

THE·GALLANT·ATCIEVEMENTS  
OF·ROBIN·HOOD ❁ THE·FAMOUS  
HISTORY·OF·FRYER·BACON ❁ THE  
ROMANCE·OF·ROBERT·THE·DEVIL





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THOMS. WILLIAM JOHN  
THREE FAMOUS ...  
[1912]

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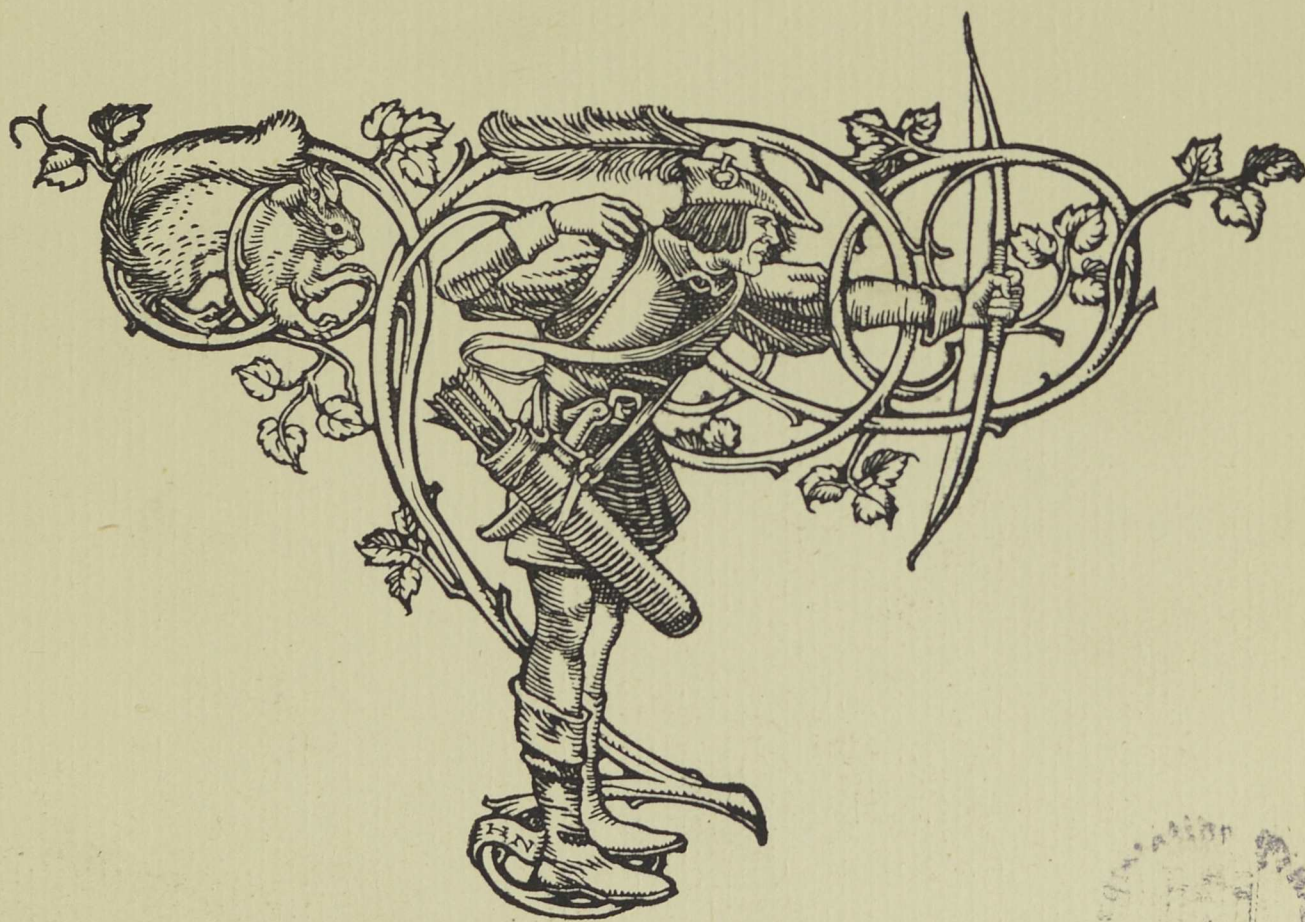




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ROBIN HOOD







**T**HE NOBLE BIRTH  
AND GALLANT  
ATCHIEVEMENTS  
OF THAT REMARK-  
ABLE OUTLAW  
**ROBIN HOOD**

TOGETHER WITH A  
TRVE ACCOVRT OF  
THE MANY MERRY  
& EXTRAVAGANT  
EXPLOITS HE  
PLAY'D



IN TWELVE SEVERAL  
STORIES; NEWLY COLLECTED INTO  
ONE VOLVME; **BY AN INGENIOUS ANTIQVARY**











# THE MERRY EXPLOITS OF ROBIN HOOD

THE NOBLE PARENTAGE AND THE ATCHIEVEMENTS OF ROBIN HOOD.

ROBIN HOOD was descended of the noble family of the Earl of Huntingdon, and being outlaw'd by Henry the Eighth for many extravagances and outrages he had committed, he did draw together a company of such bold and licentious persons as himself, who lived for the most part on robberies committed in or neer unto Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. He had these always ready at his command, so that if need did require, he at the winding of his horn would have fifty or more of them in a readiness to assist him. He whom he most affected, by reason of his low stature, was called Little John, but not inferior to any of them in strength of body and stoutness of spirits. He would not entertain any into his service, whom he had not first fought withal himself, and made sufficient tryal of his courage and dexterity how to use his weapons, which was the reason that often-





times he came home so hurt, and beaten as he was; which was nevertheless no occasion of the diminution of his love to the person whom he fought with, for ever afterwards he would be the more familiar with him, and better respect him for it. Many petitions were preferred to the king for a pardon for him, which the king (understanding of the many mad pranks he and his associates played) would give no ear unto; but being attended with a considerable guard, did make a progress himself to find him out, and to bring him to condign punishment. At the last, by the means and mediation of Queen Katherine, the king's wrath was qualified, and his pardon sealed, and he spent his old age in peace, at a house of his own, not far from Nottingham, being generally beloved and respected of all. We shall here give you an account of the several combats that he fought and the many odd and merry pranks he played, the one whereof by the strangeness of it, will add more respect unto his story; and the other by their variety, will abundantly serve to give more delight unto the Reader.





# ROBIN HOOD'S DELIGHTS

OR, A GALLANT COMBATE FOUGHT BETWEEN ROBIN HOOD, LITTLE JOHN, AND WILLIAM SCARLOCK, AND THREE OF THE KEEPERS OF THE KING'S DEER IN THE FORREST OF SHERWOOD IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.



IN a Midsummers day in the morning, Robin Hood being accompanied with Little John and Will Scarlock, did walk forth betimes, and wished that in the way they might meet with some adventure that might be worthy of their valour: they had not walked long by the forrest side, but behold three of the keepers of the Kings game appeared, with their forrest-bills in their hands, and well appointed with faucheons and bucklers to defend themselves. Loe here (saith Robin Hood) according to our wish, we have met with our mates, and before we part from them we will try what mettle they are made off. What Robin Hood, said one of the keepers: I the same, reply'd Robin. Then have at you, said the keepers: here are three of us, and three of you, we will single out ourselves one to one; and bold Robin, I for my part, am resolved to have a bout with thee. Content, with all my heart, said Robin Hood, and fortune shall determine who shall have the best, the outlaws or the keepers: with that they did lay down their coats, which were all of Lincoln Green, and fell to it for the space of two hours with their brown bills, in which hot exercise Robin Hood, Little John and Scarlock had the better, and giving the rangers leave to breath, demanded of them, how they liked them: why! good stout blades i' faith, saith the keeper that fought with Robin, we commend you, but let us make tryal whether you are as good at your sword and bucklers as you have been at your quarter-staff.

Why, do you doubt of it, said Robin Hood? we shall





satisfie you in that immediately. With that having laid down their staves and thrown off their doublets, they fell to it pell mell: and dealt their blows unmercifully sore, which were carefully always defended with their bucklers. At the last Robin Hood observing Little John and Will Scarlock begin to give ground, which they never did in all their lives before, he dissembled the danger, and calling out for a little respite to breath, he said unto the keepers, Good boys, i' faith, and the best that ever I dealt withal: let me know your names, and for the time to come, I shall give that respect unto you that belongs unto your valour. Tush, said one of the keepers, we lose time in asking after our names, if thou wilt have any more to do with our hands, or with our swords, we are for thee? I see that you are stout men, said Robin Hood, we will fight no more in this place, but come and go with me to Nottingham (I have silver and gold enough about me) and there we will fight it out at the King's Head tavern with good sack and claret; and after we are weary, we will lay down our arms, and become sworn brothers to one another, for I love those men that will stand to it, and scorn to turn their backs for the proudest Tarmagant of them all. With all our hearts, jolly Robin, said the keepers to him: So putting up their swords, and on their doublets, they went to Nottingham, where for three days space they followed the pipes of sack, and butts of claret without intermission, and drank themselves good friends.





## ROBIN HOOD'S PROGRESS TO NOTTINGHAM

HOW BEING AFFRONTED WITH FIFTEEN FORESTERS AS HE WAS GOING TO A MATCH AT SHOOTING WITH HIS LONG BOW BEFORE THE KING, HE KILLED THE SAID FIFTEEN FORESTERS.



HE name of Robin Hood did now begin to grow famous up and down the country; those who had occasion to go from one market to another, were either afraid of him, and did forbear to go those ways where his haunts were, or else they were in fee with him, and every quarter did give him money, that with their goods and cattle they might pass by unmolested. This he conceived to be a secure and thriving way to fill his pockets, wherefore he contracted with all the graziers and rich farmers thereabouts, who had rather to give him every quarter a certain sum of money, than to be liable to those thefts and dangers both by day and night, which before did too much afflict them. Robin Hood in the mean time living high, and being out of any fear of hue and cry, or constables warrants, would repair often-times to the town of Nottingham, where he would constantly make himself full merry at the Kings Head, and no guest was more respected than himself. It so fell out, that the king lying at that time at a great earls house not far from Nottingham, the townsmen, and some other of the adjacent countrey, did intend to delight his majesty with the honest exercise and recreation of archery. Thither was going many of the rangers of Sherwood Forrest, and thither was going Robin Hood himself, but so disguised, that it was not easie for any one to know him. The forresters meeting of him, demanded of him whether he was going, he told them to the shooting match, to which purpose he had taken his bow of ewe along with him. Thou shoot, said one of the forresters, thou —, alas young boy, thou art not able to bend a bow of ewe, much less to draw it being bent, thou shoot before the king. I will hold you twenty mark, said



Robin Hood, that I will shoot a good buck one hundred rod off and kill him dead in the place. A hundred mark on that (said the forresters). Down with your dust, said Robin, and having told down the money, with which he did go always provided, he bended his bow, and having drawn a broad arrow up to the head of it, he did let it flye at a fat buck one hundred rod off and more ; the arrow entring in between the ribs of the buck, made him give a jump from the ground, and fell down dead on the place, which Robin espying, the wager (said he,) is mine, if it were for a thousand pound. It is none of thine, said the forresters, and began to threaten him with violence, if he did not let the money alone, and get him suddenly gone. Robin Hood smiling with indignation, I will go, (saith he,) but you shall stay till you are carried off the place on which you stand every mother's son of you. With that he did let flye at one of the forresters, and then at another, and at another, and left not shooting his well-levelled arrows, until that fourteen of the fifteen forresters lay dead on the plain, close unto the buck : the fifteenth was making away with all the speed he could, but Robin sent a forked arrow after him, which entring quite through his back and body, came out of his breast. Now to your costs, said Robin Hood, you have found me to be an archer ; and taking up the money with him, he withdrew into the forest to avoid all farther danger that might ensue, and the spilling of more blood. In the mean time the townsmen of Nottingham hearing that Robin Hood was abroad, and that many of the forresters were slain, did go forth in great numbers, hoping that Robin Hood was either slain, or so hurt, that they might now take him, and bring him to the king, but he having sent some of his stinging arrows amongst them, they found to their costs by bleeding experience, that he was safe enough from being hurt or endangered : Wherefore having taken up the fifteen forresters that he had slain, they brought them into Nottingham town, where so many graves being digged in the church-yard, they were all buried by one another, and in death, as well as life, kept company together.





## ROBIN HOOD & THE TANNER



OR, ROBIN HOOD MET WITH HIS MATCH. RELATING THE GREAT AND FIERCE COMBAT BETWEEN ARTHUR BLAND A TANNER OF NOTTINGHAM, AND ROBIN HOOD THE GREAT ARCHER OF ENGLAND.



AFTER this so sad an execution of so many of the forresters, there was not any one so hardy as to question bold Robin concerning any feats of archery, and to speak the truth, he did of himself forbear for the space of many years to come unto the merry town of Nottingham, in regard that his slaughter of so many forresters at once had made him terrible and odious to the inhabitants thereabouts, but especially to the said forresters wives, who did curse him most extreamly. In process of time, as he was walking one summers morning in the forest of Sherwood, he observed a man strong of body and stern of aspect to come up unto him to give him an affront; whereupon he commanded him to stand, and told him he believed he was some bold fellow that came to steal the kings deer, and he being one of the keepers, he must discharge his trust and secure his person. The other, who was a tanner in the town of Nottingham, having a long staff on his shoulder, and knowing as well



how to use it as any, he, whatsoever, told him plainly that they must be more than two or three that must make him stand, and that he cared not a straw for his sword, or for his bow, or for his quiver of forked headed arrows, for he believed if he were well put to it, he could as soon — as shoot. Robin Hood being nothing discouraged, desired him to speak cleanly, and give him better terms, or else he would thrash him into better manners. Thrash me (said Bland,) marry gap with a winion! art thou such a goodly man, I care not a fig for thee. Why then thou shalt care for me, said Robin Hood, unbuckling his belt, and laying down his bow and his arrows, he took up a staff of ground-ash, and would have Bland to measure the length of his staff with his, because he would have no foul play in the tryal of his manhood. But Bland replied, I pass not for length, my staff is of good oak, and eight foot and a half in length, although shorter than thine, thou shalt find it long enough to reach thy coxcomb. At these words Robin Hood could no longer refrain, but making two or three fine flourishes over his head, he gave him such a remembrance on the top of his crown, that the blood trickled down upon his shoulders. But Arthur Bland did soon recover himself, and bidding Robin Hood look to himself, for he would be even with him, he came up with hand and foot: Robin Hood believing that he would be upon him with the fore-end of his staff, Bland suddenly drew back, and being very nimble at it, he gave Robin Hood so rude a visitation on the right side of his head with the other end of his staffe, that he not only stun'd him, but withal did break his head so pittifully, that the blood ran down amain. Robin Hood being not often used to behold such a sight, did lay at Bland with all the strength and art he had; and Bland was no ways wanting to defend himself, and to return blow for blow. Two hours together they were in this hot exercise, and about, and about they traversed their ground, till the wood and their sides rang with the blows which they did give to one another. At the last Robin Hood desired him to hold his hand, and let the quarrel fall, for he found (he said) nothing was to be gotten on either side but dry blows: he moreover assured him, that for the time to come he should be free of the forrest. God a mercy for nothing, (said Arthur Bland), I have not bought that freedom of thee, I may thank my good staff for it, and the hand that governed it. Hereupon Robin Hood demanded of him, of what trade he was, and where he dwelt? to whom Bland made answer, I am a tanner, and have wrought long in Nottingham, and if thou ever comest thither, I do swear unto thee that I will tan thy hide





