were seated rather too high up in the chestnut-tree for me to treat you with beseeming courtesy, and ly at it, saying, "The fellow has had his just due." revenge."

father ?" asked Thiodolf, calmly. "That have I done as little as you would have

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done, had she chosen to go with you rather than Thiodolf's eyes flashed more wildly, but otherwise he appeard perfectly calm. "Good Sir," he went on to Glykomedon, "how did you take her to your ship! For I should think violence would not be suffered in the port of Marseilles, at least

not from you." "That was as it had pleased me!" answered Glykomedon, haughtily. "But, young Sir, you make my task an easy one. What had I more to do than to tell her that the angry leclander had levelled her father's castle to the ground, and was already destroying and burning a part of Marseilles in pursuit of his lost and beautiful prey I Then she readily agreed to my taking her on board my ship in the darkness of night, and seiting sail with her at once; the farther we went from the coasts of Province, the better did it please the terrified dove. And this I went on with her till we reached the port of Constan-

" But afterwards ?" asked Thiodolf, still commanding his gestures and voice.

"You need not be wroth with me," answered Hykomedon, " that I have lured her from out ! your hands. She was fair, indeed, but a coldtheir countrymen. What tidings are brought to hearted, hypocritical thing. When I found that him! what answers he must have to give all! It she would not agree to any of my wishes, and I is very fearful to be before him, and truly a great could not sell her on account of her lofty renownthing to have come so far into the world as to see ed lineage, I let ber go; and in trath I know not what has since become of her."

"You know not-in truth you know not?" muttered Thiodolf, through his fast-shut teeth. " Now, then, thou miserable, empty man, I believe thee in this, for it is like the rest of them; but so much less is it needful that the joyous air of heaven should be longer polluted by the breath of one like thee." And with fearful dexterity he grasped the unhappy man by the throat, and his cries for help were hardly heard before he was flung with one powerful effort, far over the balastrade of the gallery into the abyss.

A long death-like stillness and horror followed the daring and fearful deed. Thiodolf, certain or, by you are about to shaver a very noble vesthat this would be succeeded by a storm all the vel." more wild, and that the crowd-who now, as if | The empirer sighed deeply, and has wered, spell-hound, fixed their eyes on bins-would in a for Dor Unit myself feel that neutrly enough ! But few minutes break loose to take revenge, drew what then would become of the subty of my cautious strength. But it came to pass for other- granout; Freint out to me a gentier way, and I wise than he expected. Even the terrible basis will follow it." ness of revenge was transacted in the vicinity of | Helmfill, greatly troubled, was silent; none soft whispers were at length heard to pass be- dolf gazed more and more fixedly on the shining tween the pale spectators; messengers went to sword. and fro; a body of the imperial guard approached with measured tread, and formed a half-circle round Thiodolf. The courtiers drew back while he should be admitted; and then turning to name of the emperor desired Thiodolf to succender his arms.

swered the youth, thoughtfully, "it might be that I would give them up, and it might also be that I you, my good, sir-messenger, although you may Helinfrid shook his head; and Thiodolf said, be a very brave man, have ventured much too far in this business. At all events it will be easier worse for having the blood of an Icelander hero for you to take my life from me than my arms; sprinkled upon it." but I think you will win neither."

"Then it must be done," answered the captain. " Forward, soldiers ! and, if it be possible, father, and in Walhalla ; it even flashed torough bring him alive to the emperor."

A hollow laugh from Thiodolf appeared to make the troop shudder, but on all sides the halfcircle drew closer in. The Berserker rage flashed from the youth's eyes. He brandished his

midst. "I will take him to the emperor." he said, turning to the captam; adding, with a voice of command, " Lower your spears! march!"

The captain lowered his weapon; all seemed ment before so rich and flourishing." ready to obey the order, and Helmfrid, toking ! Thiodolf by the hand, passed gravely through the lanswered the emperor, somewhat gloomily. "Be apartments to the imperial chamber. "Whither are we going, master?" a-ked

"As I said," replied Helmfrid, "to the wa-

peror; perchance to a judgment of death." "I shall keep my arms?"

