

Jocelin's Penance 

CHAPTER I.

"I did renounce the world; Palace, farm, villa, shop; Its pride and greed. Trash-such as these poor devils

Have given their hearts to, All at eight years old." Brother Jocelin smiled as he traced to letters of the Missal he was illumining, and softly sang King Knut's

"Merrily sang the monks, While merrily rowed the King, And all the birds did also sing, And tell their loves Twas spring-'twas spring!'

He was low of stature, and dark of eye, with clear-cut features of singular beauty, and his hands were white and effeminate, for Brother Jocelin, as a limner, was free from those menial tasks which fell to the lot of the uneducated monk. He wore the usual dress of the Benedictines—the loose black robe with its obtuse, oval hood and plain scapular; and, as the sun-light streamed upon him through the narrow casement, he seemed to absorb all its brightness; his picturesque figure strangely at variance with its bare environment; for the Scriptorium of St. Edmund's Abbey was scantily furnished with a carved desk and stool and naught else, save a great ebony crucifix on the wall, inscribed, "Beholde my meakness, chylde, and leave thy pryde. As if this monk stood in need of warning against the pride of life, and the rush of warm blood in

It was spring, and he was but twenty. When the spring sun shines and the buds burst forth as if called into being by the birds' songs the hearts of carth's young creatures songs everywhere expand and throb, and glow in the stir and warmth of Nature's revival, Jocelin was weary of the dim cloisters, of the drone of prayer and chant, and to-day a mad implies ursed him to fling aside his black rebe sad on forth. black rebe and go forth into the bright world of camp and court; to do deeds of great emprise; to win fame, and the love of some pinischeeked meid; and to live a many life in a man's world. His song died away, and he sat felly gazing through the open careners. the open casement.

The pear trees were blooming in the Abboy garden, and the sunshine breast from beneath its vernal z The apple trees spread their boughs beside the delicate pink t ery of the plum. A white-throat chir;-ed her nestlings to sleep in a gnaried oak which stood at the end of the long deached walk; and the light, filtering through the tender green of young leaves, geld-fleeked the stone pavement. Beyond the walk stretched a coloniade extending the Abbev's

the grim, gray walls of Bury St. Edmunds, with many an arch, rounded belfry, deep-set window and grim gargoyle, massive, stern and strong —a testament in stone of the power of Rome in England.

The Abbey lay along the eastern slope of the town of St. Edmunds, a town of no mean size in itself. Its embattled walls, with four grand gate-ways, enclosed fully sixty acres, con-taining many buildings and courtyards besides gardens and cemeteries. The buildings, including three chapels, the Chapter house, the Ambulatory and the Infirmary, huddled about the church, like small children at a mother's knee, Behind these, to the west was the empty house of the Master of Horse; for once the Abbay had main.

mund's town, and the solitary herds-man passing on his way home at twiman passing on his way home at twi-light, shudhered and crossed himself, thinking its shadow crept over the wall to follow him.

The revenues of the Abbey were great, and her' holdings formed a whole county in themselves, yet, insatiable, she stretched her fingers into other Hundreds, and her scattered carucates of land were many, while fifty advocates, or feudal knights, with their hundreds of vassals, did her hemage, headed by the renowned Adam ie Cokefield.

But it was not of the wealth or seatness of the Abbey, nor of the fair see ne before him, that Brother Jocchia ght. He had forgotten it and his astic life in remembering his early ildhood, in St. Edmand's town. The w raftered house of his father, Mag-ter Wilhelm, in the narrow little ne of Brakelend, just outside the

Abbey wall, and he saw the long, bare soon where his father taught.

Magister Wilhelm was master of the chools, with a few of the Abbeytassals sons for pupils, but the school was mostly filled with young indigent clergy, unattached to any monastery, who came hither for the learning for width they were unable to pay

who came hither for the learning for which they were unable to pay. Such being the general, financial status of his scholars, and his allowance from the Abbey being small, it not to be wondered at that Magistrane pot to be wondered at that Magistrane. colonnede extending the Abbey's entire length, and through the arched openings white and black robed monks furried to and fro, unmindful of the beauty so mear. Above all, towered willight and vainly called him to their

scanty supper, till the frightened wife had come hurrying in, to find the scholar dead and cold over his Ovidius Naso. Thus the widow of the master of the schools found herself and her small children in poverty, scarcely re-lieved by a daily dole from the Abbey.

When Jocelin was eight years old, being accustomed to running in and out of the Abbey kitchen for the soup and bread on which they existed; what with having lived among wandering friars, inferior clergy, and the monks of Bury, his head was full of legends of angels and saints. And one slight, or angels and saints. And one night, lying on his little pallaisse, he dreamed that Satan, with black wings spread wide, descended before a great stone building to fly off with him. Then he cried to St. Edmund for help, and the good saint appeared and took him by the hand, whereupon the devil flew by the hand; whereupon the devil flew away. His cries awoke his mother, and she pondered on the awful dream through the night. On the morrow, being a devout woman, she took him to St. Edmund's shrine, that she might pray over him and ask guidance of the monks.

of the monks.

