THIODOLF THE ICELANDER. BY BARON DE LA MOTTE POUQUE. CHAPTER XXXI.

"Yes," said Thiodolf, after a time, "all is now right and good; we love each other heartily, and we could live as happy as kings, only by ill-luck we have not yet got at any gold. What is there about here that we can take? For I tell you I will go no further with empty purses .-We must see how we can do the people here some great service, for which we may receive, without shame, a rich recompense. Or, what would be yet better, we may search out for some pirates or other rogues, whom we may kill, and. with a clear conscience, take away what they possessed. How is that island before us called?" "Sir," answered an experienced seaman .-" that is the fair island of Cephalonia."

"Cephalonia!" repeated Thiodolf, thoughtfully; and looking at another island which was seen in the distance, then that yonder must be

"You have guessed right, my young lord." said the old man.

"There was nothing to guess about," said Thiodolf. "Uncle Neholf has so often told me of these two islands, and of deeds which he did there, together with my noble father, that I must have been deaf or a blockhead, if I did not know how these islands lie. Know ye, children, that our money could not have come to an end in a better place than here. The men of Zante owe me, through my father, tribute and treasures. He and Uncle Neffolf helped them against those of Cephalonia, and the people, in return, promised gold and goods in great abundance-if I am right in my belief, I shall claim enough of it -but when the time for payment came, they would hear nothing of it, and joined themselves to the Cephalonians; a storm drove the two northern heroes for out to sea, towards a shore where my father won a fair love, and so forgot the whole adventure; and Uncle Nefiolf also did not attack the allied islands. But wait awhile. Now shall they pay every farthing, and a good fine besides. Lift the anchor, my children, and prepare for a fight."

"Ah, Thiodolf," sighed Malgherita, " another

fight already! Forgive them rather; I pray thee earnestly, forgive them the whole debt."

"Lady," he answered, "I would rather give them as much more than refuse thee anything; but the worst is, that we ourselves have nothing.

Thou hast nothing?" asked she, with surprise. "Are then, those precious jewels nothing which thou bearest with thee, and with whose sparkling brightness thou hast so often amused me?"

"Yes, little Malgherita," said Thiodolf, "they are very weil to look at, and play with, but beyoud that they avail us nothing, for they belong to Bertram."

"I know that," answered the lady, smiling, "and I also know Bertram well, and I will answer for him that he would lend you, with joy, the half of his treasure; and a few stones alone will bring us out of difficulty."

"That may well be," said Thiodolf; "but Bertram himself is not here; and to borrow from one who cannot refuse you or withhold his purse, seems to me not the most honorable proceeding. Besides, why borrow when we need only fight a little sharply to win back our lawful property? Thou must not oppose me too much, little Malwoman's rule."

And both ships forthwith sailed gaily towards Zante. When now they drew near to the port, all the northern warriors stood in order on deck, in full, heavy armor, with their large shining shields beld before their breasts, and with the points of their spears, which glittered in the sun, directed forwards, so that those on the island could know at once that the strangers came with warlike intentions. The Iceland war-horns blow a wild blast. There was also a great movement on the shore; signal-fires were kindled, warlike banners were unfurled, much people ran or rode to and fro. Thiodolf looked on with a steady eye, and said at length, with a displeased smile:

"Ah, if they cannot prepare themselves better, and with more order, they will do but little, and we shall have but a pitiful fight with them."

that; for a little bark, from which floated many flags of peace, was seen steering towards the largest ship. As it was allowed to approach, it cast anchor, and a man in it began to hold forth freemen of Lacedemonia, or whether farther round was about to seize a torch to throw light upon an eloquent and diffuse speech touching the blessings of peace, into which he skillfully wove pleasant tales from the old Grecian legends."

"Dost thou see, Malgherita," said Thiodolf to his gentle companion, " now are we come to the people who believe in the Apollo of whom thou once spokest to me. I have already long ago found the worshippers of Mahound; and perchance we will soon meet those who hold to the Trevisant."

