

IVANHOE.

(BY SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.)

"Ha!" exclaimed the knight, "knowest thou his name?—But thou dost," he immediately added, "and well thou mayest, for it was from thy hand, and, as I am now convinced, from thine own generosity of spirit, that he received yesterday a hundred zechins."

"Speak not of that," said Rebecca, blushing deeply; "I see how easy it is for the tongue to betray what the heart would gladly conceal."

"But this sum of gold," said Ivanhoe, gravely, "my honor is concerned in repaying it to your father."

"Let it be as thou wilt," said Rebecca, "when eight days have passed away; but think not, and speak not now, of aught that may retard thy recovery."

"Be it so, kind maiden," said Ivanhoe; "it were most ungrateful to dispute thy commands. But one word of the fate of poor Gurth, and I have done with questioning thee."

"I grieve to tell thee, Sir Knight," answered the Jewess, "that he is in custody by the order of Cedric. And then observing the distress which her communication gave to Wilfred, she instantly added, 'But the steward Oswald said that if nothing occurred to renew his master's displeasure against him, he was sure that Cedric would pardon Gurth, a faithful serf, and one who stood high in favor, and who had but committed this error out of the love that he bore to Cedric's son. And he said, moreover, that he and his comrades, and especially Wamba the Jester, were resolved to warn Gurth to make good his escape by the way in case Cedric's ire against him could not be mitigated.'"

"Would to God they may keep their purpose!" said Ivanhoe; "but it seems as if I were destined to bring ruin on whomsoever bath shewn kindness to me. My king, by whom I was honored and distinguished, thou seest that the brother most indebted to him is raising his arms to grasp his crown; my regard hath brought restraint and trouble on the fairest of her sex; and now my father in his mood may slay this poor bondsman, but for his love and loyal service to me—Thou seest, maiden, what an ill-fated wretch thou dost labor to assist; be wise, and let me go, ere the misfortunes which track my footsteps like slot-hounds, shall involve thee also in their pursuit."

"Nay," said Rebecca, "thy weakness and thy grief, Sir Knight, make the miscalculation the purpose of Heaven. Thou hast been restored to thy country when it most needed the assistance of a strong hand and a true heart, and thou hast humbled the pride of thine enemies and those of thy king when their horn was most highly exalted; and for the evil which thou sustained, seest thou not that heaven has raised thee a helper and a physician, even among the most despised of the land? Therefore, be of good courage and trust that thou art preserved for some marvel which thine arm shall work before this people. Adieu—and having taken the medicine I shall send thee by the hand of Reuben, compose thyself to rest, that thou mayest be the more able to endure the journey on the next day."

Ivanhoe was convinced by the reasoning, and obeyed the directions of Rebecca. The draught that Reuben administered was of a narcotic quality, and secured the patient undisturbed slumber. In the morning his physician found him entirely free from feverish symptoms, and fit to undergo the fatigue of a journey.

He was deposited in the horse-litter which had brought him from the lists, and every precaution was taken for his travelling with ease. In one circumstance only even the entreaties of Rebecca were unable to secure sufficient attention to the accommodation of the wounded knight. Isaac had ever the fear of robbery before his eyes. Therefore he journeyed at a great rate, and made short halts and shorter rests, so that he passed by Cedric and Athelstane who had several hours' start of him, but who had been detained by their feasting at the Convent of St. Withard. Yet such was the virtue of Mariani's balsam or such was the strength of Ivanhoe's constitution, that he did not sustain from the hurried journey that inconvenience which his kind physician had at first apprehended.

In another point of view, however, the Jew's haste proved somewhat more than good speed. The rapidity with which he insisted on travelling bred several disputes between him and the party whom he had hired to attend him as a guard. These men were Saxons, and not free by any means from the natural love of ease and good living which the Normans stigmatized as laziness and gluttony. Reversing Shylock's position, they had accepted the employment in hopes of feeding upon the wealthy Jew, and were very much displeased when they found themselves disappointed by the rapidity with which he insisted on their proceeding.

(To be Continued.)

# The Star.

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FREDERICTON, JULY 15, 1880.

NO. 177.

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