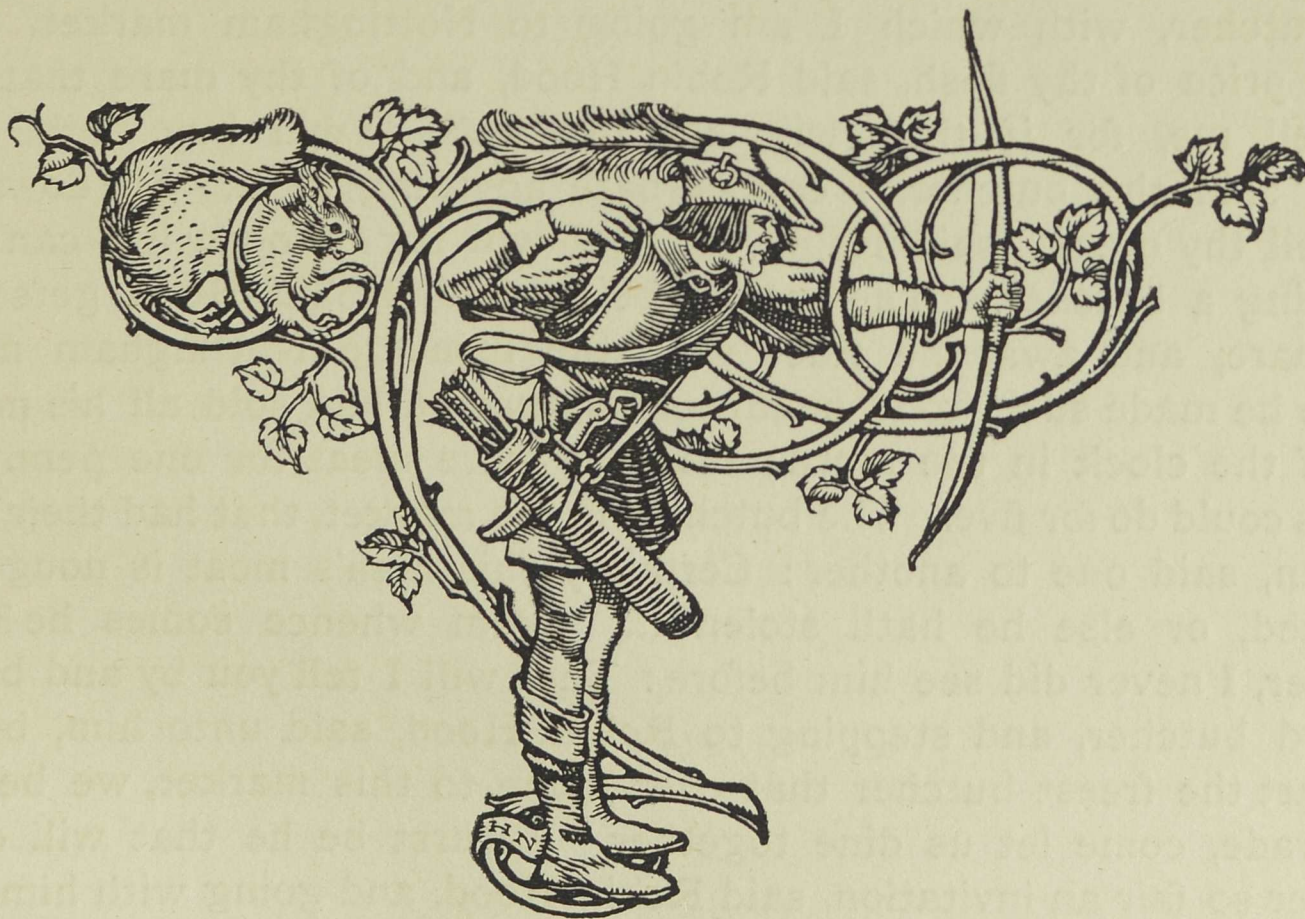
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for nought. Wilt thou so, said Robin, and I will do as much for thee: but if thou wilt forsake the tanners trade, and live here in the forrest with me, I dare assure thee thou shalt have store of gold and silver and want for nothing. Arthur Bland conceiving who it was, did say unto him; If thou art Robin Hood, as by thy manhood I believe thou art, here is my hand, that if thou wilt never part with me, I will never part with thee: but where is Little John? I would fain see him, for he is near of kin to me by my mother's side. Robin Hood no sooner heard him say so, but he blew his horn, and presently afterwards they might discover Little John coming down the hill, who observing his master to stand with his staff in his hand, asked him, What the matter was? he told him that he had met with the tanner of Nottingham, who had tanned his hide to some tune: Marry, and that is well done, said Little John, I will see if he can tan my hide also: Friend, look to yourself, have at you. Thereupon Robin Hood cryed out, Hold thy hand, hold thy hand, he is thy friend and kinsman, his name is Arthur a Bland. My cousin Arthur, said little John, how glad am I to see you, my good cousin, and throwing down his staff, he did run unto him and did embrace him in the closest arms of love. After that Robin Hood took them both by the hand, and dancing about an old oak-tree, with a song in their mouths, and mirth in their hearts, they expressed all the signs of undissembled affection to one another.





# ROBIN HOOD & THE BUTCHER

HOW ROBIN HOOD BOUGHT OF THE BUTCHER HIS MARE, AND THE MEAT WITH WHICH HE WAS LADEN, AND HOW HE CIRCUMVENTED THE SHERRIFF OF NOTTINGHAM, AND DELUDED HIM OF THREE HUNDRED POUND.



NOT long afterwards Robin Hood walking in the forrest as it was his daily custome, observed a butcher riding along the way, having good store of meat on his mares back, which he was to sell in the market. Good morrow, good fellow, said Robin to the butcher: Good fellow, replied the butcher, heavens keep me from Robin Good fellow, for if I meet with him, I may chance to fall short of my journey, and my meat of the market. I like thy company well, what hast thou to sell? said Robin Hood. Flesh, master, said the butcher, with which I am going to Nottingham market. What is the price of thy flesh, said Robin Hood, and of thy mare that bears it? tell me, for if thou wilt use me well, I will buy both. Four mark, said the butcher, I cannot bate anything of it. Sit down then and tell thy money, said Robin Hood, I will try for once if I can thrive by being a butcher. The money being told, Robin Hood gets up on the mare, and away he rides with the meat to Nottingham market, where he made such good penniworths, that he had sold all his meat by ten of the clock in the morn; He sold more meat for one penny than others could do for five. The butchers in the market, that had their stands by him, said one to another: Certainly this man's meat is nought and putrified, or else he hath stolen it. From whence comes he? saith another, I never did see him before: That will I tell you by and by, said a third butcher, and stepping to Robin Hood, said unto him, brother, thou art the freest butcher that ever came to this market, we be all of one trade, come let us dine together. Accurst be he that will deny a butcher so fair an invitation, said Robin Hood, and going with him to the



inn, the table was suddenly covered and furnished, and the best man in the company being to say grace, Robin Hood at the upper end of the table did put off his bonnet: God bless us all (said he) and our meat upon this place, a cup of sack is good to nourish the blood, and so I end my grace. Robin Hood was no sooner sat, but he called for a cup of sack, and drank to them all, desiring them to be merry, for if there were five pounds to pay, he would pay it every farthing. Thou art the bravest blade, said the butchers, that ever came to Nottingham market. Robin Hood still called for more wine, and the cups trouled up and down the table, insomuch that the sherriff, who was newly alighted, and taken his chamber in the inn, understanding of it, said, He was some prodigal that had sold his land, and would now spend it all at once: which coming to Robin Hood's ear, he after dinner took the opportunity to speak unto him: And what said the sherriff, Good fellow, thou hast made a good market to day, hast thou any more horned beasts to sell? Yes, that I have, said Robin Hood to master sherriff, I have two or three hundred, and a hundred acres of good land to keep them on, as ever the crow flew over, which if you will buy of me, I will make you as good assurance of it, as ever my father made me. The sherriff being a covetous man, and persuading himself that he would make him Robin Hood's penniworths, commanded his horse to be brought forth, and taking some money with him for the purchase, he rode with Robin Hood, who led him into the forrest for a mile or two outright. The sherriff being laden with good store of gold, and surprized with the melancholy of the place, did wish himself at Nottingham again: and why so? said Robin Hood: I tell thee plainly said the sherriff, I do not like thy company. No, said Robin Hood, then I will provide you better. God keep me from Robin Hood, for this is the haunt he useth. Robin Hood smiling observed a herd of three hundred gallant deer, feeding in the forrest close by him, and demanded of the sherriff how he liked those horned beasts, assuring him that they were the best that he could shew him: with that he blew his horn, whereupon Little John with fifty more of his associates came presently in, to whom Robin Hood imparted that he had brought with him the sherriff of Nottingham to dine with him. He is welcome, said Little John, I know he hath store of gold, and will honestly pay for his dinner. I, I, said Robin Hood, never doubt it: and taking off the sherriffs portmantle, he took to himself the three hundred pounds that was in it, then leading him back through the forrest, he desired him to remember him kindly to his wife, and so went laughing away.



## ROBIN HOOD & THE BEGGAR



SHOWING HOW HE FOUGHT WITH THE BEGGAR, AND CHANGED CLOATHS WITH HIM: AND HOW GOING AFTERWARDS A BEGGING TO NOTTINGHAM, HE SAVED THREE BROTHERS WHO WERE ALL CONDEMNED FOR STEALING THE KINGS DEER.

**B**UT Robin Hood took not any long delight in the mare which he bought of the butcher, but having now supplied himself with good store of money which he had gotten by the sheriff of Nottingham, he bought him a stout gelding, and riding one day on him towards Nottingham, it was his fortune to meet with a poor beggar. Robin Hood was of a frolick spirit, and no accepter of persons, but observing the beggar to have several sorts of bags, which were fastened to his patched coat, he did ride up to him, and giving him the time of the day, he demanded of him what countryman he was? a Yorkshire-man, said the beggar, and I would desire of you to give me something: Give thee, said Robin Hood: why I have nothing to give thee, I am a poor ranger in the forrest, and thou seemest to be a lusty knave, shall I give thee a good bastinado over the shoulder? Content, content, said the beggar, I durst lay my coat and all my bags to a threden point thou wilt repent it: with that Robin Hood alighted, and the beggar and he fell to it, he with his



sword and buckler, and the beggar with his long quarter-staff, who so well defended himself, that let Robin Hood do what he could, he could not come within the beggar, to flash him to a remembrance of his over-boldness; and nothing vexed him more, than to find that the beggar's staff was as hard and as obdurate as iron it self, but so was not Robin Hood's head, for the beggar with all his force did let his staff descend with such a side blow, that Robin Hood for all his skill could not defend it, but the blood came trickling down his face, which turning Robin Hood's courage into revenge and fury, he let flye at him with his trusty sword, and doubled blow on blow, but perceiving that the beggar did hold him so hard to it, that one of his blows was but the fore-runner of another, and every blow to be almost the Postillion of Death, he cried out to him to hold his hand; That will I not do, said the beggar, unless thou wilt resign unto me thy horse, and thy sword, and thy cloaths, with all the money thou hast in thy pockets: The change is uneven, said Robin Hood, but for once I am content: So putting on the beggars cloaths, the beggar was the gentleman, and Robin Hood the beggar, who entering into Nottingham-town with his patched coat and several wallets, understood that three brethren were that day to suffer at the gallows, being condemned for killing the kings deer, he made no more ado but went directly to the sherriffs house, where a young gentleman seeing him to stand at the door, demanded of him what he would have? Robin Hood returned answer that he came to crave neither meat nor drink, but the lives of those three brothers who were condemned to dye. That cannot be, said the young gentleman, for they are all this day to suffer according to law, for stealing of the kings deer, and they are already conveyed out of town, to the place of execution. I will be there with them presently, said Robin Hood, and coming to the gallows, he found many making great lamentation for them: Robin Hood did comfort them, and assured them they should not dye, and blowing his horn, behold on a sudden a hundred brave archers came unto him, by whose help having released the prisoners, and killed the hangman, and hurt many of the sherriffs officers, they took those who were condemned to dye for killing the king's deer along with them, who being very thankful for the preservation of their lives, became afterwards of the yeomandry of Robin Hood.



# ROBIN HOOD REVIVED

OR, HIS GALLANT COMBAT WITH A VALIANT YOUNG GENTLEMAN,  
WHO PROVED AFTERWARDS TO BE HIS KINSMAN.



EVERY day almost did answer the expectation of Robin Hood, for every day did administer him one new adventure or another: he now did wish he had continued his butchers trade a little longer, for provisions grew scarce, and he had not therewith to maintain his retinue or himself: riding therefore forth to see what good fortune he could be master of, he met with a young gentleman that had shot a buck; Robin Hood was not far off when it was done, and commended him for his archery, and offered him a place in his service, to be one of his yeomen, which the young gentleman disdainingly told him if he would not be gone, he would kick him out of that place: Robin Hood being unused to such affronts, assured him that he had men enough to take his part if he would but blow his horn. Sound it, and thou darest, said the gentleman, I can draw out a good sword that shall cut thy throat and thy horn too: these rough words made Robin Hood so impatient, that he did bend his bow, which the gentleman observing, said unto him, I am as ready for that as you, but then one, if not both of us shall be surely slain, it were far better to try it out with our swords and bucklers: content, said Robin Hood, we can nowhere find a more fitting place than under the shadow of this oak. They drew out their swords, and to it they went: Robin Hood gave the young gentleman a cut on the right elbow, and a little prick on his left shoulder, which the gentleman returned with advantage, insomuch that both of them taking respite to breathe a little, Robin Hood demanded of him if he





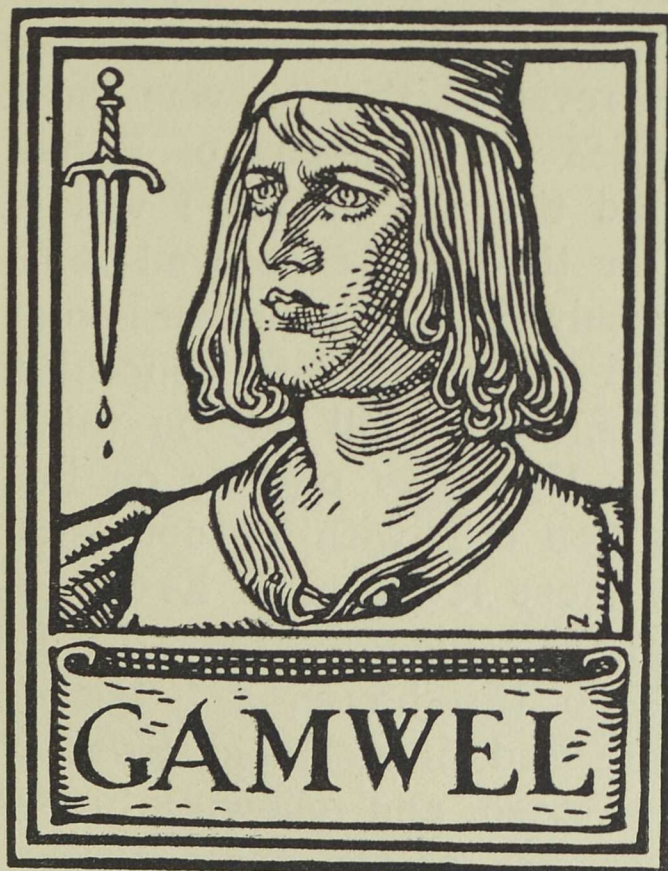








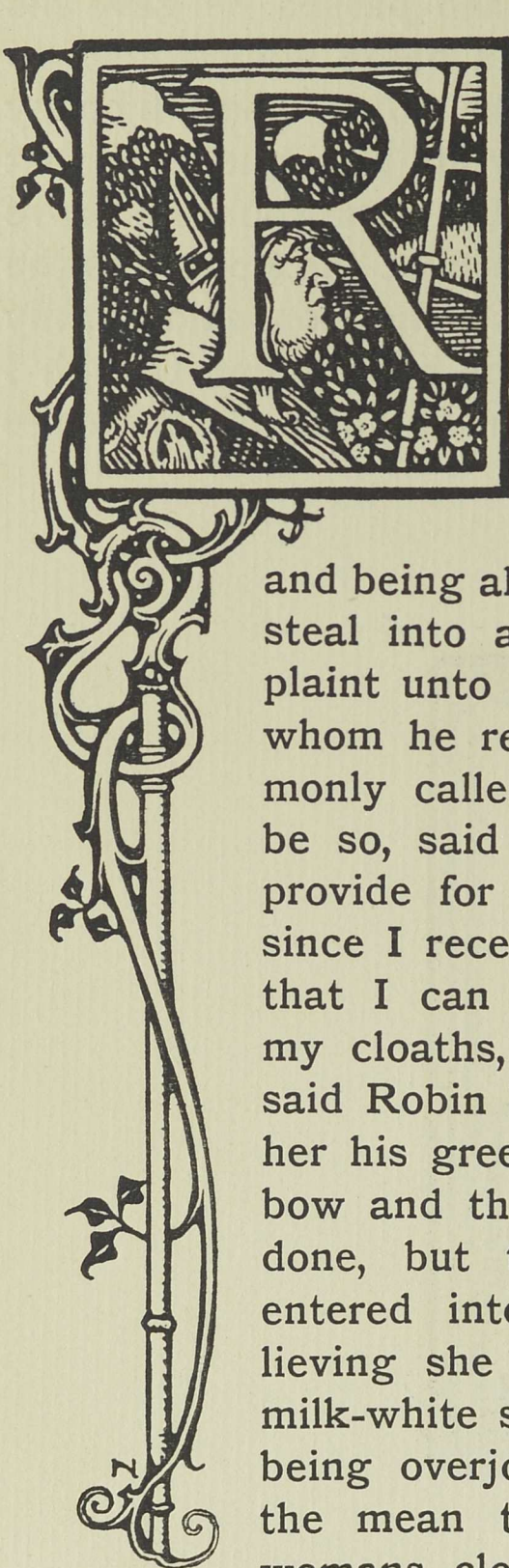
had never seen nor heard of him before; I know not who you are, said the gentleman, but my name is Gamwel, I was born in Maxfield, and for killing of my fathers steward, I am forced hither to seek out my uncle, known to most men by the name of Robin Hood: why, I am the man, said Robin Hood, and throwing down his sword and buckler he made haste to embrace him whom before he had so rashly wounded. Great was the love and many the reciprocal indearments that were betwixt them, when in the instant there stepped in Little John to whom Robin Hood having communicated what had passed, he gave his kinsman a place next to Little John, Little John being always next to himself. Not long afterwards he travelled into the north, where a bonny Scot offering him his service, he refused to entertain him, alledging that he was never true either to father or kinsman, much less would he prove true to him. At that time the battel grew hot betwixt the Scots and the English, and Robin Hood turning to the English, fight on, said he, my merry men all, our cause is good, we shall not be beaten, and though I am compassed about, with my sword I will cut my way through the midst of my enemies.





