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of the king, "and utter thy vanities to some other ear. Me thou knowest not, or thy song would have foretold to me heavenly joys rather than woe. Verily I believe that thou hast feigned this vision here in my garden, to force thy counsel on my ear. But I lack no charmer's voice: moreover, thy dream was none other than the old dull chime of the morning of youth, and the waters of time, and the sea of death, the grandame's tale to the weary child. Mark now my song.

"To thyself, old man, take heed.
Evil thought brings evil deed.
This is the moral of thy dream.
That thou'rt in danger on the stream!
Know that I loathe that wrinkled face.
And haste thee from this weary place.
Away! with proverbs in thy song.
Of time, even now to me too long:
Of alms to sick and poor! away
Would I were happy now as they!
Thy vision with such griefs is fraught.
It breathes such loathsome themes of thought.
That if thou flee not from my gate,
This tree shall bear thy quivering weight."

Thus said the king: but the old man went not away. He sat, unmoved, upon the stone, and looking on the king, without fear, he said, "Thou wilt not then listen to the warning of my dream, and thou hast no pity on my poverty, and hoary head have compassion on me, then, for the sake of this old birch tree!"

"It is well," said the king, "thou puttest me in mind that I have for a long while been about to cut it down; at evening it shall fall, for that old and rugged tree is as much out of place among these rare and gracious flowers, as is an aged beggar in the garden of a king."

"Beware," said the old man, in a low soft voice; "Sin not, O king, against that tree; thou hast today, in the blindness of thine anger, cast thy crown and sceptre from thee, take heed thou lose them not for ever: did not thy nurse sing to thee the legend of this tree; and how, by it, thy forefathers came to the throne? and how the founder of thy race held it in such honour, that he spread around it this pleasant place, and bequeathed his curse on him who should harm the tree?"

"Nay," said the king, "I have never heard the lay; wonder it has been why men suffered it here in the pleasure; when I have inquired, none could tell me why; but thou, for thou seemest well-nigh as aged as the tree, and thy beard is of the colour of its rind, thou mayest know, and if thou dost, say on; but beware that thy tale is not so doleful as thy dream, or I will sing thee such a lullaby that thy next sleep shall be sound: for thou shalt awake no more!"

(To be Continued.)

THE SIEGE OF LICHFIELD.

CHAPTER XIV.

NASEBY.

DURING the progress of the war, Archbold, now captain of a troop, was continually employed on active service; sometimes with the garrison at Lichfield, but more frequently detached with a portion of the troops on various expeditions in the adjoining county, or brigaded with the King's main army; for when the tide of war approached the midland counties, reinforcements from the different garrisons were often required to swell the force on temporary occasions.

The war was carried on with various fortune. In the first year, immediately after the battle of Edgehill, the King had on the whole the advantage over his enemies. In the second campaign, the relative strength of the contending parties was rendered more equal by the drawn battle of Newbury. In the third year, the force of the rebels was increased by the accession of the Scots, who marched with a considerable army into England, led by the fanatic zealots of the covenant; and the disastrous field of Marston Moor saw the first decided overthrow the royal cause. Still the royalists continued to fight with good hope of success, and advantages gained in other quarters compensated for their disaster in the north.

At length, on the 14th day of June, 1645, being the fourth year of the war, the royalists under Prince Rupert, and the rebels under Fairfax and Cromwell, met each other on the field of Naseby; upon which occasion Colonel Bagot, with the regiment from Lichfield, was present, and took part in the engagement, having joined the King's forces at Leicester, a few days previously.

It has been observed by an able writer on these times, speaking of the fight at Marston Moor,—and the same observation will apply to that of Naseby, which battle, though fought by a smaller body of

troops on each side, was more important than the former in its actual results,—that "never were two hosts, speaking the same language, of more dissimilar aspects." The King's troops, especially the cavalry, were of the same brave and gallant spirit as when they had chased the foe on the field of Edgehill. It was true that three years of civil strife had in too many cases hardened and debased their character. The irregular and precarious mode of life which they passed in the camp, and the dreadful scenes which they continually witnessed, had engendered a wildness and ferocity not congenial to the English disposition. But a few years of civil strife will turn almost any nation into a horde of banditti. With this exception, which under the circumstances of protracted warfare could not have failed to arise, the King's troops at Naseby were of that generous, loyal, and devoted spirit, which has long been the characteristic of the English nation. Their appearance and that of their adversaries has been well portrayed by the writer to whom I have before referred. The cavaliers are described as "indentifying their quarrel with their honour and their love; their loose locks escaping beneath their plumed helmets, glittering in their martial pride which makes the battle-field like a pageant or festival, and prancing forth with all the grace of gentle blood, as if they would make a jest of death, while the spirit-rousing strains of trumpets made their blood dance, and their steeds prick up their ears. The roundheads arranged in thick, dark masses, their steel caps, and high-crowned hats drawn close over their brows, looking determination, expressing with furrowed foreheads and hard-closed lips the only-working rage which was blown to furnace-heat by the extempore effusions of their preachers, and found vent in terrible denunciations of the Hebrew psalms and prophecies. The arms of each party were adapted to the nature of their courage; the swords, pikes, and pistols of the royalists, light and bright, were suited for swift onset and ready use; while the ponderous basket-hilted blades, long halberds, and heavy firearms of the parliamentarians were equally suited to resist a sharp attack, and to do execution upon a broken enemy.