"It was just here that St. Edmund touched me, mother," said Jocelin, as they passed through the Abbey gate. After some talk with the Prior, the child was admitted into the Abbey and left by his mother, as was young Samuel of old; thus, at the age of eight renouncing the world, the flesh and the devil.

and the devil.

"Ah," mused Brother Jocelin, leaning his head on his hand, "such a dream was easily interpreted by the monks. Otherwise, I might now have been bearing arms under Sir Adam, a right valiant squire, instead of dreaming over an antiphonary, and who knows if fortune and St. Edmund had not interfered with my fate, but I might have borne my grandsire's crest upon a knightly shield?"

"But" (hastily crossing himself as he glanced at the crucifix with its warning text), "doubtless the brethren were right. Diabolus, with outspread wings, was the pride of life, the pleasures of this vain world, 'Voluptates, hujust soeculi,' which would have borne me—who knows whence, if St. Edmund and the Prior had not made a monk of me!" And he, sighing, laid by his work, for the shadows had lengthened, and ere he had set his painting tray to rights the refectory bell sum-moned him to the evening meal. CHAPTER II.

The refectory was a noble wains-cotted hall, lighted from above, with a stone bench around two sides. In front of the arched door, above the wainscoting, was a pictured Christ, to which, on entering, Jocelin made obeisance. At the left of the hall was the ambry, where stood the massive golden grace-cup, and nearby was the niche, wherein were kept the ewer and basin in which the novices layed the hyethers's bands laved the brethren's hands.

A great table stood in the centre of the room, with a smaller one near the window, through which food was passed from the kitchen. On one side was the Bible-stand where, as Jocelin moved to his place near the head of the table, a blushing young novice was reading the evening lesson in very bad Latin.

Lent was over, and the table was bountifully spread with caten cakes, wine and huge trenchers full of a

ther's knee, Behind these, to the west was the empty house of the Master of Horse; for once the Abbey had maintained several score of fighting horsemen. The humble cots of Cellarer, Seneschal and Clerk were near by, in front of the long, low line of stables along the southern wall; and enclosing a spacious courtyard was Bradfield, "A certain solemn mansion," the residence of the Abbott, and often used by the King himself.

This completed the Abbott settlement, save for a high tower which stood far down by the northern wall, overlooking a forest. It stood there grim and mysterious, with its low, iron-spiked door, widely placed ollietts and deep-set, narrow windows high utorture house. Dark tales were whispered of it in St. Edmund's town, and the solitary herdsman passing on his way home at twi. smoking stew.
"Made of my pet calf," mumbled

drone of the reader's voice, being subdued in fear of reprimand for speaking while the lesson was under way. Jocelin (because he was the vay. Jocelin (because he was the Prior's favorite sat at the Sub Prior's right hand, and though that worthy saw fit to reprove the young monk r tardiness several special dishes were sent him; and indeed there was auch passing of food from the Sub Prior's end of the table to the eaters arther down the board.

The meal was presided over by an aged monk, directing the novices in their serving, and when they had passed the trenchers and filled the cubs, seated at their own table they supped of what remained in the dishes.

The Sub Prior, a pretentious ignor-mus, conversed with Jocelin about he flowers he was painting, frequent-y confusing their hotonical names, ty confusing their botanical names, and Jacelin answered him absently, but the Sub-Prior was satisfied with displaying his own erudition, and did not notice the inattention. When he had concluded, Jocelin roused himself, to inquire and the safe t self to imquire about Abbot Hugo, who, grown blind and old, kept his chamber in Bradfield house.

"My young frere, he grows no bet-ter," answered the Sub Prior, "and I fear me things fall worse and worse for our house. Debt increases. The Jews refuse to advance more moneys Jews refuse to advance hose it (save at ruinous rates), and alas, it seemeth to me that those of the seemeth to me that those of the Father's household are but flattering time-servers, who begulleth him with lies, profit by his infirmities."

