

Guinevere lay late one morning dreaming of Lancelot, so had to set out alone to the hunt, but was joined by Geraint, who also was late. A knight's dwarf, having brutally ill-treated the Queen's maid, Geraint rode away, "to track the vermin," and return in three days. He came to the home of Yniol, and hearing Enid's voice, as she sang of "Fortune and her Wheel," he

Thought and said,
Here, by God's grace, is the one voice for
me.

Conquering in the tournament, he restored to Enid's parents their ancient possessions, and married his love.

IV.—*Balin and Balan.*

Balin the Savage represents the passions, under sway of sensuousness, while Balan typifies the passions controlled by right reason.

Balin wishes to replace the device of the Savage on his shield by some goodly cognizance of Guinevere, but—

After some quick burst of sudden wrath,
The music in him seem'd to change and grow
Faint and far off.

In himself he moan'd,
Too high: this Mount of Camelot for me;
These high set courtesies are not for me.

Soon comes the garden scene between Lancelot and Guinevere.

Then chanced, one morning, that Sir Balin
sat
Close-bower'd in that garden nigh the hall,
A walk of roses ran from door to door;
A walk of lilies crost it to the bower:
And down that range of roses the great
Queen
Came with slow steps, the morning on her
face;
And all in shadow from the counter door
Sir Lancelot as to meet her, then at once,
As if he saw not, glanced aside, and paced
The long white walk of lilies toward the
bower.

Seeing and hearing what passed, Balin, realizing that they are "damsel and lover," rushes away

till he comes to the abode of the false Arthur. In remorse for his passion, he hangs his "goodly cognizance of the Queen" on a tree. Vivien—the preacher of earthly love—enters and destroys his faith. Then follows the last scene—a fight between Balin and Balan, in which both are killed, but Vivien, with a laugh, passes on to Camelot.

V.—*Merlin and Vivien.*

The scene of this poem is the wild woods of Broceliande, in Brittany—a forest far-famed for its fairies and enchantments. The background is stormy, well suited to the melancholy and gloom of Merlin, who casts aside wisdom that he may find ease of heart in indulgence. And now, the man who had made a stalwart soldier of a youth by teaching him to seek use rather than fame, himself yields to sensuousness, and loses for ever his name and fame and use, through the enchantment of Vivien, the Sorceress.

Then, in one moment, she put forth the
charm
Of woven faces and of waving hands,
And in the hollow oak he lay as dead,
And lost to life and use and fame.

Having won his secret, she
shricks out "Fool!"

And the thicket closed
Behind her, and the forest echo'd "fool!"

VI.—*Lancelot and Elaine.*

From Merlin and Vivien we turn to the knights of Arthur's Court. A tourney is to be held for the ninth diamond taken from the crown of the skeleton king—a symbol of death.

Guinevere persuades Lancelot to fight in other armour than his own, that his identity may not be known, so passing away he comes to Astolat, where he is met by the Lord of Astolat with his two strong sons, and close behind them, "the lily