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Out of the Dungeon

A Story of Ancient
England

By F. A. MITCHEL

Before England became united under one government there were many kings there. These kings ruled little tracts that afterward became counties, and their rulers became nobles. The full regalia of a peer of England includes a coronet, and the fact that these petty kings were in time reduced from royalty to nobility is the reason why the higher British nobles wear a kingly headdress.

The residences of these kings were not called palaces, but castles. They were usually built on a hillside and were surrounded by heavy walls and a moat and the entrance was protected by a drawbridge. The reason for this was that the sovereign of all England had very little power, and in consequence the subkings were usually fighting with each other and needed to live in fortified homes.

Away back in early times when this feudal system was the only English system of laws known there was a king of Gloucester. He had been a powerful sovereign in his day and had won many victories over the neighboring potentates. He and the sovereign of Warwick had been in perpetual warfare and Gloucester had conquered his enemy, who had fled, no one knew where, with his wife and child. Afterward one of Warwick's subjects named Conrad led an army against Gloucester's forces and, achieving his independence, made himself king.

In this contest a young man not over twenty-one or twenty-two years old distinguished himself fighting in the ranks of Warwick. He was captured and imprisoned in one of the dungeons under Gloucester castle. There he remained for a long while in seclusion.

Meanwhile the new king of Warwick was becoming daily more powerful and his former enemy, Gloucester, was growing old and the number of his armed retainers was diminishing. At last it occurred to Conrad that he might overthrow his neighbor and add his kingdom to his own.

In order to pick a quarrel with Gloucester, Conrad went to Gloucester castle to make upon the old king certain insolent demands that he knew would not be granted. While there he saw the king's daughter, Eleanor, a beautiful girl who had just come to a marriageable age. Upon beholding her he agreed to withdraw his demands provided the king would give him his daughter to wife.

Now, Conrad was not only a bad man, but he was very resolute physically.

The old king of Gloucester, aware that he no longer possessed the power to resist a strong enemy, knew not what to say to Conrad's proposition.

Eleanor understood her father's position and the terrible alternative before her. Either she must become the wife of her father's enemy or he would be overpowered, and that would meet the fate they had inflicted on the real king of Warwick. She has often heard the story of his flight with his wife and child and regretted that her father had been instrumental in bringing about his fall and the rise of the usurper. And now the latter had come to revenge the man he had driven from his kingdom.

Eleanor had never seen the usurper and before deciding consented to meet him. When he came into her presence he bent his long body on his bony legs, the plume of his hat sweeping the floor, expressing at the same time his admiration in a leer. She could not conceal her disgust. Turning from him, she swept out of the room.

The hot blood mounted to Conrad's cheek. He scowled, half drew his sword, then thrust it back into its scabbard and, stalking out into the courtyard, mounted his horse and, followed by his attendants, rode out through the castle gateway, crossed the drawbridge and went down the declivity.

Nothing remained for the old king of Gloucester but to put his castle in as good a state for defense as possible, arm his retainers and set his kingdom as dearly as possible. His daughter did what she could to assist in the preparations, but her efforts were confined principally to getting together material that would be needed by the wounded. She knew that there were prisoners in the dungeons below, and she went down there to see if any of them could be persuaded to fight for the king of Gloucester.

A young man, pale from confinement, was led out to her. It was some time before he could see her in the strong light.

"Who are you?" she asked.

"I was taken prisoner. I know not how long ago, fighting in the army of Conrad the usurper."

"Why do you call him the usurper?" "Because there is but one king of Warwick, and he is not on the throne."

"We are to be attacked by this pretended king of Warwick."

"Grant me leave to fight for you, good lady, and I will do so."

"Will you fight for the king of Gloucester?" "No, for you."

"What is your name?" "Harold."

At a signal from Eleanor the prisoner's chains were knocked off him. He was taken up into the castle, where he was washed and fed and armed like a soldier. The next day he met Eleanor hurrying through the courtyard and said to her:

"Good lady, have I your permission to point out to you certain weak points in the castle?"

"You have."