# ROBIN HOOD & THE BISHOP

SHEWING HOW HE CHANGED CLOATHS WITH AN OLD WOMAN TO ESCAPE FROM THE BISHOP, AND AFTERWARDS HOW HE ROBBED THE BISHOP OF ALL HIS GOLD, AND MADE HIM SING MASS, ETC.



ROBIN HOOD being returned with renown into Nottinghamshire, did walk forth one morning on foot, to see how affairs stood in the world: he had not gone far, but he beheld a bishop riding towards London, and attended with one hundred followers. He perceived that the bishop had notice of him, and being alone, and not knowing how to avoid him, he did steal into an old woman's house, and making his complaint unto her, the old woman asked him who he was, to whom he revealed that he was the famous out-law, commonly called by the name of Robin Hood: if thy name be so, said the old woman I will do the best I can to provide for thee, for I do well remember it is not long since I received some courtesies from thee: the best way that I can advise thee to conceal thyself, is to put on my cloaths, and I will put on thine; with all my heart, said Robin Hood: so putting on her gray coat, he gave her his green one, with his doublet and breeches, and his bow and those few arrows he had. This was no sooner done, but the bishop's men, with their swords drawn entered into the house, did take the old woman, believing she had been Robin Hood, and did set her on a milk-white steed, and following himself on a dapple gray, being overjoyed at the great purchase he had made. In the mean time Robin Hood being arrayed in the old womans cloaths, with a rock and a spindle in his hand,



did address himself straight away unto his company, and Little John beholding him coming over the green, cryed out, O! who is she that yonder is coming towards us, and looketh so like a witch, I will shoot her dead, and being dead will nail her to the earth with one of my broad arrows: O hold thy hand, said Robin Hood, I am thy master, and coming nearer he told them what had befallen at the old womans house, and to confirm what he said, they beheld the bishop with a gallant train riding up that way. The bishop espying a hundred brave bowmen standing under a tree, in the way where he was to pass, demanded of his prisoner who they were? Marry, replied the old woman, I think it is Robin Hood with his company: why who art thou then? said the bishop: why I am an old woman, said his prisoner, thou proud blind bishop, and if thou wilt not believe me, lift up my leg and see. Then woe is me, said the bishop. He had scarce bemoaned himself, but Robin Hood called to him, and bid him stay, and taking hold of his horse, he tied the bishop fast to the tree, and seizing on his sumpter-horse, he took out of his portmantle five hundred pound: which being done, Robin Hood smiling on Little John, and all his company laughing at one another, Robin Hood bid Little John give him his horse and let him go: by no means said the company, for he shall sing us a mass before we let him loose: which being done to the bishops great grief and shame, they set him on his horse again, with his face towards the tail, and bidding him to pray for Robin Hood, they suffered him to go forward on his journey.





## RENOWNED ROBIN HOOD

OR, HIS FAMOUS ARCHERY BEFORE QUEEN KATHERINE, FOR WHICH AT THAT TIME HIS PARDON, AND HIS FELLOWS, WAS OBTAINED BY THE QUEEN.



ROBIN HOOD having on all hands supplied himself with good store of gold, he sent thereof a considerable present to Queen Katherine, with a petition to mediate to his majesty for a pardon for himself and his associates. The queen accepted of both, and sent one of her pages, Richard Patrington by name, to advise him to come to accomplish his request; great was the hast that Patrington made, being well mounted, he despatched within the compass of two days and less, so long a journey. Being come to Nottingham he found that friendship, that on the next morning he was brought to Robin Hood's place; where acquainting him with his message from the queen, he assured her by him, that he would not fail to wait upon her majesty, and withal sent a small present of his duty and observance. Immediately he cloathed the chiefest of his men in Lincoln green, with black hats and white feathers, all alike, and himself in scarlet, and thus attended he came to London to the queen, who said unto him, welcome Locksly, the king is now gone into Finsbury Field, to be present at a great game of shooting with the long-bow, and you come very seasonably unto it, do you go before, I will presently be there myself: when Robin Hood was come into Finsbury-fields, the king spake unto Tephus his bow-bearer, and bad him to measure out the line, to know how long the mark should be: and the queen not long afterwards being sat next unto him, the king asked of her, for what wager they should shoot? the queen made answer, the wager is three hundred tun of Rhenish wine, and three hundred tun of beer, and three hundred of the fattest bucks that run on Dallum-Plains. Beshrew me, said the king, it is a princely wager indeed; well, mark out



the ground ; this immediately was done, and it was in length full fifteen-score ; Clifton a famous archer about the town, boasted that he would hit the clout every time. And now the kings archers had shot three goles, and were three for none ; but the queen nothing discouraged, desired to know if any would be on her side, and Sir Richard Lee, who was descended of the noble family of the Gowers, standing close unto her, she encouraged him to lay one wager ; but he being unwilling to make so desperate adventure, she spake to the Bishop of Hereford, who told her bluntly, that he would not bet one penny on her side. For said he, those that shoot on the kings side are excellent and experienced archers, and those that you have made choice of, we know not what they are, nor from whence they come ; I durst wager said the bishop, all that I have about me against them. What is that ? said Robin Hood. Fifteen score nobles, said the bishop, and that is almost one hundred pounds : 'Tis right, said Robin Hood, I will lay with you, and taking his bag of money from his side, he threw it down upon the green : William Scarlock being present, said, I will venture my life that I know before-hand who shall win this wager.

Now the archers did begin to shoot again, and now those whom the queen made choice of were equal with those of the kings side, they were both three and three. Whereupon the king spake aloud to the queen and said, the next three must pay for all. Robin Hood in the first place shot, and with such dexterity of art, that his arrow entered into the clout, and almost touched the black : he on the kings side that did second him, did shoot well, and came very near unto the clout : then shot Little John, and hit the black, at which the ladies laught aloud, being now almost sure that the game would go on their side, which Midge the millers son confirmed ; for I know not at that time whether I may most commend, his art or his fortune, but so it was that he cleft the very pin in the middle of the black, and that with such a twang of his bow, that it seemed that that did proclaim the victory before the arrow came unto the mark.

The queen having thus wan the wager, she fell down on her knees before the king, and besought his majesty that he would not be angry with any there present who were on her side ; this the king (the day being designed to mirth) did condescend unto, although he did not well understand what she did mean by that petition. This being granted, the queen said aloud, then welcome Robin Hood, and welcome Little John, welcome Midge the millers son, and welcome every one of Robin Hood's



company that is now on the field. Is this Robin Hood? said the king, I thought he had been slain at the pallace-gate in the North. The Bishop of Hereford turning to the king, said unto him, may it please your majesty, this bold outlaw Robin Hood, on Saturday was three weeks, took from me five hundred pound in gold, and bound me fast to a tree, and afterwards made me sing a mass, and to those of his most unruly company that were with him. What if I did, said Robin Hood, I was full glad of it, for I had not heard mass before in many a year; and for recompence of it, behold sir bishop here is half your gold. No, no, said Little John, that must not be, for master before we go, we are to give gifts to the king and queens officers, and the bishops gold will serve for all.





## ROBIN HOOD & THE CURTAL FRYER



THE FAMOUS BATTLE BETWIXT ROBIN HOOD AND THE CURTAL FRYER, AND HOW THE FRYER LET ROBIN HOOD FALL INTO THE WATER.



ROBIN HOOD, being now grown most famous for his skill in archery, and being high in the favour of queen Katherine, did return with much honour into Nottinghamshire, whither being come, he instituted a day of mirth for himself and all his companions; and wagers were laid amongst them, who should exceed at this exercise, and who at that; some did contend who should jump farthest, some who should throw the bar, some who should be swiftest a-foot in a race five miles in length, others there were with which Little John was most delighted, who did strive which of them should draw the strongest bow, and be the best marksman: Let me see, said Little John, which of you can kill a buck, and who can kill a doe, and who is he can kill a hart, being distance from it by the space of five hundred foot. With that Robin Hood going before them, they went directly to the forrest, where they found good store of game feeding before them. William Scarlock that drew the





strongest bow of them all, did kill a buck, and Little John made choice of a barren fat doe, and the well directed arrow did enter into the very heart of it: and Midge the millers son did kill a hart above five hundred foot distant from him. The hart falling, Robin Hood stroke him gently on his shoulder, and said unto him, God's blessing on thy heart, I will ride five hundred miles to find a match for thee. William Scarlock hearing him speak those words smiled, and said unto him, Master, what needs that? here is Curtal Fryer not far off, that for a hundred pound will shoot at what distance yourself will propound, either with Midge, or with yourself. An experienced man he is, and will draw a bow with great strength, he will shoot with yourself and with all the men you have, one after another. Sayest thou so, Scarlock, replied Robin Hood, by the grace of God, I will neither eat nor drink till I see this Fryer thou dost speak of. And having prepared himself for his journey, he took Little John and fifty of his best archers with him, whom he bestowed in a convenient place, as he himself thought fitting. This being done, he ran down into the dale, where he found the Curtal Fryer walking by the water side. He no sooner espyed him, but presently he took unto him his broad sword and buckler, and put on his head a steel bonnet. The Fryer not knowing who he was, or for what intent he came, did presently arm himself to encounter with him. Robin Hood, coming neer unto him, alighted from his horse, which he tyed to a thorn that grew hard by, and looking wistly on the Fryer, said unto him, carry me over the water thou Curtal Fryer, or else thy life lyes at the stake. The Fryer made no more ado, but took up Robin Hood, and carried him on his back (the story saith) deep water he did stride, he spake not so much as one word to him, but having carried him over, he gently laid him down on the side of the bank: which being done the Fryer said to Robin Hood. It is now my turn: therefore carry me over the water thou bold fellow, or be sure I shall make thee to repent it. Robin Hood to requite the courtesie, took the Fryer on his back, and not speaking the least word to him, carried him over the water and laid him gently down on the side of the bank; and turning to him, he spake thus unto him as at first, and bade him carry him over the water once more, or he should answer it, with the forfeit of his life. The Fryer in a smiling murmur took him up, and spake not a word till he came in the midst of the stream, where being up to the middle and higher, he did shake him from off his shoulders, and said unto him, Now chuse thee, bold fellow, whether thou wilt sink or swim. Robin Hood being soundly washed, gat up on his feet, and







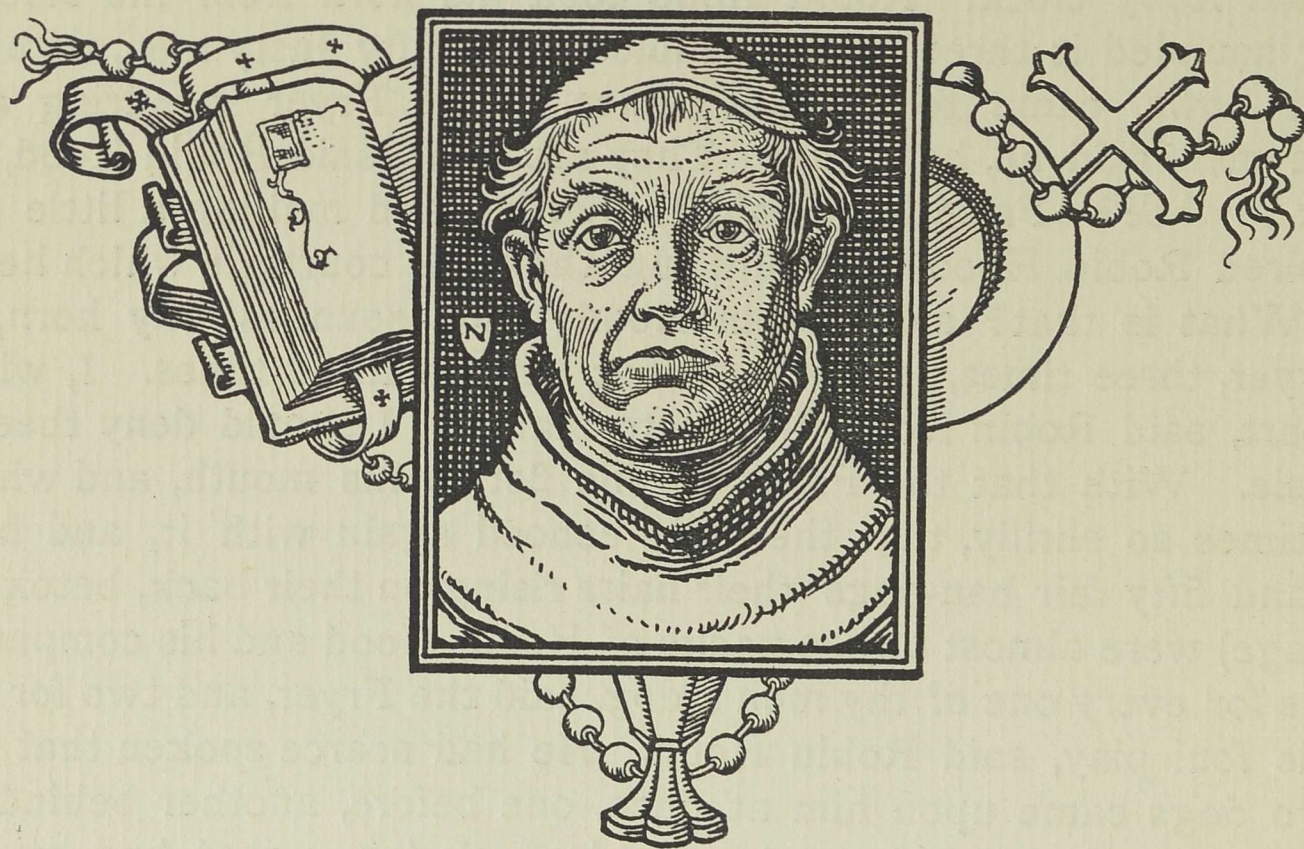




prostrating himself on the water, did swim to a bush of broom on the other side of the bank; the Fryer swam to a willow tree, which was not far from it; Robin Hood taking his bow in his hand, and one of his best arrows, did shoot at the Fryer, which the Fryer received in his buckler of steel, and said unto him, shoot on, shoot on, thou bould fellow, if thou shootest at me a whole summer's day I will stand thy mark still. That will I try, said Robin Hood, and shot arrow after arrow at him, until he had not one arrow left in his quiver. He then laid down his bow, and drew out his sword, which but two days before had been the death of three men. Now hand to hand they meet with sword and buckler; the steel buckler defends whatsoever blow is given: sometimes they make at the head, sometimes at the foot, sometimes at the side, sometimes they strike directly down, sometimes they falsifie their blows, and come in foot and arm with a full thrust at the body; and being ashamed that so long they exercised their unprofitable valour, and cannot hurt one another, they multiply their blows, they hack, they hewe, they slash, they fome. At last Robin Hood desired the Fryer to hold his hand, and to give him leave to blow his horn: Thou wantest breath to sound it, said the Fryer, take thee a little respite, for we have been five hours at it by Fountain Abby clock. Robin Hood took his horn from his side, and having sounded it three times, behold where fifty lusty men, with their bended bows, came to his assistance. The Fryer wondring at it: Whose men, said he, be these? They are mine, said Robin Hood, what is that to thee? False loon, said the Fryer, and making a little pause he desired Robin Hood to return him the same courtesie which he gave him. What is that? said Robin Hood; thou soundest thy horn, said the Fryer, three times, let me now but whistle three times. I, with all my heart, said Robin Hood, I were to blame if I should deny thee that courtesie. With that the Fryer set his fist to his mouth, and whistled three times so shrilly, that the place echoed again with it, and behold three and fifty fair ban-dogs (their hairs rising on their back, betokening their rage) were almost on the backs of Robin Hood and his companions. Here is for every one of thy men a dog, said the Fryer, and two for thee: That is foul play, said Robin Hood. He had scarce spoken that word, but two dogs came upon him at once, one before, another behind him, who although they could not touch his flesh (his sword had made so swift a despatch of them), yet they tore his coat in two pieces. By this time his men had so laid about them, that the dogs began to flye back, and their fury to languish into barking. Little John did so bestir



