

by which men and women used to hold their feasts apart.

Arthur and the kings, nobles and knights sat down at the great Round Table. Caius, the sewer, who had charge of the feast, served up the numerous dishes. He was dressed in rich robes of ermine, and a thousand young noblemen, dressed in the same way, helped him to serve the feast. At the same time, Bedever, the butler, aided by a thousand more young noblemen, filled up the cups and drinking vessels with rich sparkling wine. The Queen's banquet was no less splendid. Indeed, it would take a whole volume to tell of the grandeur of the feasts.

As soon as the banquets were over, the whole company went into the fields outside the city, and gave themselves up to all kinds of sports. The military men held sham fights, at which the ladies looked on, encouraging the fighters with cheers and smiles. Others spent their time in shooting with bows and arrows, tossing the pike, casting heavy stones, and many other sports. All was done without quarrelling or disagreement. In each case the victor received a rich prize, which was given to him by Arthur or the Queen.

In this way three days were spent. On the