Taking her to a part of the wall he showed her that it was ready to tumble. Then, in the armory, he convinced her that most of the weapons were blunt and certain armor had passed off it could be punctured with a wooden sword. Leading her here and there, he showed her various imperfections, and she gave orders that they should be made good.

Going to her father, she asked him who was to lead in the defense. He replied that he would command. Then she told him about the weak points and suggested that he be made, armed in command since he seemed to have been trained for a soldier and there were no leaders among the defenders of the castle.

The king said that he could not who was second in command, for all must obey his orders. But it made no difference, he added, who commanded since defeat was heavy, table.

When Eleanor told Harold that he would command under her father he said to her:

"Thanks, lady, for an opportunity to crack crowns with this handy legged, red headed usurper. If we do not knock the circlet off his head and the scepter out of his hand, then I die here in Gloucester castle."

This encouraged Eleanor, though she did not understand what he meant by cracking crowns, nor could she account for his desire to defeat a man in whose ranks he had fought. But she was so intent on saving the kingdom from the enemy that she gave no thought to any thing else.

Harold at once took charge of all preparations. In this he was not subject to interference, for the old king was intending his fate in his apartments. At last the army of Conrad was seen marching in the valley, and when it reached the bottom of the hill on which Gloucester castle was situated the men encircled it, and it was evident that if they did not take it by storm they would starve the garrison into submission.

The king of Gloucester came out clad in a suit of armor, but it was too heavy for his reduced strength. He stumbled and fell under its weight and was carried back to his room. This gave Harold full control. He gave Eleanor his plan. It was to act so that the invaders would believe that they had only to take their ease for a short time and their enemies would have to surrender for want of provisions. When they accepted most confident Harold would strike.

So he sent a deputation to say that since they had but five days' provisions the men of Gloucester must surrender and ask what terms would be granted. Conrad said that he would grant no conditions. The deputation returned in the evening, and Conrad expected to receive a surrender the next day. Till midnight he and his army made the night ring with song and shouting. They had not finished carousing when the castle clock struck 2. Slowly the portcullis was raised, the drawbridge rattled let down, and the little army of Gloucester, led by Harold, silently emerged and, dividing into four bands, bore down from the four points of the compass upon the men of Conrad and with a yell began to stab and hack those who were sober enough to resist them and cut down those who attempted to rise.

Harold had noted the tent of Conrad, and while the usurper, half drunk, was endeavoring to get on his arms the late prisoner raised his sword and brought it down, cleaving his enemy's shoulder. Conrad was felled by the blow, and Harold, standing over him with raised sword, said:

"I am Harold, king of Warwick, come to avenge the death of my father. I came from exile and without being known joined your retainers as they were setting out to fight my father's old enemy of Gloucester. I came to watch my opportunity for vengeance on you. It has come."

When Conrad was killed his army was fleeing down the hill. As soon as they heard that their leader was dead they gave up all hope of getting safely back to Warwick and expected to pass the rest of their lives in the dungeons of Gloucester. In the morning Harold rode down to them and, calling them together, announced himself as their legitimate king. Conrad had been betrayed by them, and they received Harold's announcement with joy.

Harold bade them re-establish their camp and promised to lead them to Warwick. Then he rode back to Gloucester castle.

He found great joy there, even in the old king, who had got up from his bed and come out to the courtyard to welcome and thank his deliverer. But Harold, ignoring him, dismounted and, kneeling at Eleanor's feet, said:

"Good lady, I told you I would fight for you and not for the enemy of my father, for I am king of Warwick, who as a child was spirited away to prevent my being murdered by this infamous usurper."

"The enmity between our houses," replied Eleanor, "is ended by this splendid defense of yours."

And leading him to her father she effected a reconciliation. The reconciliation was cemented by the marriage of King Harold and the Princess Eleanor. But that was many centuries ago. The house of Warwick still occupies Warwick castle, but the lineage has often changed since the period of this story.

FUTURE OF ALASKA

A Comparison of Our Territory With the Scandinavian Countries.