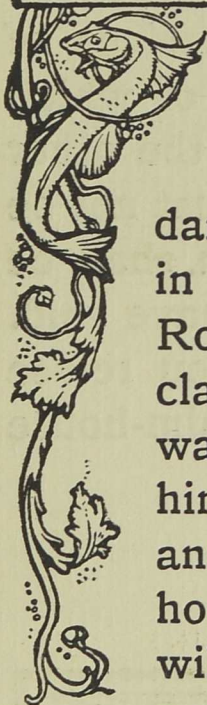
himself, that the Curtal Fryer admiring at his courage and his nimbleness, did ask him who he was: He made him answer, I will tell the truth and not lye; I am he who is called Little John, and do belong to Robin Hood, who hath fought with thee this day, five hours together, and if thou wilt not submit unto him this arrow shall make thee. The Fryer perceiving how much he was over-powered, and that it was impossible for him to deal with so many at once, did come to composition with Robin Hood: The articles of agreement were these; That the Fryer should abandon Fountain Dale, and Fountain Abby, and live with Robin Hood at his place not far from Nottingham, where for saying of mass, he should receive a noble for every Sunday throughout the year, and for saying of mass on every Holyday, a new change of garment. The Fryer contented with these conditions, did seal to the agreement. And thus by the courage of Robin Hood and his yeomen he was inforced at the last to submit, having for seven long years kept Fountain Dale, not all the power thereabouts being able to bring him on his knees.





# THE NOBLE FISHERMAN

OR, ROBIN HOOD'S PREFERMENT. SHEWING HOW HE DID WIN A PRIZE AT SEA, AND HOW HE GAVE ONE HALF OF IT TO HIS DAME, AND THE OTHER TO CHARITABLE USES.



THE countreys and the cities being full of the exploits of Robin Hood and his companions, he resolved with himself to make some adventure at sea, and to try if he could be as famous at sea, as he was at land. Having therefore called all his yeomen together, he did communicate unto them what was his resolution, but none of them would consent unto it, nor any of them would so much as go along with him in such an expedition. Little John in whom he much trusted, and who was partaker with him in all his counsels, and in all his dangers, was absolutely against it, and told him it was a madness in him to harbour any thought of such an adventure: Wherefore Robin Hood did go alone by himself to Scarborough, where being clad in a seamans habit, he came to a womans house by the waterside, and desired entertainment. The good woman seeing him a tall likely fellow, did ask him what his name was, he made answer, Simon over the Lee. It is a good name, said she, and I hope thou wilt make a good servant. If thou wilt be my man, I will give thee any wages that in reason thou wilt demand. I have a ship of my own, and as good as any that sails upon the sea, neither thou nor it shall want for any accommodation. Robin Hood being content to serve, took covenant-money of her, and on the next morning, the wind serving fair, the ship put forth to sea, where Robin Hood had not been long, but he fell very sick, the sea and he could not agree, which made him in many loud ejaculations to vomit forth the chollar against it. Besides, he was so extremely unserviceable, that the master of the ship repented a thousand times that he ever took him along with him, and every one





would call him the tall unwieldy lubber. When others as they were a fishing would cast into the sea their baited hooks, he would throw in nothing but his bare line, without any hook or bait at all, which amongst other things made him so ridiculous, that a thousand times he wished himself again either in Sherwood forrest or in Plumpton park. At the last the master of the ship espyed a Spanish man of war to make up to him, wherefore he made away from her with all the speed he could, but being impossible to out-sail her, they yielded themselves lost, and all the goods in the ship. Robin Hood who called himself Simon over the Lee, seeing all men in despair, took courage to himself, and bad his master but give him his bow and his arrows, and he would deal well enough with them all. Thou deal with them, said the master, I think we all fare the worse in the ship, for such a lubber as thou art. Robin grew angry at these words, nevertheless taking his bow and arrows in his hand, he went up to the deck, and drawing his arrow up to the very head, killed one Spaniard, and by and by another, and another. The master of the ship seeing the Spaniards to drop so fast, encouraged his men, and boarded the ship, where Robin Hood, alias Simon, behaved himself so manfully, that by his particular valour they possessed themselves of the ship, in which they found twelve thousand pound; half of which money Robin Hood allotted to his dame and her children, and the other half to his companions in the ship. No, said the master, it must not be so, Simon, for you have won it with your own hands, and you shall be master of it; Why then, said Robin Hood, it shall be as I have said. Half of it shall go to my dame and her children, and (since you refuse my bounty) the other half shall be for the building of an alm-house for the maintenance of the poor.





# ROBIN HOOD'S CHASE

OR, THE MERRY PROGRESS BETWIXT ROBIN HOOD AND KING HENRY.



ROBIN HOOD returning to Sherwood forrest, did commit in Yorkshire a very strange exploit; I cannot well tell whether he was overseen with wine or rage, but certainly it was one of the worst things that ever he did. It was brought to the kings ear, who protested that such a fact should not escape unpunished: and because the sherriffs had heretofore complained that they could not take him, he was resolved to ride in pursuit of him himself. Being therefore come with a royal retinue unto Nottingham, all the county was laid for him; which Robin Hood understanding, he by the advice of Little John, did privately convey himself from Sherwood forrest into Yorkshire: there were none with him but Little John, his cozen Gamwel, William Scarlock, and two or three more. The king being informed that he was escaped into Yorkshire, did follow him with all the speed that could be, and hue and crys were every where issued out to apprehend him. Which Robin Hood knowing, he fled out of Yorkshire to Newcastle; and from thence to Berwick: he had not continued there long, but tydings were brought that the king was gone in the pursuit of him, he was therefore constrained to go to Carlisle, where Little John being known, his stay was very short, and away he posted unto Lancaster, and from thence to Chester, where being in great danger to be betrayed, he conceived with himself that the only way for his safety was to ride to London; where having procured admittance to the queen he told her that he understood that the king was in several places to speak with him, which caused him to come thither, to know what his majesty would have with him. The queen told him, she would do the best she could for him; and that the king going away told her, that he was taking a journey on purpose to seek him out. Having thus dispatched his business at court, the king within a few days afterwards came to it, where finding by the queen that Robin



Hood understanding his majesty would speak with him, had been there to speak with him. He is a cunning knave, said the king. The queen falling down on her knees, besought him that (for his welcome to court) he would for once give her the life of that poor Outlaw; which being condescended to, Robin Hood dismissed all his idle companions, and betaking himself to a civil course of life, he did keep a gallant house, and had over all the country, the love of the rich, and the prayers of the poor.





FRYER BACON









**T**HE FAMOUS  
HISTORIE OF

**Fryer Bacon.**

CONTAINING THE WONDER-  
FULL THINGS THAT HE DID  
IN HIS LIFE ✿ ALSO THE MAN-  
NER OF HIS DEATH ✿ ✿ ✿



WITH THE LIVES AND DEATHS  
OF THE TWO CONJURERS ✿  
BUNGYE AND VANDERMAST

**Very pleasant and  
delightfull to be read**









# THE FAMOUS HISTORIE OF FRYER BACON

OF THE PARENTS AND BIRTH OF FRYER BACON, AND  
HOW HE ADDICTED HIMSELFE TO LEARNING.

IN most men's opinions he was borne in the west part of England and was sonne to a wealthy farmer, who put him to schoole to the parson of the towne where hee was borne: not with intent that he should turne fryer (as he did,) but to get so much understanding, that he might manage the better that wealth hee was to leave him. But young Bacon tooke his learning so fast, that the priest could not teach him any more, which made him desire his master that he would speak to his father to put him to Oxford, that he might not lose that little learning that hee had gained: his master was very willing so to doe: and one day meeting his father, told him, that he had received a great blessing of God, in that he had given him so wise and hopefull a child, as his sonne Roger Bacon was (for so was he named) and wished him withall to doe his duty, and to bring up so his child, that hee might show his thankfulnessse to God, which could not better be done then in making of him a



scholler ; for he found by his sodaine talking of his learning, that hee was a childe likely to prove a very great clerke : hereat old Bacon was not well pleased (for he desired to bring him up to plough and to the cart, as hee himselfe was brought) yet he for reverence sake to the priest, shewed not his anger, but kindly thanked him for his paines and counsell, yet desired him not to speake any more concerning that matter ; for hee knew best what best pleased himselfe, and that he would doe : so broke they off their talke, and parted.

So soone as the old man came home, he called to his sonne for his bookes, which when he had, he lock'd them up, and gave the boy a cart whip in the place of them, saying to him : Boy, I will have you no priest, you shall not be better learned than I, you can tell now by the almanack when it is best sowing wheat, when barley, pease and beane : and when the best libbing is, when to sell graine and cattell I will teach thee ; for I have all faires and markets as perfit in my memory, as Sir John our priest has masse without booke : take mee this whip, I will teach thee the use of it, it will be more profitable to thee then this harsh Latin : make no reply, but follow my counsell, or else by the masse thou shalt feele the smart hand of my anger. Young Bacon thought this but hard dealing, yet would he not reply, but within sixe or eight dayes he gave his father the slip, and went to a cloyster some twenty miles off, where he was entertained, and so continued his learning, and in small time came to be so famous, that he was sent for to the University of Oxford, where he long time studied, and grew so excellent in the secrets of art and nature, that not England onely, but all Christendome admired him.





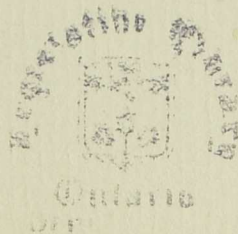
HOW THE KING SENT FOR FRYER BACON, AND OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE SHEWED THE KING AND QUEENE.



HE king being in Oxfordshire, at a Noblemans house, was very desirous to see this famous fryer, for he had heard many times of his wondrous things that he had done by his art: therefore hee sent one for him to desire him to come to the court. Fryer Bacon kindly thanked the king by the messenger, and said, that he was at the kings service, and would suddenly attend him: but sir, saith, he (to the gentleman)

I pray make you haste, or else I shall be two houres before you at the court. For all your learning (answered the gentleman) I can hardly beleve this, for schollers, old-men and travellers, may lye by authority. To strengthen your beliefe (said Fryer Bacon) I could presently shew you the last wench that you lay withall, but I will not at this time. One is as true as the other (said the gentleman) and I would laugh to see either. You shall see them both within these foure houres, quoth the fryer, and therefore make what haste you can. I will prevent that by my speed (said the gentleman) and with that rid his way: but he rode out of his way, as it should seem; for he had but five miles to ride, and yet was he better than three houres a riding them: so that Fryer Bacon by his art was with the king before he came.

The king kindly welcommed him, and said that hee long time had desired to see him; for he had as yet not heard of his life. Fryer Bacon answered him that fame had belide him, and given him that report that his poore studies had never deserved, for hee beleved that art had many sonnes more excellent then himselfe was. The king commended him for his modesty, and told him, that nothing could become a wise man lesse than boasting: but yet withall he requested him now to be no niggard of his knowledge, but to shew his queene and him some of his skill. I were worthy of neither art or knowledge (quod Fryer Bacon), should I deny your maiestie this small request: I pray seat yourselves, and you shall see presently what my poore skill can performe: the king, queene, and nobles sate them all down. They having so done, the fryer waved his wand, and presently was heard such excellent musicke that

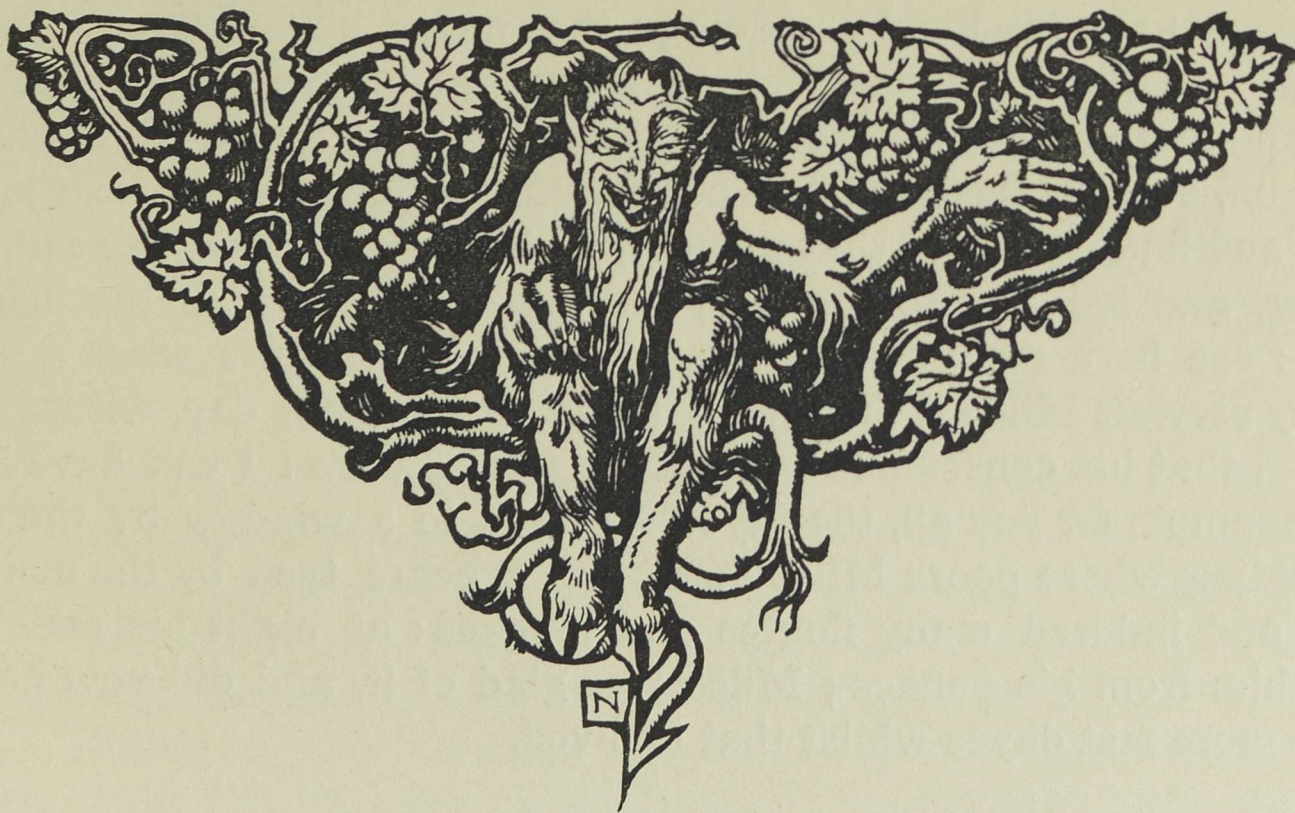




they were all amazed, for they all said they had never heard the like. This is, said the fryer, to delight the sense of hearing, I will delight all your other sences ere you depart hence: so waving his wand againe, there was lowder musicke heard, and presently five dancers entred, the first like a court-laundress, the second like a footman, the third like an usurer, the fourth like a prodigall, the fift like a foole: these did divers excellent changes, so that they gave content to all the beholders, and having done their dance, they all vanished away in their order as they came in. Thus feasted he two of their sences; then waved he his wand againe, and there was another kind of musicke heard, and whilst it was playing, there was sodainly before them a table richly covered with all sorts of delicates: then desired he the king and queene to taste of some certaine rare fruits that were on the table, which they and the nobles there present did, and were very highly pleased with the taste; they being satisfied, all vanished away on the sodaine. Then waved he his wand againe, and sodainly there was such a smell, as if all the rich perfumes in the whole world had bin there prepared in the best manner that art could set them out: whilst hee feasted thus their smelling, he waved his wand againe, and there came divers nations in sundry habits (as Russians, Polanders, Indians, Armenians) all bringing sundry kinds of fures, such as their countries yeelded: all which they presented to the king and queene: these fures were so soft in the touch, that they highly pleased all those that handled them, then after some odde fantasticke dances (after their countrey manner) they vanished away: then asked Fryer Bacon the king's majesty, if that hee desired any more of his skill? the king answered that hee was fully satisfied for that time, and that hee onely now thought of something that hee might bestow on him, and might partly satisfie the kindnesse that hee had received. Fryer Bacon said, that hee desired nothing so much as his maiesties love, and if that he might be assured of that, hee would thinke himselfe happy in it: for that (said the king) be thou ever sure of it, in token of which receive this jewell, and withall gave him a costly jewell from his necke. The fryer did with great reverence thanke his maiestie, and said: as your maiesties vassall you shall ever finde me ready to do you service, your time of neede shall finde it both beneficiall and delightfull. But amongst all these gentlemen, I see not the man that your grace did send for me by, sure he has lost his way, or else met with some sport that detaines him so long. I promised to be here before him, and all this noble assembly can witness I am as good as my word: I heare him



