

Would that King Dick's strong arm had reached him on that fatal Bosworth day; of which more later. To go on.

It was known that the Earl of Richmond was making extensive preparations in Brittany to descend upon the throne of England a second time.

King Richard was no coward; he feared not the bastard would-be usurper, let him come when he might.

Instant means were adopted to repel the invasion. Every port was vigilantly guarded; the southern and eastern coasts were patrolled by armed vessels; and mandates were issued calling upon every man possessing landed property to join the royal standard.

Transmission of messages was accelerated remarkably by the king. He had horsemen stationed twenty miles apart, so that a letter could be delivered at a distance of over two hundred miles in forty-eight hours.

I had again become a strong favorite with His Majesty, and was near him well-nigh all the time. I was present and saw that he received the intelligence with joy when he was at length told by his emissaries that the Earl of Richmond, with the permission of King Charles of France, had raised an army of three thousand adventurers, most of them Normans, and that a fleet was lying in the mouth of the river Seine to transport them to England.

King Richard acted with his customary shrewd quickness. He took a central position at Nottingham, whence he marched forth proudly on Tuesday the sixteenth of August, 1485, at the head of twelve thousand men.

So went we forward; and on the evening of the same day we entered Leicester.

Usurper Richmond had landed at Milford with his adventurers on the sixth of August, and had marched through the northern districts of Wales, where were a people in the interests of the Stanleys, upon whom the Earl's chief reliance was placed.

Notwithstanding that fact, Richmond's army did