

up over the Covert Ways and direct to the side of the West Gate. He did not reach it a moment too soon. Scarcely had he shielded himself behind the stone loosely piled there during the siege when a group of soldiers marched up the street singing and talking loudly. They as well as the guard at the gate had been drinking freely of the liquor which had been placed in the general storehouse. Orders were given for it to be strictly guarded, but in the confusion of the last hours all orders had been broken, and whole hogsheads were emptied and distributed among the soldiers in different parts of the city. When the group drew near they roused the drunken guard and all went into the shed in front of the gate where the liquor had been secreted.

With a single leap the boy stepped from behind the stone and pushed through the nearest breach, passing so close to the soldiers that the end of his cloak brushed against one of them. The soldier started and grasped his