

for the masts of ships and of soldiers' bows, but the battle-ground of three races besides.

The oak of which it was mainly composed was burnt on the spot into charcoal to feed the forges on its outer margin ; huge herds of swine fattened on its acorns and beechmast, while tons of honey were yearly gathered for the king out of its hollow trunks. Thus a great deal of business went on beneath the green roof, and all, as the Woodward was bound to contrive, without annoyance to the venison of the Lord King.

Each spring the felled trees were peeled for the tanning of leather, and the most part of the bark that was stripped under the eyes of the Woodward was bought for old Edwy, the tanner of Clee, by the hand of Strong Edwy, his son.

This young man was a favourite of Pargeter's, who discovered in him a better eye for trees and head for chess than was to be expected of his years.

"Edwy comes to-day," said Pargeter at his morning meal, and saying it looked at Ursula, in whose face a delicate colour rose. At Jehane, the beautiful child Jehane, her father did not look. He did not see the red lips part to the quick breath that told how the heart was hastening, nor the damask of the cheek spread to throat and hair, and going, leave her pale.

"This morning?" asked Ursula.

"I ride but now to meet him at Hoar Cross, and