

at Chester, that he saw in this slow-reared, beautiful structure that combination of artistic qualities which inspired him with confidence in the leadership of gothic architecture, you might very truly be forgiven a startled look or gesture of astonishment and quite freely justified for inquiring more closely into the grounds of such a statement. Of course you have heard of Chester, and when you spent your Sabbatical year abroad you visited the city of that name. And a city of fascinating interest you found it. You read in the guide-book, or remembered from your school day study of English History that its streets had once echoed with the measured tramp of Roman conquering soldiery. The name Chester is but an altered form of Latin *Castra*, a camp. You walked about the very walls where grim Roman sentinels had centuries ago kept anxious watch against the assaults of fiery Britons. In 960 or thereabouts (the date mattered little), sat Royal Edgar on the lofty stern of his gaily bedecked barge, rowed from his palace on the Dee south bank to the Chester Church of St. John Baptist, by the ill-practised strength of eight subject kings. You heard of how after long years of changeful turmoil and struggle of Briton and Dane and Saxon, William First from Normandy had come, and, not till three years of conquest were overpast, had this strong fortress by the Dee been yielded up, the last of her sister Saxon towns, to the gallant Norman invader.

Richard II. too, was in Chester, but not of his own willing. For Heaven-favored Henry of Lancaster had him fast-pinioned in the tower over the outer gateway of the castle. By the Parliamentarians again the city was made the scene of fighting and bloodshed. From mid-summer, 1643, to 3rd February, 1646, the stout Royalist forces, commanded by the First Lord Byron, held out in unequal combat against the superior forces of Cromwell. Kingly James the Second and William Third have favored Chester with their presence and the young Victoria, while still a royal princess, sought delight in the scenes of this ancient



The Dee Above Chester.