comming: with that entered the gentleman all bedurted (for he had rid through ditches, quagmires, plashes, and waters, that hee was in a most pittifull case) he seeing the fryer there looked full angerly, and bid a poxe on all his devils, for they had led him out of his way, and almost drowned him. Be not angry sir (said Fryer Bacon) here is an old friend of yours that hath more cause: for she hath tarried these three hours for you (with that he pulled up the hangings, and behinde them stood a kitchen-mayde with a basting-ladle in her hand) now am I as good as my word with you: for I promised to helpe you to your sweetheart, how do you like this? So ill, answered the gentleman, that I will be revenged of you. Threaten not (said Fryer Bacon) least I do you more shame, and doe you take heed how you give schollers the lye againe: but because I know not how well you are stored with money at this time, I will bear your wenches charges home: with that she vanished away: the king, queene, and all the company, laughed to see with what shame this gentleman indured the sight of his greasie sweetheart: but the gentleman went away discontented. This done Fryer Bacon tooke his leave of the King and Queene, and received from them divers gifts (as well as thankes) for his art he shewed them.





HOW FRYER BACON DECEIVED HIS MAN, THAT WOULD FAST FOR HIS  
CONSCIENCE SAKE.



FRYER BACON had one onely man to attend on him and he too was none of the wisest, for he kept him in charity, more then for any service he had of him. This man of his (named Miles) never could indure to fast as other religious persons did, for alwayes hee had in one corner, or another, flesh which hee would eat when his maister eat bread only, or else did fast and abstaine from all things. Fryer Bacon seeing this, thought at one time or other to be even with him, which he did one Fryday in this manner, Miles on the Thursday night had provided a great blacke-pudding for his Frydayes fast: this pudding put he in his pocket (thinking belike to heate it so, for his maister had no fire on those dayes) on the next day, who was so demure as Miles, hee looked as though hee would not have eat anything: when his maister offerd him some bread, hee refused it, saying his sinnes deserved a greater penance then one dayes fast in a whole weeke: his maister commend him for it, and bid him take heed that he did not dissemble: for if he did, it would at last be knowne; then were I worse then a Turke said Miles: so went he forth as if he would have gone to pray privately, but it was for nothing but to prey upon his blacke pudding; that pulled he out, (for it was halfe roasted with the heate) and fell to it lustily; but he was deceived, for having put one end in his mouth, he could neither get it out againe, nor bite it off, so that hee stamped out for helpe: his maister hearing him, came; and finding him in that manner, tooke hold of the other end of the pudding, and led him to the hall, and shewed him to all the schollers, saying: see here my good friends and fellow students what a devout man my servant Miles is, he loveth not to break a fast day, witnesse this pudding, that his conscience will not let him swallow: I will have him to be an example for you all, then tyed hee him to a window by the end of the pudding where poore Miles stood like a beare tyed by the nose to a stake, and indured many floutes and mockes: at night his maister released him from his penace; Miles was glad of it, and did vow never to breake more fast dayes whilst that he lived.



HOW FRYER BACON SAVED A GENTLEMAN THAT HAD GIVEN  
HIMSELFE TO THE DEVILL.



**I**N Oxfordshire there lived a gentleman, that had through his riotous expences wasted a faire inheritance that was left him by his father: after which hee grew so poore, that he had not wherwith to buy himselfe so much bread as would mainteine his miserable life: the memory of his former state that hee had lived in, and the present want that he now sustained, made him to grow desperate and regardlesse both of his soule and bodies estate: which gave the devill occasion to worke upon his weaknesse in this maner following.

On a time, hee being alone fulle of griefe and care, (griefe for his folies past, and care how to get a poore living for the remainder of his dayes) the Devill came to him and asked him what hee wanted (hee came not in a shape terrible, but like an old penny-father.) This gentleman was amazed at his sodaine presence, but hearing him demand of his wants, hee tooke to him courage and said: I want all things, I want money to buy my apparell, money to buy mee meat, money to redeeme my land and money to pay my debts: can or will you helpe mee in this misery? I will answered the Devill, on some



conditions helpe you to money for to supply all these wants and that sodainly. On any condition, said the Gentleman, helpe mee, and I sweare for to performe them: I take no oathes (answered the Devill) I must have bonds, if you will doe so, meet mee by the woods side to morrow morning, and there I will have the moneys ready: I will said the gentleman (for hee poore man was glad of it on any conditions, as he said before.) The next day hee went to the wood where the Devill had promised to meet him: long had he not been there, but he beheld the Devill comming, and after him two other like servingmen with bagges of money: this reioyced the poore gentlemans heart to thinke that hee should once again live like a man. The Devill comming to him said: sonne I will performe my promise unto you if that you will seale to the conditions that I have here already drawne: willingly said the gentleman, I will, I pray read them. The Devill read them to this effect: that he lent him so much money as he should have need of, to be employed to these uses following: First, to redeeme his mortgaged land: next to pay his debts: lastly, to buy him such necessaries as hee wanted: this to be lent on this condition, that so soone as he had paid all debts, that he should be at the lenders disposing, and his without any delay, freely to yeeld himselfe to him upon the first demand of the aforesaid lender. To this the gentleman sealed, and had the money carried to his chamber, with which money hee in short time redeemed his land, and bought such things as he needed, and likewise payed all his debts, so that there was not any man that could aske him one penny.

Thus lived this gentleman once againe in great credit, and grew so great a husband that he increased his estate, and was richer than ever his father before him was: but long did this joy of his not continue, for one day hee being in his studie the Devil appeared unto him, and did tell him that now his land was redeemed, and his debts paid, and therefore the time was come that hee must yeeld himselfe to his mercy, as hee was bound by bond. This troubled the gentleman to heare, but more to thinke how that he must become a slave to a stranger that hee did not know (for he knew not as yet that he was the Devill) but being urged to answer for himself (by the devill) hee said that hee had not as yet paid all his debts, and therefore as yet hee was not liable to the bonds strait conditions. At this the Devill seemed angry and with a fearfull noyse transformed himselfe to an ugly shape, saying, alas poore wretch, these are poore excuses that thou framest, I know them all to be false, and so



will prove them to thy face to morrow morning, till when I leave thee to despaire: So with great noyse he went his way, leaving the gentleman halfe dead with feare.

When he was gone, the gentleman reviving bethought himselfe in what a miserable state he was now in, then wished he that he had lived and died poorely, then cursed he all his ambitious thoughts, that led him first to desire againe that wealth which he had so vainly by his riot lost: then would hee curse his prodigall expences that were the orignall of all his misery: thus was he tormented a long time in his minde, at last he fully resolved to end his wretched life by some violent death, and to that end he went forth thinking to kill himselfe, which he had done, had it not beene for the Fryer: for as he was falling upon his sword, Fryer Bacon came by and called to him to hold, which he did. Fryer Bacon demanded of him the cause why he was so desperate that he would run headlong to hell? O sir, said he, the cause is great, and the relation is so terrible to me, that I would intreat you not to trouble me any more, but to leave me to my owne will: his answer filled the Fryer with amazement and pittie both at once, which made him to urge him in this manner. Sir, should I leave you to this wilfull damnation, I were unfit ever hereafter to weare or touch any robe that belongeth unto the holy order, whereof I am a brother: you know (I doubt not) that there is given power to the church to absolve penitent sinners, let not your wilfulnesse take away from you that benefit which you may receive by it: freely confesse your selfe (I pray you) unto me, and doubt not but I shall give your troubled conscience ease: Father (said this Gentleman) I know all that you have spoken is truth, and I have many times received comfort from the mother church, (I dare not say our, for I feare that shee will never receive me for a childe) I have no part in her benediction, yet since you request so earnestly the cause, I will tell you, heare it and tremble. Know then that I have given my selfe to the Devill for a little wealth, and he to morrow in this wood must have me? now have you my grieffe, but I know not how to get comfort. This is strange (quoth Fryer Bacon,) yet be of good comfort, penitentiall teares may doe much, which see you doe not spare; soone I will visit you at your house, and give you that comfort (I hope) that will beget you againe to goodnesse; the Gentleman with these words was somewhat comforted and returned home. At night Fryer Bacon came to him, and found him full of teares for his haynous offences, for these teares he gave him hope of pardon, demanded further what conditions hee had made with the Devill; the



gentleman told him, how that he had promised himselfe to him so soone as he had paid all his debts: which he now had done, for he owed not one peny to any man living. Well said Fryer Bacon, continue thy sorrow for thy sinnes, and to morrow meete him without feare, and be thou content to stand to the next mans iudgement that shall come that way, whether thou doest belong to the Devill or no: feare not, but do so, and be thou assured that I will be he that shall come by, and will give such iudgement on thy side, that thou shalt be free from him: with that Fryer Bacon went home, and the gentleman went to his prayers.

In the morning the gentleman (after that hee had blessed himselfe) went to the wood where he found the Devill ready for him, so soone as he came neere, the Devill said, now deceiver are you come, now shall thou see that I can and will prove that thou hast paid all thy debts, and therefore thy soule belongeth to me. Thou art a deceiver (said the gentleman) and gavest me money to cheat me of my soule, for else why wilt thou be thy own judge: let me have some other to iudge between us. Content said the Devill, take whom thou wilt: then I will have (said the gentleman) the next man that commeth this way: hereto the Devill agreed. No sooner were these words ended, but Fryer Bacon came by, to whom this gentleman speake, and requested, that he would be iudge in a waighty matter betweene them two: the Fryer said, he was content, so both parties were agreed: the Devill said they were, and told Fryer Bacon how the case stood between them in this manner.

Know Fryer, that I seeing this prodigall like to starve for want of food, lent him money, not onely to buy him victuals, but also to redeeme his lands and pay his debts, conditionarily that so soone as his debts were paid, that hee should give himselfe freely to mee, to this, here is his hand (shewing him the bond) now my time is expired, for all his debts are paid, which hee cannot denie. This case is plaine, if it be so that his debts are paid; his silence confirmes it said the Divell, therefore give him a iust sentence. I will said Fryer Bacon; but first tell me (speaking to the gentleman) didst thou never yet give the Devill any of his mony backe, nor requite him any wayes; never had hee any thing of me as yet (answered the gentleman): then never let him have any thing of thee and thou art free; deceiver of mankind, said he (speaking to the Devill) it was thy bargaine, never to meddle with him so long as hee was indebted to any, now how canst thou demand of him any thing, when he is indebted for all that hee hath to thee, when hee payeth thee thy money, then take him as thy due; till then thou hast nothing to doe



with him : and so I charge thee to be gone. At this, the Devill vanished with great horror, but Fryer Bacon comforted the gentleman, and sent him home with a quiet conscience bidding him never to pay the Devils money backe as he tendred his owne safety ; which he promised for to observe.

HOW FRYER BACON MADE A BRASEN HEAD TO SPEAKE, BY THE WHICH HEE WOULD HAVE WALLED ENGLAND ABOUT WITH BRASSE.



FRYER BACON reading one day of the many conquests of England, bethought himselfe how he might keepe it hereafter from the like conquests, and so make himselfe famous hereafter to all posterities. This (after great study) hee found could be no way so well done as one ; which was to make a head of brasse, and if he could make this head to speake (and heare it when it speakes) then

might hee be able to wall all England about with brasse. To this purpose hee got one Fryer Bungey to assist him, who was a great scholler and a magician, (but not to be compared to Fryer Bacon) these two with great study and paines so framed a head of brasse, that in the inward parts thereof there was all things like as in a naturall mans head : this being done, they were as farre from perfection of the worke as they were before, for they knew not how to give those parts that they had made motion, without which it was impossible that it should speake : many bookes they read, but yet could not find out any hope of what they sought, that at the last they concluded to raise a spirit, and to know of him that which they could not attaine to by their owne studies. To do this they prepared all things ready and went one evening to a wood thereby, and after many ceremonies used,





they spake the words of coniuration, which the Devill straight obeyed and appeared unto them, asking what they would? Know, said Fryer Bacon that wee have made an artificiall head of brasse, which we would have to speake, to the furtherance of which wee have raised thee, and being raised, we will here keepe thee, unlesse thou tell to us the way and manner how to make this head to speake. The Devill told him that he had not that power of himselfe: beginner of lyes (said Fryer Bacon) I know that thou dost dissemble, and therefore tell it us quickly or else wee will here bind thee to remaine during our pleasures. At these threatnings the Devill consented to doe it, and told them, that with a continuel fume of the six hottest simples it should have motion, and in one month space speak, the Time of the moneth or day hee knew not: also hee told them, that if they heard it not before it had done speaking, all their labour should be lost: they being satisfied, licensed the spirit for to depart.

Then went these two learned fryers home againe, and prepared the simples ready, and made the fume, and with continuall watching attended when this Brasen head would speake: thus watched they for three weekes without any rest, so that they were so weary and sleepy, that they could not any longer refraine from rest: then called Fryer Bacon his man Miles, and told him, that it was not unknown to him what paines Fryer Bungy and himselfe had taken for three weekes space, onely to make, and to heare the Brasen-head speake, which if they did not, then had they lost all their labour, and all England had a great losse thereby: therefore hee intreated Miles that he would watch whilst that they slept, and call them if the head speake. Feare not, good master (said Miles) I will not sleepe, but harken and attend upon the head, and if it doe chance to speake, I will call you: therefore I pray take you both your rests and let mee alone for watching this head. After Fryer Bacon had given him a great charge the second time: Fryer Bungy and he went to sleepe, and Miles, alone to watch the brasen head: Miles, to keepe him from sleeping, got a tabor and pipe, and being merry disposed, sung this song to a Northren tune:

OF CAM'ST THOU NOT FROM NEW-CASTLE.

To couple is a custome,  
all things thereto agree:  
Why should not I then love?  
since love to all is free.











But Ile have one that's pretty  
her cheekes of scarlet die,  
For to breed my delight,  
when that I ligge her by.

Though vertue be a dowry,  
yet Ile chuse money store:  
If my love prove untrue,  
with that I can get more.

The faire is oft unconstant,  
the blacke is often proud.  
Ile chuse a lovely browne,  
come fidler scrape thy crowd.

Come fidler scrape thy crowd,  
for Peggy the browne is she  
Must be my Bride, God guide  
that Peggy and I agree.