But with what astonishment did he hear that the man at length concluded with a Christian ex-

"Ye people!" he cried, stamping on the ground; "you might be amongst those who hold it an honor to call upon the white Christ; and you bring forward your Apollo, and who knows what besides! Have you not enough of one; and he so great? I pray you to take half a dozen more, and mix up in your speech Mahound of the destruction of her father's castle-" and Trevisant, so that all may find in it what will suit their taste. Only I desire that you leave out of your medley our hero-gods of As- and flames, through a fearful Icelander, and how gard. They will not tolerate such a motley he was now pursuing them." fool's-game; and many a northman could so pay you for it that your whole island would be destroyed by sword and flame."

with mouth wide open, and knew neither what ful boaster!" had raised this sudden storm, nor how it could be appeased.

Thiodolf soon became calm again, and continued: " However, I do not care much for you; and if you will pay me that which you owe me, again, "Towards the coasts of the Morea ?"- | port me no longer, and if I here sink down upon a good deal more fearful than is seemly. Come the wind; but first he lavished so much gold and boldly to my ship, there I will reckon up with you, and we shall soon agree together."

and he told them what they owed to his father. and also what, on account of the long delay, he meant now to require of them. Then they raised great complaints that they were unfairly dealt by, and said that they would hardly have paid so much tressure to the largest squadron.

"That depends upon the squadron," said Thiodolf, "whether it would take more or less, or rather if it could get at more or less. But I judge that this is sufficient; and I am not wont to take pattern by other people."

He remained, however, quite gentle, and let the envoys exhaust themselves in wise and wellstated reasonings. But when they at length began greatly to lament themselves, he said:

"Now, be not so sorrowful. Far to show you that I mean you no evil, I will do you a pleasure. My uncle will have to send again for his share, and you will have a second fight. So you can count me out two shares, and I will take his with me."

"But when the envoys grew yet paler, and looked upon this offer as an insult, Thiodolf who were not only a terror, but a joy, to men." come an idol-image to be shunned by all. waxed wroth and cried out:

his house than the property of another; and you would keep my unele's. Wort awhile. I see that you would rather not pay Uncle Nelioli's he fell in another glorious strife, and death washshare; a little more delay, and I will land without further negotiation on your island, and I will take myself what belongs to us-perchance also a little over; for swords are rules with which it is difficult to measure exactly."

Then the envoys became very humble and very submissive; and before long, many boats rowed from the shore, laden with gold, and purple stuffs, and silver vessels, and carried them to Thiodolf's ships, where they were taken in.

CHAPTER XXXII.

The dreaded Northman, as soon as the islanders became submissive, and ready to pay him his dues, spoke to them so gently and kindly that they soon lost all fear, and they looked with some pleasure upon the young stranger so tall rough, and the ships had an uneasy, swinging mogherita, or we shall end by being quite under and so beautiful; some of them even seemed to think that the strange acquaintance had not been bought too dearly with their share of the treasure. They knew likewise that those who could in the howling of the wind and the rolling of the raise to sky, and hill, and wood? And yet they boast of a friendship with one of the northern sea-heroes, were thereby secure from all his fearful countrymen. In the midst of this peaceful intercourse, Thiodolf began to ask whether a lady, such as Isolde, had not appeared on their that trembling lady will feel more secure. coasts; and he described the princely dazzling form with such clear and distinct words, that Pietro and Malgherita smiled at one another, and felt that it was as if some magician had called up the image of the lost one from the sea by his enchantments.

The islanders also smiled as if the reflection of a bright apparition had spread over their countenance; and soon many voices were heard declaring that in truth such a noble woman had been But it appeared that he was not even to have seen some months before on their coast, in company with the knightly merchant prince Glykomedon, but that he had quickly sailed on with her, it was not known whether to the shore of the it, to feel fresh wreaths hanging from it. He the penusula of the Morea.

