

stated that their gratitude was such that they had thought of a plan to requite their kindness and make them friends for life. "You have," he explained, "a pretty young gentlewoman for your daughter, and I have a young nephew who has two or three hundred a year in hand, and is at my disposal. If your daughter be free, and you approve it, I'll bring him here to see you, and we will endeavor to make it a match." This proposal was at once agreed to by old Mr. Edwards, who there and then invited the "parson" to dine with him. This he did, and took it upon himself to say grace, with great devotion, concluding a long-winded one with a prayer for the King, Queen, and Royal Family. After dinner he went to see the rooms, and observing a handsome pair of pistols, he expressed a great desire to buy them, to present to a young lord, his acquaintance. It was afterwards thought he had only the cunning intention to disarm the house against his intended robbery.

THE WOLF.

Departing with a benediction on the company, he appointed a day and hour to bring his young nephew to meet the young lady. This was the 9th of May, about seven in the morning, says Strype in his rather quaint account. The old man got up ready to receive his guest, and the daughter had donned her best dress to entertain her gallant. Enter Parson Blood, with three more men. They came to the Jewel-house, all armed with rapier blades in their canes, and every one a dagger and a pair of pocket-pistols. Two of his companions entered with him, and the third stayed at the door to keep watch. The daughter thought it not modest for her to come down till she was called, but sent her maid to take a discreet view of the land, and bring her a description of the lover she had yet to see. The maid, thinking she had identified the lover as the youngest of the company, returned with her simpering and satisfactory report.

THE ROBBERY.

Colonel Blood was telling Mr. Edwards that he and his friends would not go upstairs till his wife came. Meanwhile, would he show his friends the Regalia to pass the time? They had no sooner entered the Jewel room than the door was shut, and a cloak was thrown over the old man's head, and a gag forced into his mouth. They then told him that they were determined to have the Crown, Globe and Sceptre, and that his life depended on his silence. He, nevertheless, made all the noise he could, and was knocked down with a mallet and threatened anew. Still, not intimidated, the old man tried to give an alarm, and was promptly clubbed, and stabbed in the stomach. The villains thought him

dead. The story, as told by Bayley, proceeds:

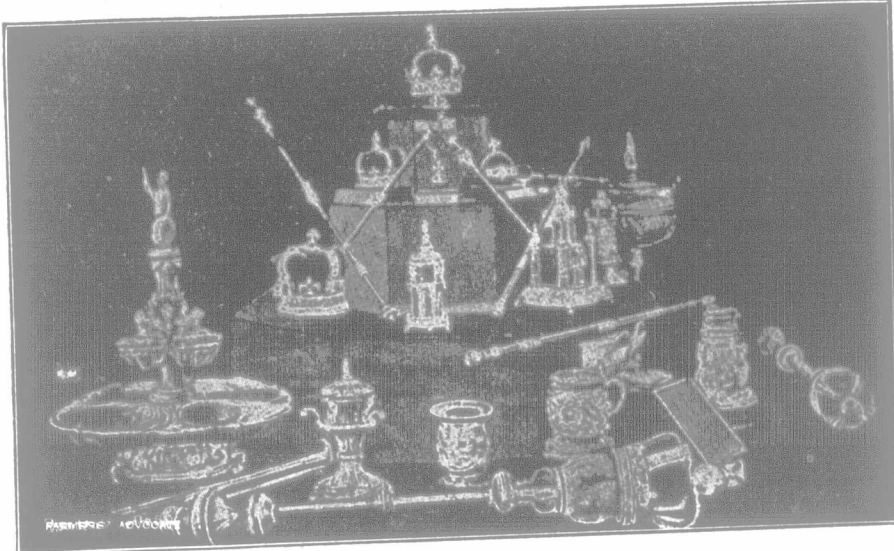
The looty was now to be disposed of, and one of them, named Parrot, secreted the orb, Blood held the crown under his cloak; and the third was about to file the sceptre in two, in order that it might be placed in a bag, brought for that purpose.