With his owne musicke and such songs as these spent he his time,  
and kept from sleeping at last. After some noyse the head spake these  
two words, TIME IS. Miles hearing it to speake no more, thought his  
master would be angry if hee waked him for that, and therefore he let  
them both sleepe, and began to mocke the head in this manner: Thou  
brazen-faced head, hath my master tooke all this paines about thee, and  
now dost thou requite him with two words, TIME IS: had hee watched  
with a lawyer as long as he hath watched with thee, he would have  
given him more, and better words then thou hast yet, if thou canst  
speake no wiser, they shal sleepe till doomes day for me: TIME IS: I  
know TIME IS, and that you shall heare good man Brazen face.

TO THE TUNE OF DAIN TIE COME THOU TO ME.

Time is for some to plant,  
Time is for some to sowe;  
Time is for some to graft  
The horne as some doe know.

Time is for some to eate,  
Time is for some to sleepe,  
Time is for some to laugh,  
Time is for some to weepe.

Time is for some to sing,  
Time is for some to pray,  
Time is for some to creepe,  
That have drunke all the day.



Do you tell us copper-nose, when TIME IS, I hope we Schollers know our times, when to drinke drunke, when to kisse our hostes, when to goe on her score, and when to pay it, that times comes seldome. After halfe an houre had passed, the head did speake againe, two words, which were these: TIME WAS. Miles respected these words as little as he did the former, and would not wake them, but still scoffed at the brazen head, that it had learned no better words, and have such a tutor as his master; and in scorne of it sung this song.

TO THE TUNE OF A RICH MERCHANT MAN.

Time was when thou a kettle  
wert fill'd with better matter:  
But Fryer Bacon did thee spoyle,  
when he thy sides did batter.

Time was when conscience dwelled  
with men of occupation:  
Time was when Lawyers did not thrive,  
so well by mens vexation.

Time was when kings and beggers  
of one poore stuffe had being:  
Time was when office kept no knaves:  
that time it was worth seeing.

Time was a bowle of water,  
did give the face reflection,  
Time was when women knew no paint:  
which now they call complexion.

TIME WAS: I know that brazen-face, without your telling, I know Time was, and I know what things there was when Time was, and if you speake no wiser, no master shall be waked for mee. Thus Miles talked and sung till another halfe houre was gone, then the brazen head spake again these words; TIME IS PAST: and therewith fell downe, and presently followed a terrible noyse, with strange flashes of fire, so that Miles was halfe dead with feare; at this noyse the two Fryers awaked, and wondered to see the whole roome so full of smoake, but that being vanished they might perceive the brazen head broken and lying on the ground: at this sight they grieved, and called Miles to know how this came. Miles halfe dead with feare, said that it fell downe of itselfe, and that with the noyse and fire that followed he was almost frighted out of his wits; Fryer Bacon asked him if hee did not speake? yes (quoth Miles) it spake, but to no purpose, Ile have a parret speake better in



that time that you have been teaching this brazen head. Out on thee villaine (said Fryer Bacon) thou hast undone us both, hadst thou but called us when it did speake, all England had been walled round about with brasse, to its glory, and our eternal fames; what were the wordes it spake; very few (said Miles) and those were none of the wisest that I have heard neither: first he said, TIME IS. Hadst thou call'd us then (said Fryer Bacon) we had been made for ever; then (said Miles) half an hour after it spake againe and said, TIME WAS. And wouldst thou not call us then (said Bungey?) Alas (said Miles) I thought he would have told me some long tale, and then I purposed to have called you; then half an houre after he cried, TIME IS PAST, and made such a noyse, that hee hath waked you himselfe mee thinkes. At this Fryer Bacon was in such a rage that hee would have beaten his man, but he was restrained by Bungey; but neverthelesse for his punishment, he with his art struck him dumbe for one whole months space. Thus the greate worke of these learned Fryers was overthrown (to their great griefes) by this simple fellow.





HOW FRYER BACON BY HIS ART TOOK A TOWNE, WHEN THE KING  
HAD LYEN BEFORE IT THREE MONTHS, WITHOUT DOING TO IT  
ANY HURT.



**L**N those times when Fryer Bacon did all his strange trickes, the Kings of England had a great part of France, which they held a long time, till civill warres at home in this land made them to lose it; it did chance that the King of England (for some cause best knowne to himselfe) went into France with a great armie, where after many victories, he did besiege a strong towne and lay before it full three moneths, without doing to the towne any great damage, but rather received the hurt himselfe. This did so vex the King, that he sought to take it in any way, either by policy or strength; to this intent hee made proclamation, that whosoever could deliver this towne into his hand, hee should have for his paines ten thousand crownes truly paid. This was proclaimed, but there was none found that would undertake it. At length the newes did come into England of this great reward that was promised. Fryer Bacon hearing of it, went into France, and being admitted to the kings presence, hee thus spake unto him: Your maiestie I am sure hath not



quite forgot your poore subject Bacon, the love that you shewed to mee being last in your presence, hath drawn mee for to leave my countrey, and my studies, to doe your maiestis service: I beseech your grace, to command mee so farre as my poore art or life may doe you pleasure. The king thanked him for his love, but told him, that hee had now more need of armes than art, and wanted brave souldiers more than learned schollers. Fryer Bacon answered, Your grace saith well; but let mee (under correction) tell you, that art oftentimes doth those things that are impossible to armes, which I will make good in some few examples. I with speak onely of things performed by art and nature, wherin shall be nothing magical: and first by the figuration of art, there may be made instruments of navigation without men to rowe in them, as great ships to brooke the sea, only with one man to steere them, and they shall sayle far more swiftly than if they were full of men: also chariots that shall move with an unspeakable force, without any living creature to stirre them. Likewise, an instrument may be made to fly withall, if one sit in the midst of the instrument, and doe turne an engine, by which the wings being artificially composed, may beat ayre after the manner of a flying bird. By an instrument of three fingers high, and three fingers broad, a man may rid himself and others from all imprisonment; yea such an instrument may easily be made, whereby a man may violently draw unto him a thousand men, will they, nill they, or any other thing. By art also an instrument may bee made, where with men may walke in the bottome of the sea or rivers without bodily danger; this Alexander the Great used (as the ethnick philosopher reporteth) to the end he might behold the secrets of the seas. But physicall figurations are farre more strange: for by that may be framed perspects and looking-glasses, that one thing shall appeare to be many, as one man shall appeare to be a whole army, and one sunne or moone shall seem divers. Also perspects may be so framed, that things farre off shall seem most nigh unto us; with one of these did Iulius Cæsar from the sea coasts in France marke and observe the situation of the castles in England. Bodies may also be so framed that the greatest things shall appeare to be the least, the highest lowest, the most secret to bee the most manifest, and in such like sort the contrary. Thus did Socrates perceive, that the dragon which did destroy the citie and countrey adioyning, with his noisome breath, and contagious influence, did lurke in the dennes between the mountaines; and thus may all things that are done in cities or armies be discovered by the enemies. Againe, in such wise may bodies be framed, that



venemous and infectious influences may be brought whither a man will; in this did Aristotle instruct Alexander; through which instruction the poyson of a basiliske, being lift up upon the wall of a citie, the poison was convayd into the citie, to the destruction thereof: also perspects may be made to deceive the sight, as to make a man beleve that he seeth great store of riches, when that there is not any. But it appertaineth to a higher power of figuration, that beams should be brought and assembled by divers flexions and reflexions in any distance that we will, to burne any thing that is opposite unto it, as it is witnessed by those perspects or glasses that burne before and behinde; but the greatest and chiefest of all figurations and things figured, is to describe the heavenly bodies, according to their length and breadth in a corporall figure, wherein they may corporally move with a daily motion. These things are worth a kingdom to a wise man. These may suffise, my royall lord, to shew what art can doe: and these, with many things more, as strange, I am able by art to performe. Then take no thought for winning this towne, for by my art you shall (ere many dayes be past) have your desire.

The king all this while heard him with admiration; but hearing him now, that he would undertake to win the towne, hee burst out in these speeches: most learned Bacon, doe but what thou hast said, and I will give thee what thou most desirest, either wealth, or honour, choose which thou wilt, and I will be as ready to performe, as I have been to promise.

Your maiesties love is all that I seeke (said the fryer) let mee have that, and I have honour enough, for wealth, I have content, the wise should seek no more: but to the purpose. Let your pioniers raise up a mount so high, (or rather higher) than the wall, and then shall you see some probability of that which I have promised.

This mount in two days was raised: then Fryer Bacon went with the king to the top of it, and did with a perspect shew to him the towne, as plainly as if hee had beene in it: at this the king did wonder, but Fryer Bacon told him, that he should wonder more, ere next day noone: against which time, he desired him to have his whole army in readinesse, for to scale the wall upon a signal given by him, from the mount. This the king promised to doe, and so returned to his tent full of joy, that he should gain this strong towne. In the morning Fryer Bacon went up to the mount and set his glasses, and other instruments up: in the meane time the king ordered his army, and stood in a readinesse for to give the



assaults : when the signal was given, which was the waving of a flagge : ere nine of the clocke Fryer Bacon had burnt the state-house of the towne, with other houses only by his mathematicall glasses, which made the whole towne in an uprore, for none did know how it came : whilst that they were quenching of the same Fryer Bacon did wave his flagge : upon which signall given, the kinge set upon the towne, and tooke it with little or no resistance. Thus through the art of this learned man the king got this strong towne, which hee could not doe with all his men without Fryer Bacons helpe.

HOW FRYER BACON OVER-CAME THE GERMAN CONIURER VANDERMAST, AND MADE A SPIRIT OF HIS OWNE CARRY HIM INTO GERMANY.



HE king of England after hee had taken the town shewed great mercy to the inhabitants, giving some of them their lives freely, and others he set at liberty for their gold : the towne hee kept at his owne, and swore the chiefe citizens to be his true subiects. Presently after the king of France sent an ambassadour to the king of England for to intreat a peace betweene them. This ambassadour being come to the king, he feasted him (as it is the manner of princes to doe) and with the best sports as he had then, welcomed him. The ambassadour seeing the king of England so free in his love, desired likewise to give him some taste of his good liking, and to that intent sent for one of his fellowes (being a Germane and named Vandermast) a famous coniurer, who being come, hee told the king, that since his grace had been so bountiful in his love to him, he would shew him (by a servant of his) such wonderful things that his grace had never seene the like before. The king demanded of him of what nature those things were that hee would doe : the ambassadour answered that they were things done by the art of magicke. The king hearing of this, sent straight for Fryer Bacon, who presently came, and brought Fryer Bungey with him.

When the banquet was done, Vandermast did aske the king, if he desired to see the spirit of any man deceased : and if that hee did, hee would raise him in such manner and fashion as he was in when that he lived. The king told him, that above all men he desired to see Pompey



the Great, who could abide no equall. Vandermast by his art raised him, armed in such manner as hee was when he was slaine at the battell of Pharsalia; at this they were all highly contented. Fryer Bacon presently raised the ghost of Iulius Cæsar, who could abide no superiour, and had slaine this Pompey at the battell of Pharsalia: at the sight of him they were all amazed, but the king who sent for Bacon: and Vandermast said that there was some man of art in that presence, whom he desired to see. Fryer Bacon then shewed himselfe saying; it was I Vandermast, that raised Cæsar, partly to give content to this royall presence, but chiefly for to conquer thy Pompey, as he did once before, at that great battell of Pharsalia, which he now againe shall doe. Then presently began a fight between Cæsar and Pompey, which continued a good space, to the content of all, except Vandermast. At last Pompey was overcome and slaine by Cæsar: then vanished they both away.

My lord ambassadour (said the king) me thinks that my Englishman has put down your German: hath he no better cunning than this? Yes, answered Vandermast, your grace shall see me put downe your Englishman ere that you goe from hence; and therefore Fryer prepare thy selfe with thy best of art to withstand me. Alas, said Fryer Bacon, it is a little thing will serve to resist thee in this kind. I have here one that is my inferior shewing him Fryer Bungey, try thy art with him; and if thou doe put him to the worst, then will I deale with thee, and not till then.

Fryer Bungey then began to show his art: and after some turning and looking in his booke, he brought up among them the Hysperian Tree, which did beare golden apples: these apples were kept by a waking dragon, that lay under the tree: He having done this, bid Vandermast finde one that durst gather the fruit. Then Vandermast did raise the ghost of Hercules in his habit that he wore when that he was living, and with his club on his shoulder: Here is one, said Vandermast, that shall gather fruit from this tree: this is Hercules, that in his life time gathered of this fruit, and made the dragon crouch; and now againe shall hee gather it in spight of all opposition. As Hercules was going to plucke the fruit, Fryer Bacon held up his wand, at which Hercules stayed and seemed fearful. Vandermast bid him for to gather of the fruit, or else he would torment him. Hercules was more fearfull, and said, I cannot, nor I dare not: for great Bacon stands, whose charms are farre more powerful than thine, I must obey him












Vandermast. Hereat Vandermast curst Hercules, and threatned him: But Fryer Bacon laughed, and bid not to chafe himself ere that his journey was ended: for seeing (said he) that Hercules will do nothing at your command, I will have him doe you some service at mine: with that he bid Hercules carry him home into Germany. The Devill obeyed him, and tooke Vandermast on his backe, and went away with him in all their sights. Hold Fryer, cried the ambassadour, I will not loose Vandermast for half my land. Content yourself my lord, answered Fryer Bacon, I have but sent him home to see his wife, and ere long he may returne. The king of England thanked Fryer Bacon, and forced some gifts on him for his service that he had done for him: for Fryer Bacon did so little respect money, that he never would take any of the king.





HOW FRYER BACON THROUGH HIS WISDOM SAVED THE  
ENDANGERED LIVES OF THREE BRETHREN.



THE peace being concluded betweene the King of England and the King of France, the King of England came againe into his country of England, where he was received very ioyfully of all his subjects: But in his absence had happened a discord betweene three brethren, the like hath not beene often heard. This it was: A rich gentleman of England dyed, and left behind him three sonnes. Now for some reason (which was best known to himselfe) he appointed none of them by name to be his heyre, but spake to them all after this manner; You are all my sonnes, and I love you all as a father should doe, all alike, not one better than the other: and cause I would alwayes doe rightly so neere as I can, I leave all my lands and goods to him that loves me best: These were his last words that he spake concerning any worldly affaires.

After he was dead and buried, there arose a great controversie betwixt them, who should inherit their fathers goods and lands, every one pleading for himselfe, how that he loved his father best. All the cunning lawyers of the kingdome could say nothing to the purpose, concerning this case, so that they were inforced to begge of the king a grant for a combat: for they would not share the lands and goods among them, but every one desired all or else nothing. The king seeing no other way to end this controversie, granted a combat: the two eldest being to fight first, and the conquerour to fight with the youngest, and the survivor of them was to have the land.

The day being come that was set for these combatants, they all came in armed for the fight. Friar Bacon being there present, and seeing such three lustie young men like to perish, and that by their owne flesh and bloode, grieved very much, and went to the king desiring his maiestie that he would stay the fight, and he would finde a meanes without any bloodshed to end the matter: the king was very glad



hereof, and caused the combatants to be brought before him, to whom he said: gentlemen, to save the blood of you all, I have found a way, and yet the controversie shall be ended that is now amongst you: Are you contented to stand to his iudgment that I shall appoint: they all answered, that they were. Then were they bid to returne three days after. In that time Fryer Bacon had caused the body of their deceased father to be taken out of the ground, and brought to the court: the body hee did cause to be bound to a stake, naked to the middle upwards and likewise prepared three bowes and shafts for the three brethren: all these kept hee secretly.

The third day being come, came these three brethren, to whom Fryer Bacon in the presence of the king gave the three bowes and shafts, saying, be not offended at what I have done, there is no other way but this to judge your cause: See here is the body of your dead father, shoot at him, for he that cometh nearest to his heart, shall have all the lands and goods.

The two eldest prepared themselves, and shot at him, and strucke their arrowes in his breast. Then bid they the youngest to shoot: but he refused it, saying, I will rather loose all, then wound that body that I so loved living: Had you ever had but halfe that love (in you) to him that I have, you would rather have had your own bodies mangled, than to suffer his lifelesse corps thus to be used; nay, you doe not onely suffer it, but you are the actors of this act of shame: and speaking this, he wept.