"Yes, if thou give thy word to injure no serrant of the emperor with them."

name. Now all is well with me.'

In one of the halls they passed the bloody,

emperor was standing with a few of his counsellors | speaker, and nominanded him to relate what he and he looked at the young Icclander with a knew of Glykomed n's wicked deeds.

"You have probably taken her back to her mixture of displeasure and astonishment. But soon he tur at away from him, made a sign to the Varinger chief to approach, and spoke with him and the other consellors apart in an opposite corner of the room, but carnestly, and often warmly. Thiodolf remained for a long time motionless and calm; but at length he frowned, and muttered to himself, " they may decide what they please; but I wish they would soon come to some conclusion. Ye gods of Walhalla, what might not have been done while these great people are reflecting!"

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At last the emperor spoke aloud to Helmfrid: There remains an other way. Say to your too doring young countryman, that he must submit to tie; Hykomedon's blood calls for vengeance."

" Is it so?" answered Thiodolf; "strange enough? Hardly on hour ago I was thinking what solemn decisions must pass those imperial its, and now one such solemn decision is proabuncal ou ne l

Then be leased his spear against a wall, and Throng-piercer, the beautiful jayous weapon, fleshed brightly in his right band. The counselas, terefied, pressed round the emperor, and Heliafrid, shaking his head in displeasure, said. Soung toan, betlink thee of thy word."

" Dost then think it meelful to remind me of it?" asked Thodolf, "Perget not that thou has to do with a constraint. In both, I mean to bort no other servant of the emperor with this weapon save the youngest of the word, who has belonged to it but half an hour, and thus help him out of all difficulties, as it is doctored that he must now die."

The placed the silver hill of his sword against the base of a column, and turned its prior against his breast as he bent his body forward.

"He not over hasty, rish how?" cried Helmfrid, going toward. Thiodolf, who made a sign to him not to approach, saying, "Disturb me no farther. I too may think that it is too early to go to Walhalia, but I will not give up my weaons, neither will I detend myself against the emperor, my new lord. What else combies to

"Sine, 's all Helinfeld, turning to the emper-

At that moment a page aznounced an envoy from the merchants. The emperor desired that

" You see it," he said, "they can wait no longer to see vengeance taken for the death of "If the emperor himself said that to me," an- their chief. Could you not remove the wild youth from here, that these sacred walls may not he stained with his blood, shed by his own

" He not disturbed; this marble will not be the

The envoy entered. Thiodolf gave no heed to him; his thoughts were at the grave of his bim at times whether he might not learn of the white Christ in the other world.

" Mighty imperial ruler," said the merchant, the while, " he who now hends before you is not a subject of your sceptre. I come from strange lands to this capital; but not the less have all Then suddenly Helmfrid appeared in the the merciants here dwelling, foreign and native, with one voice chosen me to carry to imperial majesty a representation on the fearful fate that lately befell here the Prince Glykomedon, a mo-

"I can divine the subject of your message," content, justice shall be fully done to you."

"We pray for that," said the merchant; "that is, we hope that your imperial Majesty will not deem as so unworthy as to resent the deserved death of a follow-merchant, because the slain was the principal and also one of the richest and most powerful among us. I will answer on inv hand for Clykomedon having run into the orms of "I will give it; and let us go on, in God's his fitting punishment. Let not, therefore, your imperial Alajesty on this account deprive yourself of one of your bravest warrtors. As a fine crushed body of Glykomedon, which had been for the outrage perpetrated in the palace, the asbrought from the palace-garden, and lay there sombled merchants offer ten thousand pounds of previous to its interment. It seemed as though gold; for to our associate belongs the guilt of even Helmfrie and his eyes with horror from this cutrage, but not to the brave Northman, to the disfigured pse; but Thiodolf looked firm- whose hands fate intrusted a somewhat impetuous

They entered the innermost chamber; the | The emperor bent his head kindly to the