At this critical moment, fortunately, the son of Mr. Edwards, who had been in Flanders with Sir John Talbot, and on his landing in England had obtained leave to come away, post, to visit his father, happened to arrive, and on coming to the door the person that stood sentinel asked with whom he would speak, to which he answered that he belonged to the house; and, perceiving the person to be a stranger, told him that if



The Coronation Chair.

[It is between six and seven hundred years old, and since Edward I. every English sovereign has been crowned in it. Just beneath the seat is the famous Stone of Seone—said to be the pillow on which Jacob rested his head at Bethel, brought to Scotland in the early ages, and thence by Edward I. to England in the Thirteenth century.]



The Regalia of the British Crown.

he had any business with his father that he would acquaint him with it, and so hastened upstairs to salute his friends. This unexpected accident spread confusion amongst the party, and they instantly

accordingly passed the draw-bridge. Horses were waiting for them at St. Catherine's gate, and as they ran that way along the Tower wharf, they themselves cried out "Stop the rogues"; by

decamped with the crown and orb, leaving the sceptre yet unfired.

The aged keeper now raised himself upon his legs, forced the gag from his mouth, and cried, "Treason! Murder!" which, being heard by his daughter, who was, perhaps, anxiously expecting far other sounds, ran out and reiterated the cry. The alarm now became general, and young Edwards and his brother-in-law, Captain Beckman, ran after the conspirators, whom a warder put himself in a position to stop, but Blood discharged a pistol at him, and he fell, although unhurt, and the thieves proceeded safely to the next post, where one Sill, who had been a soldier under Cromwell, stood sentinel; but he offered no opposition, and they

which they passed on unsuspected till Captain Beckman overtook them. At his head Blood fired another pistol, but missed him, and was seized. Under the cloak of this daring villain was found the crown, and, although he saw himself a prisoner, he had yet the impudence to struggle for his prey; and when it was finally wrested from him, said, "It was a gallant attempt, however unsuccessful; it was for a crown."