Fryer Bacon seeing this, did give the iudgement on his side, for he loved his father best, and therefore had all his lands and goods: the other two brothers went away with shame for what they had done. This deed of Fryer Bacons was highly commended of all men: for he did not onely give true judgement, but also saved much blood that would have beene shed, had they beene suffered to have fought.





HOW FRYER BACON SERVED THE THEEVES THAT ROBBED HIM, AND  
OF THE SPORT THAT HIS MAN MILES HAD WITH THEM.



T was reported about the countrey how that the king had given Fryer Bacon great store of treasure. The report of this wealth made three theeves plot to rob Fryer Bacons house, which they put in practice one evening in this fashion. They knockt at the doore and were let in by Miles: No sooner were they in, but they took hold of him, and led him into the house, and finding Fryer Bacon there, they told him that they came for some money, which they must and would have ere they departed from thence. He told them, that he was but ill stored with money at that time, and therefore desired them to forbear him till some other time. They answered him againe, that they knew that hee had enough, and therefore it was but folly to delay them, but straight let them have it by faire means, or else they would use that extremitie to him that he would bee loth to suffer. Hee seeing them so resolute, told them that they should have all that hee had, and gave to them one hundred pounds a man. Herewith they seemed content, and would have gone their wayes. Nay, said Fryer Bacon, I pray gentlemen at my request tarry a little, and heare some of my mans musicke: you are byred reasonable well already, I hope in courtesie you will not deny mee so small a request. That will wee not, (said they all.)

Miles thought now to have some sport with them, which hee had, and therefore plaid lustily on his tabor and pipe: so soone as they heard him play (against their wills) they fell a dauncing, and that after such a laborious manner, that they quickly wearied themselves (for they had all that while the bagges of money in their hands.) Yet had Fryer Bacon not revenge enough of them, but bid his man Miles leave them some larger measure as hee thought fitting, which Miles did. Miles straight ledde them out of the house into the fields, they followed him, dauncing after a wilde anticke manner: then led hee them over a broad dike full of water, and they followed him still, but not so good a way as he went (for he went over the bridge, but they by reason of their dauncing, could



not keepe the bridge, but fell off, and dauncing through the water) then led hee them through a way where a horse might very well have been up to the belly: they followed him, and were so durtie, as though they had wallowed in the myre like swine; sometime gave hee them rest onely to laugh at them: then were they so sleepe when hee did not play, that they fell to the ground. Then on a sudden would hee play againe, and make them start up and follow him. Thus kept hee them the better part of the night. At last hee in pittie left playing, and let them rest. They being asleepe on the bare ground he tooke their money from them, and gave them this song for their farewell, to the tune of, "Oh doe me no harme good man."

You roaring boyes and sturdy theeves  
you pimpes, and aples squires:  
Lament the case of these poor knaves,  
and warme them by your fires.

They snorting lye like hogs in stie,  
but hardly are so warme:  
If all that cheat, such hap should meet,  
to true men 'twere no harme.

They money had, which made them glad,  
their ioy did not indure:  
Were all theeves serv'd as these have beene,  
I thinke there would be fewer.

When that they wake, their hearts will ake,  
to thinke upon their losse:  
And though the gallows they escape,  
they goe by weeping crosse.

Your trulls expect your comming home  
with full and heavy purse:  
When that they see tis nothing so,  
oh how they'll rayle and curse.

For hee that loves to keepe a whore,  
must have a giving hand.  
Which makes a many knaves be choakt,  
for bidding true men stand.

They were scarce any thing the better for this song, for they slept all the while; so Miles left them at their rest: but they had small cause to sleepe so soundly as they did, for they were more wett than ere was scold with cucking. Miles gave his master his money againe, and told the story of their merry pilgrimage; he laughed at it, and wisht all men



had the like power to serve all such knaves in the like kind. The theeves waking in the morning and missing their money, and seeing themselves in that plight, thought that they had been served so by some divine power, for robbing a church-man, and therefore they swore one to the other, never to meddle with any churchman againe.

HOW VANDERMAST, FOR THE DISGRACE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED BY FRYER BACON SENT A SOULDIER TO KILL HIM; AND HOW FRYER BACON ESCAPED KILLING, AND TURNED THE SOULDIER FROM AN ATHEIST TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN.



FRYER BACON sitting one day in his study, looked over all the dangers that were to happen to him that moneth, there found he, that in the second week of the moneth between sunne rising and setting, there was a great danger to fall on him, which would without great care of prevention take away his life. This danger which he did forsee, was caused by the Germane coniurer Vander-

mast, for he vowed a revenge for the disgrace that he had received. To execute the same, hee hyred a Walloon souldier, and gave him one hundred crownes to do the same, fifty beforehand, and fifty when hee had killed him.

Fryer Bacon, to save himselfe from this danger that was like to happen to him would alwayes when that he read, hold a ball of brasse in his hand, and under that ball would hee set a bason of brasse, that if hee did chance to sleepe in his reading, the fall of the ball out of his hand into the bason, might wake him. Being one day in his study in this manner, and asleepe, the Walloon souldier was got in to him, and had drawne his sword to kill him: but as he was ready for to strike, down fell the ball out of Fryer Bacon's hand, and waked him. Hee seeing the souldier stand there with a sword drawne, asked him what hee was? and wherefore hee came there in that manner? The souldier boldly answered him thus: I am a Walloon, and a souldier, and more then this, a villaine: I am come hither, because I was sent; I was sent, because I



was hyred: I was hyred, because I durst do it: the thing I should doe, is not done: the thing to be done, is to kill thee: thus have you heard what I am and why I came. Fryer Bacon wondered at this mans resolution; then asked hee of him, who set him on worke too bee a murderer? Hee boldly told him, Vandermast the Germane coniurer: Fryer Bacon then asked him what religion he was was of? He answered, of that which many doe professe, the chief principles of which were these: to goe to an ale-house, and to a church with one devotion, to absteine from evil for want of action, and to doe good against their wills. It is a good profession for a devil (said Fryer Bacon.) Doest thou believe hell? I believe no such thing, answered the souldier. Then will I shew thee the contrary, said the Fryer: and presently raised the ghost of Iulian the Apostate, who came up with his body burning, and so full of wounds, that it almost did affright the souldier out of his wits. Then Bacon did command this spirit to speake, and to shew what hee was, and wherefore hee was thus tormented? Then spake hee to it in this manner: I sometimes was a Roman Emperour: some count greatnesse a happinesse: I had happinesse beyond my empire, had I kept that, I had beene a happy man: would I had lost my empire when I lost that. I was a Christian, that was my happiness; but my selfe love and pride made me to fall from it; for which I now am punished with never ceasing torments, which I must still endure: the like which I enioy is now prepared for unbeleeving wretches like myself, so vanished he away.

All this while the souldier stood quaking, and sweat as he had felt the torments himselfe; and falling downe on his knees desired Fryer Bacon to instruct him in a better course of life, then he had yet gone in. Fryer Bacon told him, that he should not want his helpe in any thing, which he performed, instructing him better: then gave he him money, and sent him to the warres of the holy land, where he was slain.





## HOW FRYER BACON DECEIVED AN OLD USURER.



NOT farre from Fryer Bacon, dwelt an olde man that had great store of money which hee let out to use, and would never doe any good with it to the poore, though Fryer Bacon had often put him in minde of it, and wished him to do some good whilest he lived. Fryer Bacon seeing this, by his art made an iron pot, which seemed full of gold this being done, he went to this rich usurer, and told him, that he had some gold which he had gathered in his time that he had lived ; but it being much in quantity, hee feared that if it were knowne, it would be taken from him, because it was unfitting a man of his coat should have so much : now he desired him that hee would let him have some hundred pounds, which was not the sixth part of his gold, and he should kepe it for him. The usurer was glad to heare of this, and told him that he should have it, and that he would keep his gold as safe as he himself would : Fryer Bacon was glad to heare of this, and presently fetcht the pot : at the sight of which the usurer laughed, and thought to himself, how all that gold was his owne, for hee had a determination to gull the fryer, but he gulled himselfe. See here is the gold (said Fryer Bacon) now let me have of you one hundred pounds, and keep you this gold till I pay it backe again. Very willingly (said the usurer) and told him one hundred pounds out, which Fryer Bacon tooke and delivered him the note, and so went his way. This mony did Fryer Bacon give to divers poore schollers, and other people and bid them pray for old Good-gatherers soules health (so was this usurer call'd) which these poor people did, and would give him thankes and prayers when they met him, which he did wonder at, for he never deserved the praies of any man. At last this old Good-gatherer went to looke on this pot of gold, but instead of gold he found nothing but earth, at which sight he would have died, had not his other gold hindred him, which hee was to leave behind him : so gathering up his spirits, hee went to Fryer Bacon, and told him he was abused and cheated ; for which he would have the law of him, unlesse he made him restitution. Fryer Bacon told him, that he had not cheated him, but bin his faithful steward to the poore, which he could not chuse but know, either by their prayers, or their thanks ; and as for the law he feared it not, but bid him doe his worst. The old man seeing Fryer Bacons resolution, went his way, and said, that hereafter hee would be his owne steward.





HOW MILES, FRYER BACONS MAN DID CONIURE FOR MEAT, AND  
GOT MEATE FOR HIMSELFE AND HIS HOAST.

**M**

ILES chanced one day upon some busnesse, to goe some six miles from home, and being loth to part with some company that he had, he was be-lated, and could get but halfe way home that night; to save his purse hee went to ones house that was his masters acquaintance: but when he came, the good man of the house was not at home, and the woman would not let him have lodging. Miles seeing such cold entertainment wished he had not troubled her, but being now there, he was loth to goe any further and therefore with good words he perswaded her for to give him lodging that night. She told him that she would willingly doe it, if her husband were at home, but he being now out of towne, it would be to her discredit to lodge any man. You neede not mistrust me, (said Miles) for I have no thought to attempt your chastitie: locke me in any place where there is a bed, and I will not trouble you till to morrow that I rise. She thinking her husband would be angry if she should deny any of his friends so small a request, consented that he should lye there, if that he would be locked up: Miles was contented and presently went to bed, and she locked him into the chamber where he lay.

Long had not he beene a bed, but he heard the doore open; with that he rose and peeped through a chinke in the partition, and saw an



old man come in : this man set down his basket that he had on his arme, and gave the woman of the house three or four sweet kisses, which made Miles his mouth runne with water to see it : then did hee undoe his basket, and pulled out of it a fat capon ready roasted, and bread, with a bottle of good olde sacke ; this gave hee unto her, saying ; sweetheart, hearing thy husband was out of towne, I thought good to visit thee, I am not come emptie handed, but have brought some thing to be merrie withal : lay the clothe sweet hony, and let us first to banquet, and then to bed. She kindly thanked him, and presently did as he bad her : they were not scarce set at the table, but her husband returning backe, knockt at the doore. The woman hearing this was amazed, and knew not what to doe with her old lover : but looking on her apron strings, she straight found (as women use to doe) a trick to put herself free from this feare ; for shee put her lover under the bed, the capon and bread she put under a tub, the bottle of wine shee put behinde the chest, and then she did open the doore, and with a dissembling kisse welcomed her husband home, asking him the reason why that he returned so quickly. He told her, that hee had forgot the money that he should have carried with him, but on the morrow betimes hee would be gone. Miles saw and heard all this : and having a desire to taste of the capon and the wine, called the goodman. He asked his wife who that was ? She told him, an acquaintance of his, that intreated lodging there that night. He bid her open the door, which she did, and let Miles out. Hee seeing Miles there, bid him welcome, and bade his wife to set them some meate on the table : she told him that there was not any ready, but prayed him to kepe his stomacke till morrow, and then she would provide them a good breakefast. Since it is so Miles (said the goodman) wee must rest contented, and sleepe out our hunger. Nay stay said Miles, if that you can eate, I can find you good meat ; I am a scholler, and have some art. I would faine see it (said the goodman) You shall quoth Miles, and that presently. With that Miles pulled forth a booke out of his bosome, and began his coniuration in this fashion :

From the fearefull lake below,  
From whence spirits come and goe ;  
Straightway come one and attend  
Fryer Bacons man, and friend.

Comes there none yet, quoth Miles ? then I must use some other charme.











Now the owle is flowne abroad,  
 For I heare the croaking toade,  
 And the bat that shuns the day,  
 Through the darke doth make her way.  
 Now the ghosts of men doe rise,  
 And with feareful hideous cryes,  
 Seeke revengement (from the good)  
 On their heads that spilt their blood,  
 Come some spirit, quicke I say,  
 Night's the Devils holy-day :  
 Where ere you be, in dennes, or lake,  
 In the ivy, ewe, or brake :  
 Quickly come and me attend,  
 That am Bacons man and friend.  
 But I will have you take no shape  
 Of a bear a horse, or ape :  
 Nor will I have you terrible,  
 And therefore come invisible.

Now is he come, (quoth Miles) and therefore tell me what meat you will have mine hoast? Any thing Miles, (said the goodeman) what thou wilt. Why then (said Miles) what say you to a capon? I love it above all meat (said the goodman.) Why then a capon you shall have, and that a good one too. Bemo my spirit that I have raised to doe mee service, I charge thee, seeke and search about the earth, and bring me hither straight the best of capons ready roasted. Then stood hee still a little, as though he had attended the comming of his spirit, and on the sudden said: It is well done, my Bemo, hee hath brought me (mine hoast,) a fat capon from the King of Tripolis owne table, and bread with it. Aye but where is it Miles (said the hoast) I see neither spirit nor capon. Looke under the tub quoth Miles and there you shall finde it. He presently did, and brought (to his wives grieve) the capon and bread out. Stay (quoth Miles) we do yet want some drinke that is comfortable and good; I think mine hoast a bottle of Maliga sacke were not amisse, I will have it: Bemo, haste thee to Maliga, and fetch me from the governours a bottle of his beste sacke. The poore woman thought that hee would have betrayed her and her lover, and therefore wished that he had beene hanged, when that hee came first into her house. Hee having stood a little while, as before, saide, Well done, Bemo, looke behinde the great chest (mine hoast) Hee did so, and brought out the bottle of sacke. Now (quoth hee) Miles sit downe, and welcome to thine owne cheere: You may see wife (quoth he) what a man of art can doe, get a fatte capon, and a bottle of good sacke in a quarter of an houre, and for nothing, which is



best of all : Come (good wife) sit downe, and bee merry; for all this is paid for, I thanke Miles.

Shee sate, but could not eate a bit for anger, but wished that every bit they did eate might choake them : Her old lover too that lay under the bed all this while was ready to bepisse himselfe for feare, for hee still looked when that Miles would discover him. When they had eaten and drunke well, the good man desired Miles that hee would let him see the spirit that fetched them this good cheere : Miles seemed unwilling, telling him that it was against the laws of art, to let an illiterate man see a spirit, but yet, for once hee would let him see it : and told him withall, that hee must open the door, and soundly beat the spirit, or else hee should bee troubled hereafter with it : and because he should not feare it, hee would put it in the shape of some one of his neighbours. The good man told him, that hee neede not to doubt his valour, he would beat him soundly, and to that purpose hee took a good cudgell in his hand, and did stande ready for him. Miles then went to the bed side, under which the old man lay, and began to coniure him with these words,

Bemo quickly come, appeare,  
Like an old man that dwells neere ;  
Quickly rise, and in his shape,  
From this house make thy escape ;  
Quickly rise, or else I sweare,  
Ile put thee in a worser feare.

The old man seeing no remedy, but that hee must needs come forth, put a good face on it, and rose from under the bed : behold my spirit (quoth Miles) that brought me all that you have had ; now bee as good as your word and swaddle him soundly. I protest (said the goodman) your Devill is as like Goodman Stumpe the tooth-drawer, as a pomewater is like an apple : is it possible that your spirits can take other mens shapes : Ile teach this to keepe his owne shape ; with that hee beat the old man soundly, so that Miles was fain to take him off, and put the old man out of doore, so after some laughing, to bed they all went : but the woman could not sleepe for grieffe, that her old lover had had such bad usage for her sake.





HOW FRYER BACON DID HELPE A YOUNG MAN TO HIS SWEETHEART;  
WHICH FRYER BUNGYE WOULD HAVE MARRIED TO ANOTHER,  
AND OF THE MIRTH THAT WAS AT THE WEDDING.



