



ROBIN AS HANGMAN

VII.

ONE morning Robin, having risen with the lark, was sauntering through the forest when he met Dame Cobble who was crying bitterly as she walked. In answer to his inquiries she told him that her three sons had been captured by the foresters, taken to Nottingham, and sentenced to be hanged in the market-place. An antler with fresh blood on it and a quantity of venison had been found in her house. Robin tried to console the poor woman by vowing that he would rescue them ere three days were fled.

He led her into the forest, and meeting with Friar Tuck, directed him to keep her in the house at the Glade until he returned. Then exchanging garments with the friar, he hastened to Nottingham where he saw the men busy erecting the gallows in the market-place, and was told that in the morning three forest rovers were to be hanged thereon.

Having obtained this information, Robin betook himself to the forest again and held consultation with his leaders as to what plan they should adopt for the rescue of the brothers. They were not long in deciding and soon Robin, Alan and Little John started off to the villages round about to acquaint their trusty friends with the work they had to do. By night all arrangements were completed and the leaders met again in the Greenwood Glade.