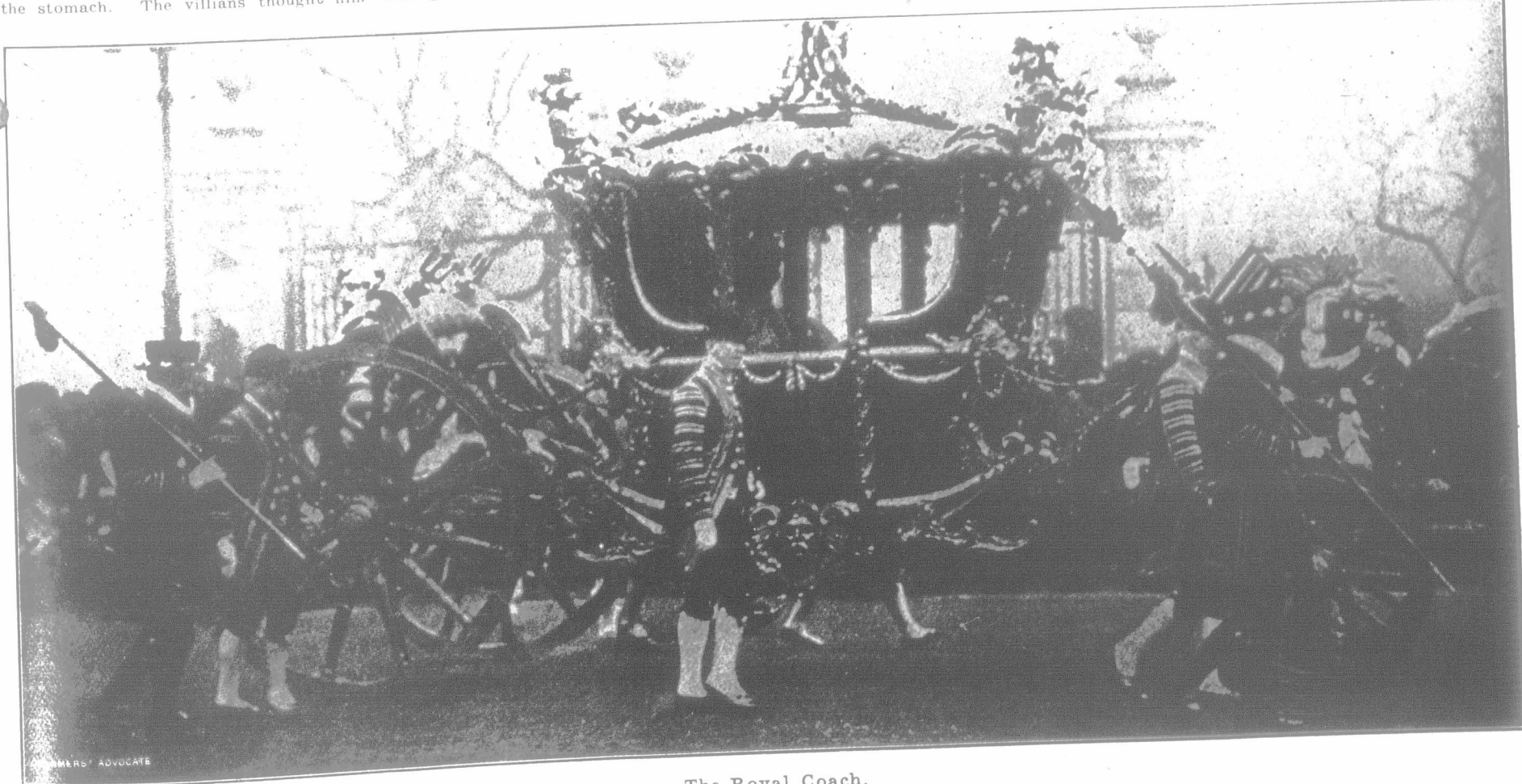
Parrot, who had formerly served under General Harrison, was also taken; but Hunt, Blood's son-in-law, reached his horse and rode off, as did two others of the thieves but he was soon afterwards stopped, and likewise committed to custody.

In this struggle and confusion the great pearl, a large diamond, and several smaller stones were lost from the crown; but the two former and some of the latter were afterwards found, and restored; and the Ballas ruby, broken off the sceptre, being found in Parrot's pocket, nothing considerable was eventually missing.

As soon as the prisoners were secured, young Edwards hastened to Sir Gilbert Talbot, who was then master and treasurer of the Jewel-house, and gave him an account of the transaction. Sir Gilbert instantly went to the King and acquainted His Majesty with it; and His Majesty commanded him to proceed forthwith to the Tower, to see how matters stood; to take the examination of Blood and the others; and to return and report it to him. Sir Gilbert accordingly went; but the King in the meantime was persuaded by some about him to hear the examination himself, and the prisoners were in consequence sent for to Whitehall; a circumstance which is supposed to have saved these daring wretches from the gallows.

THE HISTORICAL MYSTERY.

Such are the facts of the attempted robbery of the Crown Jewels. But the treatment of Blood by King Charles remains one of the enigmas of history, and has given rise to the scandalous suspicion that the monarch had fore-knowledge of the attempt to steal the jewels, and that a division of the immense proceeds of the robbery had been arranged. What is known is that the King summoned Colonel Blood before him at Whitehall, and—pardoned him. He not only pardoned the man who had stolen the Crown of England, but he gave him a grant of land worth £500 a year in Ireland. Blood is said also to have frequented the same apartments in Whitehall as the Duke of Ormond, who had some time before barely escaped assassination. Charles received a cutting rebuke for his conduct from the Duke of Ormond, who had still the right of prosecuting Blood for the attempt on his life. When the King resolved to take the



The Royal Coach.