Malgherita knew well the name of the fartraveled Glykomedon, and even thought that she me in peace; I have left the wild world to which more plain proofs of the skill and strength of the and solemnly. had before seen him at a minstrel-feast in her father's castle. Thiodolf made the people de- in my bosom." scribe him, and then repeated the description, suddenly crying out, "the coward must have silence. But Thiodolf stepped forward, and cruelly deceived me ! he it was who was walking | said : "Art thou, then, he who survived at Therunder the chestnut trees, with another youth, as mopylæ? and canst thou find no rest in the described in its course, Thiodolf remained mo-I thought, on his arm; but it was, in truth, none | grave ?"

other than Isolde." The fearful light began to flash from his eyes,

hortation, and that he professed to believe in Him whom Thiodolf, with reverential meaning, was wont to call the white Christ.

"Ye people!" he cried, stamping on the towards him?"

and the islanders shrank back frightened. "Be not afraid, children," he said; "Glykomedon is not among you. How did she beseem herself towards him?"

for thou didst yet fall honorably before the enemy."

"I have not yet fallen honorably before the enemy," murmured the figure, like a hollow echo, Thiodolf now gazed with reverence at the

"Half reluctantly, half confidingly," was the and sank slowly down again. answer; "at least so it seemed. Sometimes she fixed her queen-like eyes on him as if inquiringly, till he trembled as if struck by an arrow. Then | earth." again he would speak to her of strange things-

"That is a falsehood," interrupted Thiodolf. "And how the whole country lay in smoke

"Enough!" said Thiodolf. And after a long silence, seizing Malgherita's hand, he sighed deeply, saying: "Hear, oh! hear, she flees from The wise man stood opposite the angry youth, me, and goes through the world with that deceit- fallen in a sharp fight. See only out of how

He looked like a man dangerously wounded, his breast and forehead." who yet, with the noble pride of a leader, holds himself erect before his troops. But suddenly returning to his former joyous strength, he asked I will sail on in peace. For, my good people, And on the affirmative answer, he commanded the grass, it will ever seem to me that I have a you do not seem to be very war-like, but rather the anchors to be raised, and the sails given to corpse for my piliow." precious things on the icelanders, that, had not the Northmen stood around, grave and silent, in for once the entreaties of the old men prevailed, the gloomy light of their torches. Malgherite The envoys did as the young chief directed; the whole of the Asmundur tribute would have been scattered from his bands.

CHAFTER XXXIII.

The night brooded darkly over the rocky coasts of Lacedemonia as the ships passed cautiously through the foaming surf; and Thiodolf, from the rudder, bent forwards his head and breast, saying: " A solemn and inspiring breeze comes to me from those hights and woods. Here great deeds must once have been accomplished."

" So it is," answered Pietro, who stood at his side. "In this country did the most manly and fearless warriors of all ancient Greece receive their assistance. A wild and war-loving race, it is said, dwells here to this day. They are called stone: " Consecrated to the sea-burn Aphrothe freemen of Lacedomonia; they pay the ditc." "Dearest," said he, looking up at Mal-Greek Emperor a care and leadly-won tribute; gherita, full of renewed and joyous devotion. and defenceless strangers avoid the inhospitable robber-city."

"O Pietro," exclaimed Thiodolf, with great 10y, " then men such as we are come to the right the hetter times, when heroes yet dwelt here | der? All here is fearful. Perhaps I am be-

And many glorious stories poured from Pietro's "An honorable man would sooner have fire in lips, especially the deed of Leonidas and his three said, "Do not put foolish fancies into your head, hundred, and how the only one who fled away Things are not so bad with you two; that can wandered about, pointed at and dishonored, until answer for. But to drive away night thoughts, ed out his shame in his own heart's blood.

"That was right!" said Thiodolf, with kindling eyes. "Oh! may his good star preserve every brave man from anything which might be called a stain falling on his honor! For see, brother, the poor survivor of whom thou speakest did not mean to do so wrong. He thought, perchance, that some one must carry the tidings vet see what came of it."

He remained long in deep, sad thought, and then he roused bimself by saying: "Well, still he found an honorable end, and the gods will their native land; and even from Malgherita's never deprive a true heart of that, however sorely lips, which, since the loss of her child, had given they may punish him in other ways."