Alaska has the same latitude as Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland and similar climatic conditions. The same development may be expected in Alaska that has obtained in those Scandinavian countries, increased and intensified by her enormously great latent resources.

The Scandinavian countries have 15,000,000 square miles under cultivation and 75,000 square miles in grazing. Our department of agriculture has classified 90,000 square miles in Alaska as suitable for cultivation, located mostly in the Sushitwa, Tanana and Kuskokwim valleys, with an additional 100,000 suitable for hay and grazing, and another 100,000 square miles of reindeer range. This estimate makes available for agricultural purposes 290,000 square miles of the 596,446 square miles which constitute Alaska's total area.

Alaska's annual output of gold is \$20,000,000. Fisheries produce nearly as much; it has the richest and largest copper deposits in the world; it has coal deposits equaling those of Pennsylvania and West Virginia in quality and surpassing them in volume.

The Scandinavian countries have 12,000,000 population and 14,000,000 head of live stock. Applying the same ratio to the available lands of Alaska would give her a population of 30,000,000, with 50,000,000 live stock.—Hon. A. Barton Hepburn in Leslie's.

SHAPE OF THE SHOE.

It is Radically Wrong, and All on Account of the Last.

In the American Magazine Dr. Arthur R. Reynolds, former health commissioner of Chicago, tells of the many troubles that can make life miserable and that come from feet that were neglected in childhood. Among other things he says:

"Children should go barefooted at all times while indoors and through the summer. They should never wear any foot covering at any time that in any way distorts the toes or any part of the foot or that interferes in any way with its normal growth and development. The same may be said of adults."

"Any reform in the shape of shoes must begin with the shoemaker's last. Shoemakers do not seem to be able to get away from form and beauty in shaping it. It is shaped largely by guess and is pointed and turned up at the toe. No normal foot is so shaped."

"The only rational last is made from a plaster cast of the foot while bearing weight, and the mold can be made only of some semi-solid material that hardens when cool or dry. There is little hope of getting a rationally shaped shoe until the wooden last is totally discarded. It is safe to assert that good looking and nondeforming shoes can be made without it."

The Magic Shave.

The man with a retreating chin may grow a beard and hide it, or he may frankly shave the exiguous offender, careless whether it recedes or not. The utmost candor may be seen in a shaven chin, and of all the manly, valorous qualities that of candor, downrightness, may be ranked first. The weakness attributed to a retreating chin may be canceled by shaving it. The man who accepts his face as nature gave it to him, braving it to the world without concealment or decoration, must be classed among those with the manly quality. Cartoonists and novelists have waived the weak chin to the limbo of the inefficient and inept. Let the man without the masterful jaw take heart; he has but to shave to show the qualities desired.—Atlantic.

Notice of Letting Contract

Assessment No. 225

BOARD OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received for the grading, draining, curbing with combined concrete curb and gutter, providing with catch basins, paving with an asphaltic macadam pavement, and otherwise improving Michigan Avenue, from the west corporate limits of the City of Highland Park, east to the westerly line of the paved roadway in Green Bay Road, all in the City of Highland Park, County of Lake and State of Illinois, as a whole in accordance with the ordinance therefor. Said bids will be opened on the 28th day of July A. D. 1916, at the hour of 5:30 o'clock p. m. at the office of the Board of Local Improvements in the City Hall of the City of Highland Park.

The specifications and blank proposals will be furnished at the office of the Board of Local Improvements in the City Hall in said city.

The contractor will be paid in bonds, which bonds will draw interest at the rate of (5) per cent. per annum.

All proposals or bids must be accompanied by a certified check payable to the President of the Board of Local Improvements of the City of Highland Park for the sum of not less than ten (10) per cent. of the aggregate of the proposal.

Said proposal must be delivered to the President of the Board of the Local Improvements in open session of said Board at the time and place fixed herein for the opening of the same.

No proposal or bid will be considered unless accompanied by check as herein provided.

The Board of Local Improvements reserves the right to reject any or all bids if they deem it best for the public good.

