

106 Early British Heroes

to thank Him for all He had done for the British nation. Arthur walked to the cathedral clad in his royal robes, and with the crown of Britain upon his head. Beside him walked the Prophet Merlin and the two chief archbishops. Before him went four kings bearing four golden swords. After him followed all the princes, nobles and knights, and a great number of the common people. Beautiful music accompanied the procession, making wonderful harmony.

From another direction came a second procession headed by the Queen, dressed in all her richest ornaments. Four queens walked before her, carrying four pure white doves, while after her came all the ladies of noble birth.

The two processions went to two different churches. The King to the cathedral, and the Queen to the Temple of Virgins. In each a service of thanksgiving was held. The music of the instruments and the voices of the choir were so beautiful, that those who heard them said they sounded like heavenly strains.

When the divine service was over, the King and Queen put off their crowns, and went to the palace to partake of the banquets which had been prepared. The King went to one banquet-hall, and the Queen to another. For the Britons still kept up the ancient custom of Troy,