In a lower voice he continued: "We lose our power in St. Edmondsbury our own Stowe. Ar, by our Lady, 'twas only yesterLiorn when our Cellerarius, trying vainly to collect the repselver, was forced to seize throughout all the town stools, kettles, or household wares, in lieu of the refused reaping penny. And beshrew me an' he was chased yea, my brother. he was chased yea, my brother, chased through the streets by a crowd of yelling beldames, who belabored self. him mest soundly him most soundly with their dis-taffs. Ora pro nobis! We are com-ing upon bad times. Twenty years agone their hag heads would have graced the town walls for such re-sistance of our Lord's authority. The field-husbandry are short in their rents to the Reve, the dyers and



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weavers pay but a small tithe of their allotted tax, and even the fund for lighting our holy saint's shrine" (crossing himself as he spoke) "falls short of that of last year. Yea, we are coming upon bad times, as thou may'st see; though certes on thy young shoulders falls little of the burden which resteth on mine!" And weavers pay but a small tithe of their den which resteth on mine!" And the Sub Prior nodded his head, and squared his shoulders pompously, though, in fact, he had nothing whatever to do with the administration of the Abbey affairs; his duties being limited to a certain guardianship of the Scriptorium, and the seneschalship of buttery, kitchen and refractory, shared in common with palsied old Hugh, the third Prior. "Has Brother Samson not yet return?" asked Jocelin.

"Yea, the Norfolk Barrator! He lies in the tower where our Lord Abbot hath sent him. Didst not know that he failed in his mission to Rome, and that Geoffrey Ridel hath been given the Woolpit Church. He sits there in foot gyves awaiting the Abbott's pleas

ure, and there are whispers of banishment to Acre." The Sub Prior detailed this news

with peculiar relish, for Brother Samson was unpopular with most of the easy-going, careless monks, being an austere, taciturn person, who exhorted them to less self-indulgence, and condemned openly, as many did in secret, the ruinous policy of the Abbot. Hugo had tried in vain to overawe

this stern critic, punishing him more than once to subdue his haughty spirit. Then, to placate him, he made him Sacristan, and finally Librarian, but Samson, perfect in the performance of these functions, neither thanked him, nor ceased denouncing the

ed him, nor ceased denouncing the bankruptcy of the Abbey.

"A doubtful man," querulously said the Infirm old Abbot to the Prior.
"Severity cannot break, nor kindness soften him." So they sent him to Rome, and having falled in his mission, he was purished in the entry. sion, he was punished in the arbitrary manner of the times. But whatever he might be to Abbot and monks he was Jocelin's believed master, and he received the Sub Prior's news with lowering brow, eating no more of his goodly food. As soon as the meal was over, and the monks had marched from the refectory, singing a psalm, he seized his unemotied cup, and pour-ed the wine into his flask; then placing it with some food in his wallet he went into the garden. Taking his way furtively in the flower-scented twilight falling about the great buildings (where bats flitter in and out of the turrets, and owns hooted softly from far-off bell towers). Jocelin walked for some time, and then climb-ing cautiously, mounted the Abbey wall, and, some yards farther, came to the prison. The vesper bell had be-gun to toll, as he swung himself lightly against the tower, by getting a peri lous foothold on projecting aided by a sturdy creeper aided by a sturdy creeper which creathed its front, and he at length raised himself to the level of a deep-

"Brother Samson," he called, but there was no answer, save the deep breathing of a sleeper, which told that the worn-out traveller had thus forgotten failure and punishment ing the food and wine from his wal-let, Jocelin pushed them through the grating, and scrambling down, was soon back in the Abbey chapel, lead ing the droning vesper chant; his mellow notes rising high and clear above the rougher tones of the breth-ren in the "Ave Maria."

The inmates of the Abbey, roused from their slumbers by the tolling of bells, were assembled in their various chapels of the Nocturnal service. The rain was falling heavily, drearily, out side, and the drone the sleepy chanters mingled with the low rumble of thunder. As the last "Kyrie" was sung in the chapel of our Lady, the big Abbey bell boomed out solemn and deep. The praying monks rose from their knees, and stood looking at one another with whitening faces. It was not an alarm, nor a call to the church Slowly, slowly, it tolled, ringing sadness to every heart, and they by its sound that in the stately man-sion of Bradfield, the soul of their sion of Bradfield, the father Abbot had passed out into the

stormy night.

To one man, far off in the cold darkness of the prison tower, the Abbot's death knell brought many and varied thoughts. Erother Samson had small respect for his superior, for the Athot was a weak man, of little learning, who owed his Abbotship to the favoritism of King Henry, and who who for many years had governed nost inefficiently. Samson had no love for weaklings; of Norfolk breed, he was possessed of a sturdy strength of character that no cowl could subof character that no cowl sound sub-due. Early entering St. Edmunds as a novice, on becoming a monk he had departed to the great schools of Paris, and from thence to Rome, in both centres of learning winning faire for his Abbey and commendation for him-