SAMUEL M. HASTINGS,

President of the Board of Local Improvements of the City of Highland Park. Dated at Highland Park, Illinois, this 13th day of July, A. D. 1916. 20-21

Notice of Final Hearing on Special Assessment No. 65

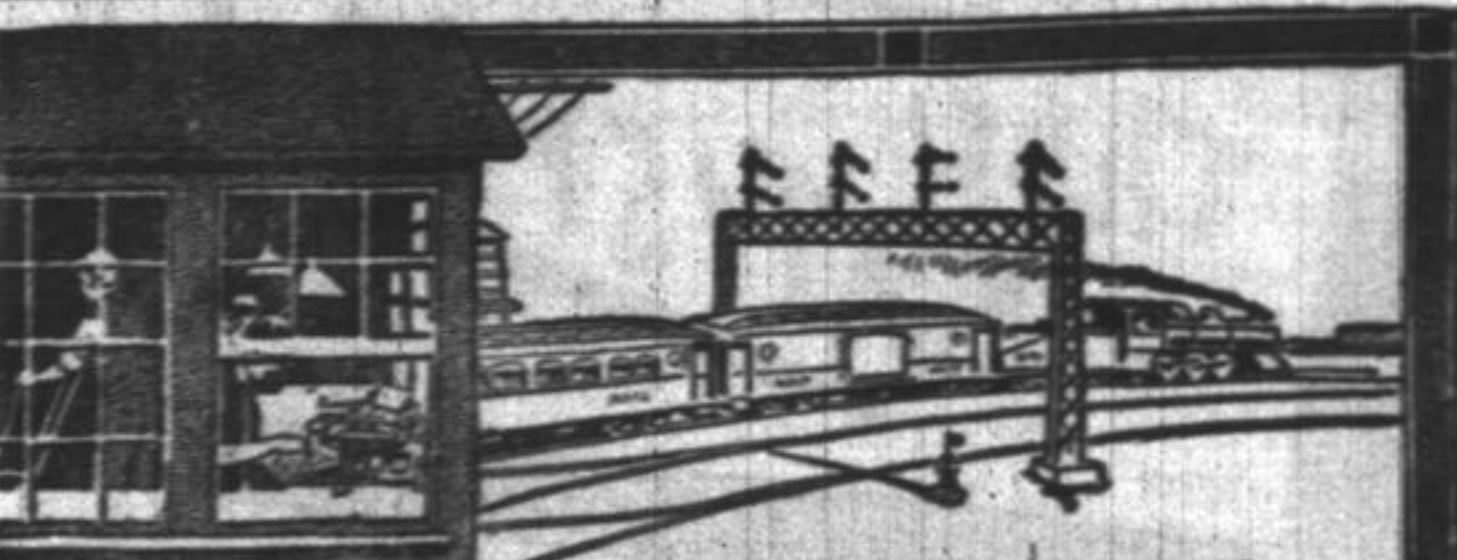
Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Board of Local Improvements of the City of Highland Park, County of Lake and State of Illinois, having let the contract for the construction of a concrete cement sidewalk in, upon and along portions of North Central Ave. and Burchell Ave. in the City of Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois, and the same having been completed and accepted by the said Board of Local Improvements on the 29th day of June, A. D. 1916, and the said Board of Local Improvements having filed in the County Court of Lake County, Illinois, on the 5th day of July, A. D. 1916, a certificate showing that the said improvement conforms substantially to the requirements of the original ordinance for the construction of the same, the cost thereof to be required to pay the accruing interest on bonds or vouchers issued to anticipate the collection of the assessment for said improvement. A hearing will be had on said certificate, as to the truth of the facts stated therein, at the Court House in the City of Waukegan on the 28th day of July A. D. 1916 at 10 o'clock A. M. or as soon thereafter as the business of the Court will permit. All persons desiring may file objections in said Court before said day, and may appear on the hearing and make their defense.

Dated at Highland Park, Illinois, this 5th day of July, A. D. 1916.

JOHN MEYERS,
ALBERT OLSEN,
HERBERT STRANG,

Board of Local Improvements of the City of Highland Park, Illinois. 20-21

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