[NOTE.—The following is a description of the armour used at the period, and the prices regulated by law.

A breast of pistoll proof	ix
A backe	vii
A gorgett	iii
A head-piece with great cheeks and a barr before the face	xi

The totall of the whole, and all parts of a harquebuzier, or light-horseman's armour, is
The cuirassier's armour was more expensive, including pouldrons, vambraces, guissets and guarderine, in all
The prices of the corselet or footman's armour russetted, were as follows—

The breast	v
The backe	iiii
The tassets	v
The combed head-piece lyned	iiii
The gorget lyned	ii

The totall of the footman's armour
If the breast, back, and tassets be lyned with red leather, the price will be

The staffe	ii
The head	i
Socket and colouring	iii

Summe

For unstriking, new fying, russetting, new nayling, leathering, and lyning, of a cuirassier's armour	i
For yearly dressing and keeping clean a cuirassier's armour that needs not new russetting or setting	iiii
For cutting and new fashioning a long bellied breast	ii

The Gun-maker's rates.

For a new musket with mould, worm, and scowerer	xv
For a new walnut-tree stock	ii
For a musket stock of beech	i
For a match tricker-lock compleat	i
For whole worke, consisting of the pan, the cover of the pan, the scutcheon, and the screw pynn	i
For making clean, and new russetting a musket	iiii
For a musket rest	x
For a pair of fire-lock pistols, furnished with a key, mould, scowerer, worm, flask, and cases of leather, of length and boar, according to the allowance	

of the counsel of war
For a pair of horseman's pistols, furnished with snaphaunces, &c.
For a carbine with a snaphaunce, belt, swivel and flask, &c.

The snaphaunce differed from the modern firelock, in the hammer not forming the covering for the pan.

The underwritten extract from the minute-book of the parliamentary committee at Stafford is curious as shewing the sort of arms then in use.

"Dec. 13, 1644. Whereas, for want of muskets with firelocks upon the guards in the garrison, there hath been very much match spent, which is an extraordinary charge to the state, for the prevention of which it is ordered that Mr. Flower shall forthwith deliver out of the Earl of Denbigh's magazine unto the several commander's of foot belonging to this garrison, for every 20 soldiers they have in their several companies, 5 firelock muskets; and the said commanders, upon delivery thereof, are to deliver to the said Mr. Flower so many muskets with matchlocks, as they shall receive firelocks from him, to be laid up in the said magazine, and to be restored when they bring in the said firelocks again, which the said Mr. Flower is to call for, when any of the said companies go to remain in any other garrison."

The royalists regarded their adversaries with that scorn which the gay and high-born always feel or affect for the precise and sour-mannered. The soldiers of the covenant looked on their enemies of Isreal, and considered themselves as the elect and chosen people of God,—a creed which extinguished fear and remorse together. It was this fierce fanatical spirit which was the strength of the parliamentarians. In the early portion of the war, the enthusiastic honour and high mettle of the cavaliers outdared the dogged resolution of their opponents; but at its conclusion leaders had arisen who knew how to train and direct to their purpose this most formidable spirit which had infused itself into the nation. A religious spirit it was not, though, no doubt, there was much stern sincerity in many a rebel breast; but, on the other vious to allow that we should concede to it the tide of religion.

The contest between the men who represented these principles on the field of Naseby might not have been so disastrous as it was, and it may be doubted whether loyalty and gentle blood would not have been more than a match for the fanatic spirit of the puritans, but for the unskilful generalship of the royalists. Prince Rupert, considerably in advance of the rest of the army, rushed on to attack the drawn up forces of the enemy with rash impetuosity; and though he succeeded in routing those immediately opposed to him, and took six pieces of cannon, yet, as in the field of Edgehill, he pursued them so far that he was unable to collect his troops for a second onset. Meanwhile, on the other wing, the republicans, under Cromwell and Fairfax, withstood the charge of the royalists, and rolled them back in confusion like the baffled wave repulsed from the rock, both being stronger in numbers and having the advantage of ground.

* See the Worthies of Yorkshire and Lancashire, by Hartley Coleridge,—Life of Fairfax, p. 199.

(To be continued.)

CHILDREN AT BEDTIME.

EVERY parent who has been in the habit of reading or talking to the little ones after they were safely tucked in bed, will bear witness to the value of this mode of influence. With laying off the clothes, the angers, worries and discontents of the day subside. With the brief season of prayer, they fly still farther into the background. And when the little form rests in its little bed, they seem to vanish out of sight. The body is at rest. The heart is plastic to the touch of a loving father or mother.

Now is the time to exert a moulding power. At this hour the little ones listen with hushed attention to what is read to them. Hymns, the Scriptures, Bible stories are heard with close attention, until the reader's voice is stilled, or the hearers sink into gentle sleep. Conversation may take the place of reading. The will that was in state of resistance an hour ago is now relaxed. The anger that blinded moral discernment has passed away. With open heart the child utters its confessions, and gladly receives the forgiven kiss.

Plans for the morrow can be discussed and duty can be made to put on an attractive form. Irritations can be looked at quietly, and admonitions to watchfulness may be dropped with soothing efficacy into the listening ear. And then, how delightful the embrace with which the young arms clasp your neck, the intense "dear mother" with which the "good night" is said. Parents, if you have not thus parted from your birdlings at the evening hour, you have something yet to learn of hopeful instruction, to experience of love's delights.