They now cast anchor; but the sea was very tion; Malgherita came on deck and complained down, but joy sparkling in his eyes. that she was unwell and frightened, and that only sounds of lamentation came to her saddened ears asked Malgherita, "that thou hast no look to waves, fear of her father's curse, and grief for are but autumnal flowers, dear Thiodolf." her lost child.

the night is dark, our torches burn bright, and jug of flowers? But look at these deep marks

Malgherita, so long accustomed to Thiodoll's safeguard, had nothing to say against his proposal, and they landed. A path which seemed often trodden led up to a wooded hight. The light of the torches, and their reflection from the armor, shone strangely on the leaves; but a delicious scent of herbs was wasted up from the ground, and the clustered olive-branches formed festive arches over the heads of the wanderers. On the summit was a large open space-in the ed, now at this, now at that spear mark. "That midst a stone well. "It must be an altar of the spear," cried one, "was flung by a bold hero." old beathen times," said Pietro; but he was astonished, as he stretched out his hands towards | ed another; "see how deep it went into the it, when the dark figure of a man rose up from the foot of the altar, who sighed out: "Leave you belong; but the parting from it yet smarts

The Northmen shuddered and drew back in

" Be content, and go hence."

"Leave him," said Thiodolf to his warriors; " he is going to sink down again into his bed of

But it could be seen by the faint star-light that he lay upon the grass. Then the soldiers brought torches near; it was not the face of a dead man that stared up at them, but of one dying; and after a few heavy breathings, he lay to the mightiest of northern warriors, and whethere a corpse.

"It is one of the Freemen of Laconia," said Pietro. "Just such has their strunge dress and figure been described to me. He must have many deep wounds has the blood escaped from

Malgherita trembled violently. "We are standing on a fearful spot," she said. "Oh! I his first effort failed. He began again the trial. pray you lift me on that wall; my feet can sup-

Pietro and Thiodolf lifted her on the altar :wrapped herself in her veil; and thus they remained till the sun sent his first beams over the eastern hill.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

The morning rays discovered many strange things in the spot they had chosen for their night encampment. As Pietro had already left in the darkness, the alter was indeed crowned with flowers, and they so fresh and abundant. that is was clear that a great festival must have been held on the day before.

"Strange," said Pietro. "Do we, then, yet live in the old Greek heathen times?" And night, and now thou art enthroned on the altar."

very gravely. "But if I now lie as victim on brave boy, how didst thou win this fatal shield?" place. But tell me some of the old legends of the aftar? Seest thou the bloody soldier you-

> Pietro shuddered involuntarily; but Thiodol we will wander a little further into the smiling country which glows in the morning light."

Therewith he lightly lifted Malgherita from the altar, and they all went down into a fertile valley towards the east. The bright blue morning sky above them, beside them the luxuriant dark of trees and shrubs, and the gentle descent of the hill, clothed in soft fragrant grass, all drew the eyes of the travelers with a sweet enchantment, and poured a refreshing cheerfulness some lines of their love-lays, the tenderest of forth no songs, there came a few sweet, enchanting tones, mingling with the fresh morning breeze. Thiodolf the while walked on with head bent

"Dost thou then so delight in the flowers,"

"Flowers! autumnal flowers!" said Thiodolf, "We will go on shore," said Thiodolf. "If awakening from deep thought. "Who was thinkon the grass. They are made by spears, dear Malgherita; and truly I must be greatly deceived if they be not northern spears which have plowed so deeply the grassy ground."

The Icelanders agreed with their young leader, and followed these traces of their brave countrymen with a longing which only those can know who, cast on a desert island, perceive the footmarks of men on the sand of the beach. Then were heard voices in the troop, as they wonder-"What sayest thou, then, to this one?" answerground; and the bloody trace shows that it had first gone through a foeman's limbs." They went on deeper into the forest; and a

thrower, as the shape of the weapons made it more certain that they had flown from a northern hand. While the soldiers here admired yet more the superior throws, now praising the depth the spear had penetrated, then the arch which it had

Thiodolf now gazed with reverence at the firmly fixed spear, now looked round inquiringly at his soldiers. At length he said, " My people, this weapon-look once more at its mighty polished shaft of the most precious wood, the bright gold rim around the point, and the huge shining steel point itself-this weapon can be none other than a spear of Helmfrid's. But that we may know with entire certainty whether it do belong ther his strong hand have flung it, let us each in turn approach and try to draw it forth from the stem.2