At the age of forty-five he had re-turned to find Hugo in the place of his friend and master. Abbet Gaunarnorant men. The buildings of repair, many valuables stolen or lost

and only half of the Advocates true to halfled on at Brandon, in Suffolk, in their allegance. The monks feasted briefly this: The fiints are taken out and caroused; eating flesh and break of pits, as surface material is refracand only half of the Advocates true to their allegance. The monks feasted and caroused; eating flesh and breaking other rules of the order. Rents remained uncollected; no horsemen were maintained; the whole estate evidencing the direct neglect and abuse. While the Abbot, like a frightened hen in charge of ducklings, tried valuly to rule his idle, rebellious monks finally retiring to Bradfield. monks finally retiring to Bradfield, whence he held lax sway over the dis-organized Abbey. Deeply in debt to the Jews, who were clamoring for their rights at the very gates, the Abbot and Prior signed paper after paper, reduc-ed the living fund of the Abbey, and borrowed more and more each su

So while the bell tolled, the Norfolk monk thought bitterly upon these things. "Roger, the Prior, will make such another Abbot as Hugo, and doubt not it is on him the choice will fall: an' were I out of this vile prison, wherein I am so unjustly confined!—But of the dead naught but good!" he nurmured, and checked his angry musings with a prayer for the repose of old Hugo's soul.

renose of old Hugo's soul.

Loving his Abbey, and jealous of its fame, of aggressive nature with great executive ability. Samson was feared and nicknamed "Barrator," or, "Quarreler." The monks long since had reached the conclusion; by arguing from occasional empty stomachs, and knowledge of the increasing Abbey debt. that if things were allowed tocontinue on the same basis, no roof continue on the same basis, no roof would be left to cover them, and, forc-ed to become friars, they would have to wander over the country, precarlously living on alms: and the most of them realized that it would take a strong hand and clear brain to set things right. And so already the tide was turning in Samson's favor, when Prior Roger summoned the Sub Prior, Jocelin, and some of the other breth-ren to the Abbot's house before Noc-turnal, with the news that the Prolate was dying.

GUN-FLINTS.

Their Making Still a Big Industry in Britain.

It is interesting at the present time, writes Wilfred Mark Webb in Knowledge, when the manufacture of cartridges and shells is of the utmost importance to the nation, to remember that the production of gun-flints still goes quietly on. Thousands are exported every year, particularly to tropical countries, where more primitive methods linger, or are found to the more convenien; or, again, where the British Covernment sees to it that modern firearms do not get into the hands of the natives.

There seems little doubt but that the maker of gun-flints, or the flint-knapper, as he is called, is carrying on an industry which has continued unbroken from very early prehistoric times, when man first began to fashon implements of stone

The work of flint-knapping, as it is

tory and of little use. The picks used, though now made of iron, show by their shape that they have been incdeled upon the primitive deer antler picks which havebeen found in pre-historic workings. The large flints are broken up with a heavy nammer in-to convenient sizes, a process which is called "quartering." From the lumps thus made flakes are struck off with a light haromor, which are in every way comparable to the flakes struck off by the prehistoric man from one stone with another.

It is possible to produce a flake with one ridge running down the middle and two sharp edges, or by removing the whole of one facet and part of the two on either side a flat flake with two sharp edges may be obtained. obtained.

The knapper knows the flake on the The knapper knows the flake on the top of the wedge-shaped piece of iron, driven into a block. In front of the iron is a piece of leather, over which the knapping hammer is held. This is a very light tool, nowadays made, as a rule, from an old file, and has thin, square ends. With this hammer it is possible to cut the flake into pieces. possible to cut the flake into piecos to form the gun-flints, which are afterwards trimmed round with a few

To the student of flint implements, who is astounded sometimes to see the minuteness of the flakes which have been removed from the edgos of a flint knife or arrowhead, and won-ders how the work was done, it may be pointed out that one blow of the knapping hammer may make dozens of these; and it is safe to surmise that the pre-historic artificer was no less clever than his modern representative, and much of the beauty of finish was obtained by ish was obtained by a few well-directed blows, and not by much laborious clipping.

Gun-flints are also made in France, and these, as a rule, have one end rounded. Strike-a-lights are also rounded. Strike-a-lights are also made, as flint and steel are still used instead of matches in some parts of the world, and during the Boer war many tinder-boxes were sent out to the British soldiers in South Africa.

## Amateur Truce Makers.

Toward the end of the last siege of Paris by the Germans in 1870-71, the custom grew up of observing an in-formal armistice of about an hour's duration at sundown, when the hun-gry citizens, or some of them at all events, used to come out and purchase sausages from the Prusstans and Ba-varians in the advanced trenches at about ten times their normal price. After awhile, nowever, the custom came to the knowledge of Von Moltke, who effectually and promptly put a stop to it by shooting some half dozen or more of the amateur trace makers. -Pearson's Weekly.

You never can tell. Many a man with a coat of arms wears baggy trousers.



## **Protect Our Homes**

Our Boys are in the trenches. But we Canadians have a man's work to do,—right here at Home.

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