

Mornas were to be held higher in general esteem, and there were many occasions when this could be put to the test.

It happened that the Burgundian raid which had been the means of laying waste the estate of Aulnac had likewise been carried vigorously into Mornas, so that when the readjustments came to be made there was a disagreement between one of our peasants and one of theirs which looked fair to bring on a struggle between the masters of the estates. These two young fellows were both high-minded and high-spirited, and while neither would wrongfully take an inch of land that belonged to another, neither would yet yield an inch of what seemed his right. And one day as they two were making their claims, and perhaps both overstating the right as the way is in such matters, I, standing aside in momentary dread of a quarrel, suddenly remembered me of the Lady Margaret's decision in the other case; so when opportunity arose I managed to have the question postponed for that day on pretense of other business. And going as soon as might be to the Lady Margaret I laid the case before her, telling how her brother and his friend were nigh to becoming enemies for the sake of doing right.

"And you do well to come to me," quoth she, with a smile, "for a woman will find out where the truth lies while two men are fighting above the spot."

Then the next day when we were come to the place there were the two stakes driven into the ground and a band of riband upon each and thereon the same magical letter M. When they saw this thing and Henri had explained to his neighbor what he had learned

of the earlier case, Mornas could not but grant the likelihood of her having done right in this one, so there they each pledged friendship to other. Then, as if she had been waiting for this, out from the gate rode the Lady Margaret herself, whereat we all dismounted and Mornas plucking the riband from one of the stakes made protest of wearing it always in honor of so fair a judge; and she made her brother fetch the riband from the one that was farther off and taking it from him she fastened it on my sword knot, "for I think," she said laughing at them both the while, "good Martin hath more sense than the pair of you," at which sally the merriment was renewed and the Lords of Aulnac and Mornas parted better friends than any of their houses had been for these forty years.

It was that very night that word came to the castles, from the abbey hard by, of the announcement by the Holy Father Pope Nicholas the Fifth of a season of extraordinary jubilee in Rome, whither all who could come were invited.

I am sure there was an uneasiness in the mind of Henri about it, but from the first the Lady Margaret proclaimed her wish to make the journey and in the end she had her way.

V.

Within a month of the bringing of the news, there was a great gathering at Aulnac of those lords and their people who had determined upon setting out for the Holy City. The road by Aulnac and Mornas was the highway along which all must pass, and it had been agreed upon, by the aid of fast riding couriers, that there should be a day or two of entertainment at Aulnac and in the game forests