It was done as Thiodoif commanded. Many a brave northern hand shook the showing weapon, but it remained firm and immovable in the tree. Pietro likewise in vais tried with his utmost strength. Then Thiodolf drew near, and even suger already flashing in his eyes; and at length he tore the spear from the grouning and cracking laurel-stem, and with it fell his whole length of the grass, his armor cattling as he fell; but he held fast in his hand the compacted spear. Then there bent over him a fall old man, shining in brilling northern monor, whose approach none ind perceived in the best of the contest, and who now, with a grave smile, said in the beland longite, "Young near, young man, who then has taught there to draw forth from a rece the lance of Hehaleid !"

CHAPTER KNNY

Thiodoif slowly acose, looking keeply into the old man's eves, and sub-more, as only, the at length his haughry young herei was bent, and he again sank slowly on his knows. The Northmen stood around in astonishment, leaving on their spears. But Thiodolf brought forward the golden shield which mong by a chain at his back, malastened it, looking nearer, he read these words cut in the and said, holding it towards the old hero, "Take it, dear and honored master; for beyond all doubt, bu are Helmfrid."

The A was not stepped back in wonder bethat is for thee. Then didst leave the sea last fore the gotten brightness of the shield; a deep crimson, half of shame and half of joy, flew to "Thinkest thou so?" answered Malgherita, his cheeks, as he cried out, " In God's name, thou

> "Honorably, in open fight, as I need not say." answered Thiodolf. "My own steel shield, which I left in free gift, now hangs in the place where this once huag; high on the hiden-tree, on the Norwegian shore."

"I truly did not leave my golden sheld as a free gift beneath the limiens," marmured Helm-frid in return; and he added, turning away, "O victorious boy! throw again that shield over the back. Else I could not look at thee; for the only dishonored hour of my life is brought brek to me with burning shame by its golden light."

"Dishonored?" cried Thodolf, springing up with the swiftness of a deer. "Bid, I pray you, another than thyself speak thus, and I will so being him back to reason that he shall wonder at himself. Dear, noble, mighty master. I am not surely the into their souls and bodies. The Northmen sang urst to tell thee that a fight without victory is not always without glory? All the barps of the north resound with thy deeds on that day when thou wast borne senseless to thy ship." "Do they so?" asked the old man, joy spark-

ling in his eyes. But then again he cast down his proud eyes to the ground, looking like a wounded eagle, and sighing, " What can that avail? I yet there lost my shield !"

"My good star has chosen me to bring it back to thee," said Thiodolf, " little worthy as I am of the great honor. Though I am a brave and true-hearted fighter, that I may say without boasting."
"Ay," cried Helmfrid, "thou hast so bescem-

ed thyself. He who could win back this shield -the Norway warriors are powerful heroes-he might honorably bring back the weapons of an emperor. But now name thyself to me, that I may know right certainly that such a precious gift was brought back to me not only by a friend, but by one of a friendly race."

And hardly had the words, " Thiodolf, the son of Asmundur," passed the lips of the youth, when Helmfrid clasped hun in his strong arms, and asked after Uncle Nefiolf and Aunt Gunhilda, and many other Iceland friends and relations .-And then he gave three mighty blasts on his war-horn, and called the while, "Hither, ye brave Væringers, hither! Great joy has arisen for your chief; great Joy also for you!" Thiodolf would have given him the shield; but Helinfrid few spears fast driven into the trees gave yet put it back, saying, "It must be done publicly

While now the valiant Væringers were approaching by degrees, Thiodolf presented to the great Helmirid his friend Pietro and Malgherita, to whom the noble chief showed such gentle courtesy, and spoke such pleasant words, that the fair Provengale said, " See, Thiodolf, thou tionless before a laurel, in whose stem was a must also become like this. Take example from lance of almost gigantic size. All the North- this noble knight, how courteous manners can be "Brave hero-minstrels shall sing thy renown, men collected around the spot, partly attracted joined to northern strength and awfulness."