**A**N Oxfordshire gentleman had long time loved a faire mayde, called Millisant; this love of his was as kindly received of her, as it was freely given of him, so that there wanted nothing to the finishing of their ioyes, but the consent of her father, who would grant that she should bee his wife (though formerly he had been a meanes to further the match) by reason there was a knight that was a suitor to her, and did desire that hee might have her to his wife: but this knight could never get from her the least token of good wil: so surely was her love fixed upon the gentleman. This knight seeing himselfe thus despised, went to Fryer Bungye, and told him his mind, and did promise him a good piece of money if he could get her for him, either by his art, or counsell.

Bungye (being covetous) told him, that there was no better way in his mind, than to get her with her father to go take the air in a coach: and if hee could doe so, he would by his art so direct the horses, that they should come to an old chappell, where hee would attend, and there they might secretly be married. The knight rewarded him for his counsell, and told him, that if it tooke effect, he would be more bountifull unto him, and presently went to her father, and told him of this. Hee liked well of it, and forced the poore maid to ride with them. So soone as they were in the coach, the horses ran presently to the chappell, where they found Fryer Bungye attending for them: at the sight of the church and the priest, the poore maid knew that she was betraid, so that for grieve shee fell in a swound: to see which her father and the knight, were very much grieved, and used their best skill for her recovery.

In this time, her best beloved, the gentleman, did come to her



fathers to visit her, but finding her not there, and hearing that shee was gone with her father and the knight, he mistrusted some foul play: and in all hast went to Fryer Bacon, and desired of him some help to recover his love againe, whom he feared was utterly lost.

Fryer Bacon (knowing him for a vertuous gentleman) pittied him; and to give his griefes some release, shewed him a glasse, wherein any one might see any thing done (within fifty miles space) that they desired: so soone as he looked in the glasse, hee saw his love Millisant with her father, and the knight, ready to be married by Fryer Bungye: at the sight of this hee cryed out that he was undone, for now should he lose his life in losing of his love. Fryer Bacon bids him take comfort, for he would prevent the marriage; so taking this gentleman in his armes, he set himselfe downe in an enchanted chaire, and suddenly they were carried through the ayre to the chappell. Just as they came in, Fryer Bungye was ioyning their hands to marry them: but Fryer Bacon spoyled his speech, for he struck him dumb, so that he could not speake a worde. Then raised he a myst in the chappell, so that neither the father could see his daughter, nor the daughter her father, nor the knight either of them. Then tooke he Millisant by the hand, and led her to the man she most desired: they both wept for ioy, that they so happily once more had met, and kindly thanked Fryer Bacon.

It greatly pleased Fryer Bacon to see the passion of these two lovers, and seeing them both contented, he married them at the chappell doore, whilst her father, the knight, and Fryer Bungye went groping within, and could not find the way out. Now when he had married them, he bid them get lodging at the next village, and he would send his man with money: (for the gentleman was not stored, and he had a great way to his house) they did as he bad them. That night hee sent his man Miles with money to them: but he kept her father, the knight, and Fryer Bungey till the next day at noon in the chappell, ere he released them.

The gentleman and his new married wife made that night a great supper for ioy of their marriage, and bid to it most of the village: they wanted nothing but musicke, for which they made great moane. This want, Fryer Bacon (though he was absent) supplied: for after supper there came such a maske, that the like was never seene in that village: for first, there was heard most sweet still musicke, then wind musicke: then came three apes, and three monkeys, each of them carrying a torch: after them followed sixe apes and monkeys more, all dressed in



anticke coats: these last sixe fell a dancing in such an odde manner, that they moved all the beholders to much laughter: so after divers antick changes, they did reverence to the bridegroome and bride, and so departed in order as they came in. They all did marvell from whence these should come: but the bridegroome knew that it was Fryer Bacons art that gave them this grace to their wedding. When all was done, to bed they went, and enjoyed their wishes. The next daye he went home to his owne house with his bride: and for the cost he had bestowed on them, most part of the townes-folke brought them on their way.

Miles made one amongst them too; he for his masters sake was so plyed with cups, that he in three dayes was scarce sober: for his welcome, at his departure he gave them this song: to the tune of, "I have been a fiddler," &c.

And did not you heare of a mirth that befell,  
the morrow after a wedding day:  
At carrying a bride at home to dwell,  
and away to Twiver, away, away!

The Quintin was set, and the garlands were made,  
'tis a pity old custome should ever decay:  
And woe be to him that was horst on a iade,  
for he carried no credit away, away.

We met a consort of fiddle-de-dees,  
we set them a cock-horse, and made them to play,  
The winning of Bullen, and Upsie-frees,  
and away to Twiver, away, away.

There was ne'er a lad in all the parish,  
that would goe to the plow that day:  
But on his fore-horse his wench he carries,  
and away to Twiver, away, away.

The butler was quicke, and the ale he did tap,  
the maidens did make the chamber full gay:  
The serving-men gave me a fuddling cap,  
and I did carye it away, away.

The smithe of the towne his liquor so tooke,  
that he was perswaded the ground look'd blue,  
And I dare boldly to sweare on a booke,  
such smiths as he there are but a few.

A posset was made, and the women did sip,  
and simpering said they could eate no more  
Full many a maid was laid on the lip:  
Ile say no more, but so give o're.



They kindly thanked Miles for his song, and so sent him home with a foxe at his tayle. His master asked him, where he had beene so long? He told him at the wedding. I know it, (said Fryer Bacon) that thou hast beene there, and I know also (thou beast) that thou hast beene every day drunke. That is the worst that you can say by me, master, for still poore men must be drunke, if that they take a cup more than ordinary; but it is not so with the rich. Why how is it with the rich then? I will tell you (said Miles) in few words,

Lawyers they are sicke,  
And Fryers are ill at ease;  
But poore men they are drunke,  
And all is one disease.

Well sirrah (said Fryer Bacon) let me not heare that your are infected any more with this disease, lest I give you sowre sawce to your sweet meat. Thus did Fryer Bacon helpe these poore lovers, who in short time got the love of the old man, and lived in great ioy: Fryer Bungey's tongue was again let loose, and all were friends.





HOW VANDERMAST AND FRYER BUNGYE MET, AND HOW THEY STRIVED WHO SHOULD EXCEL ONE ANOTHER IN THEIR CONIURATIONS; AND OF THEIR DEATHS.



VANDERMAST thinking that Fryer Bacon had beene dead, came into England, and in Kent met with Fryer Bungye: he owing him no good will for Fryer Bacons sake, took his horse out of the stable, and instead of it, left a spirit like unto it. Fryer Bungye in the morning rose, and mounting this spirit, (which he thought had beene his horse) rode on his iourney: but he riding through a water, was left in the midst of it by this spirit; and being thus wet, hee returned to his inne. At the inne doore, Vandermast met him, and asked him, if that were swimming time of the year? Bungye told him, if that he had been so well horsed as he was, when Fryer Bacon sent him into Germany, he might have escaped that washing. At this Vandermast bit his lip, and said no more, but went in. Bungye thought that he would be even with him, which was in this manner. Vandermast loved a wench well, which was in the house and sought many times to winne her for gold, love, or promises. Bungye knowing this, did shape a spirit like this wench, which he sent to Vandermast. Vandermast appointed the spirit (thinking it had beene the wench) to come to his chamber that night, and was very ioyful that he should enjoy her now at the last: but his ioy turned into sorrow, and his wanton hopes into a bad nights lodging: for Fryer Bungye had by his art spread such a sheet on his bed, that no sooner was he laid with the spirit on it, but it was carryed through the ayre, and let fall into a deepe pond, where Vandermast had been drowned, if he had not had the art of swimming: He got quickly out of the pond, and shook himselfe like a rough water-spaniel; but being out, he was as much vexed as before, for he could not tell the way home, but was glad to keepe himselfe in heat that night with walking. Next day he coming to his inne, Fryer Bungye asked him how he did like his wench? he said, so well, that he wished him such another.



Bungye told him, that his order did forbid him the use of any, and therefore he might keepe them from his friends: Thus did they continually vex each other, both in words and ill actions. Vandermast desiring to do Fryer Bungey a mischief, did challenge him to the field (not to fight at sword and dagger, single rapier, or case of poyyards, but at worser weapons farre, it was at that diabolical art of magicke) there to shew which of them was most cunning, or had most power over the Devill: Bungye accepted of his challenge, and both provided themselves of things belonging to the art and to the field they went.

There they both spred their circles some hundred foot from one another: and after some other ceremonies did Vandermast begin: hee by his charmes did raise up a fiery dragon, which did runne about Fryer Bungey's circle, and did scorch him with his heat so that he was almost ready to melt. Fryer Bungey tormented Vandermast in another element: for he raised up the sea monster that Perseus killed, when he did redeem the faire Andromeda. This sea-monster did run about Vandermast, and such flouds of water did he send out of his wide mouth, that Vandermast was almost drowned. Then did Fryer Bungey raise a spirit up like saint George, who fought with the dragon, and killed it: Vandermast (following his example) rayseed up Perseus, who fought also with his sea-monster, and killed it, so were they both released from their danger.

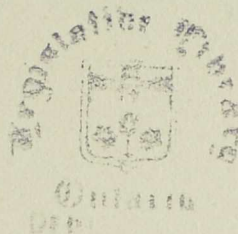
They being not contented with this tryall of their skill, went further in their coniurations, and raised up two spirits, each of them one. Bungye charged his spirit for to assist him with the greatest power hee had, that by it he might be able to overcome Vandermast. The Devill told him he would, if that he from his left arme would give him but three drops of blood; but if that he did deny him that, then should Vandermast have power over him to do what he would: the like told Vandermast's Devill to him: to this demand of the spirits, they both agreed, thinking for to overcome each other; but the Devill overthrew them both.

They having given the Devill this bloud, as is before spoken of, they both fell againe to their coniurations: first, Bungye did rayse Achilles with his Greekes, who marched about Vandermast and threatned him. Then Vandermast raised Hector with his Troians who defended him from Achilles and the Greekes. Then began there a great battell between the Greekes and Troians, which continued a good space: at last Hector was slaine, and the Troians fled. Then did follow a great tempest, with thundring and lightning, so that the two



conjurers wished that they had been away. But wishes were in vaine: for now the time was come, that the Devill would be paid for the knowledge that he had lent them, he would not tarry any longer, but then tooke them in the height of their wickednesse, and bereft them of their lives.

When the tempest was ended, (which did greatly affright the townes there by) the townsmen found the bodies of these two men, (Vandermast and Bungey) breathlesse, and strangely burnt with fire. The one had Christian buriall, because of his order sake: the other, because he was a stranger. Thus was the end of these two famous conjurers.





HOW MILES WOULD CONIURE FOR MONEY, AND HOW HE  
BROKE HIS LEGGE FOR FEARE.



**M**ILES one day finding his Masters study open, stole out of it one of his coniuring-bookes: with this booke would Miles needes coniure for some money: (for he saw that his master had money enough, and he desired the like, which did make him bold to trouble one of his masters devils:) in a private place he thought it best to doe it: therefore he went up to the top of the house, and there began to reade: long had he not read, but a devill came to him in an ugly shape, and asked him what he would have? Miles being affrighted, could not speake, but stood quaking there like an aspin leafe: the devill seeing him so, (to increase his feare) raised a tempest, and hurled fire about, which made Miles leape from off the leades, and with his fall broke his legge.

Fryer Bacon hearing this noyse, ranne forth, and found his man Miles on the ground, and the Devill hurling fire on the house top. First laid he the Devill againe: then went he to his man and asked how hee got that broken legg? Hee told him his Devill did it: for he had frightened him, and made him leape off from the house top. What didst thou there, (said his Master?) I went to coniure, Sir (said Miles) for money; but I have got nothing but a broken legge; and I now must beg for money to cure that, if you be not the more pittifull to me. I have oftentimes given you warning not to meddle with my bookes (said his Master) and yet you will still be doing: take heed, you had best, how you deale with the Devill againe: for he that had power to breake your legge will breake your necke, if you againe doe meddle with him: for this I doe forgive you: for your legge breaking hath paid for your sawcinesse: and though I gave you not a broken head, I will give you a plaister: and so sent him to the chirurgions.



HOW TWO YOUNG GENTLEMEN THAT CAME TO FRYER BACON, TO KNOW HOW THEIR FATHERS DID, KILLED ONE ANOTHER; AND HOW FRYER BACON FOR GRIEFE, DID BREAKE HIS RARE GLASSE, WHEREIN HE COULD SEE ANY THING THAT WAS DONE WITHIN FIFTY MILES ABOUT HIM.



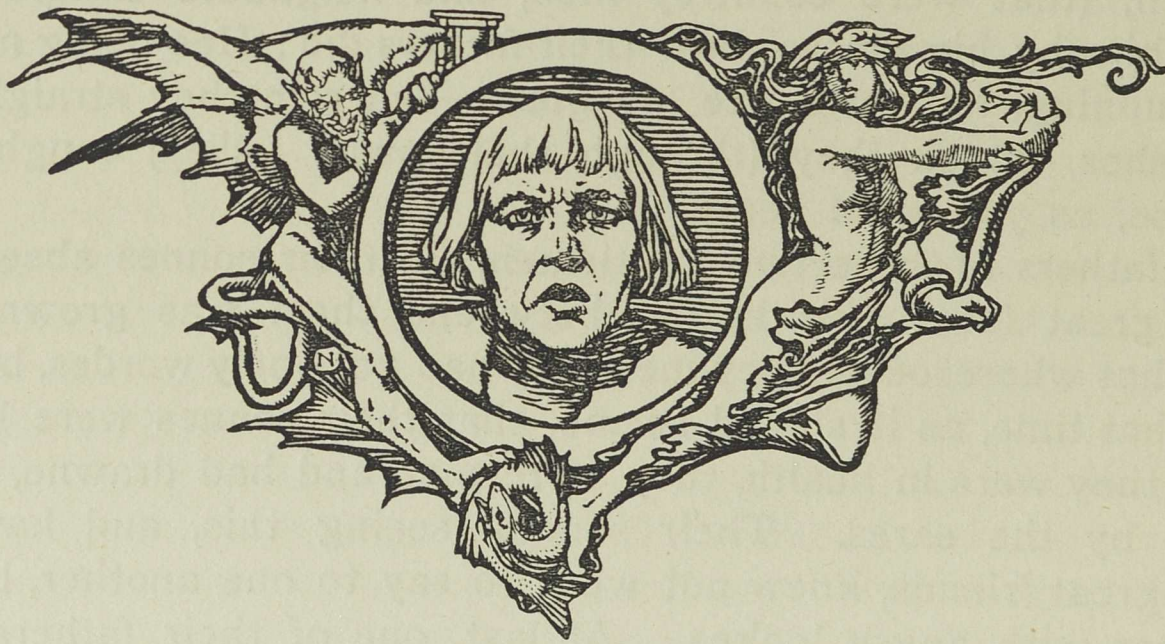
**I**T is spoken of before now, that Fryer Bacon had a glasse, which was of that excellent nature, that any man might behold any thing that he desired to see within the compasse of fifty miles round about him: with this glasse he had pleased divers kinds of people: for fathers did oftentimes desire to see (thereby) how their children did, and children how their parents did; one friend how another did; and one enemy (sometimes) how his enemy did: so that from far they would come to see this wonderfull glasse. It happened one day, that there came to him two young gentlemen, (that were countrey men, and neighbors children), for to know of him by his glasse, how their fathers did: Hee being no niggard of his cunning, let them see his glasse, wherein they straight beheld their wishes, which they (through their owne follies) bought at their lives losse, as you shall heare.

The fathers of these two gentlemen, (in their sonnes absence) were become great foes: this hatred betweene them was growne to that height, that wheresoever they met, they had not onely wordes, but blowes. Just at that time, as it should seeme, that their sonnes were looking to see how they were in health, they were met, and had drawne, and were together by the eares. Their sonnes seeing this, and having been alwayes great friends, knew not what to say to one another, but beheld each other with angry lookes. At last, one of their fathers, as they might perceive in the glasse, had a fall, and the other taking advantage stood over him ready to strike him. The sonne of him that was downe, could then containe himselfe no longer, but told the other young man, that his father had received wrong. He answered againe, that it was faire. At last there grew such foule words betweene them, and their bloods were so heated, that they presently stabbed one the other with their daggers, and so fell downe dead.

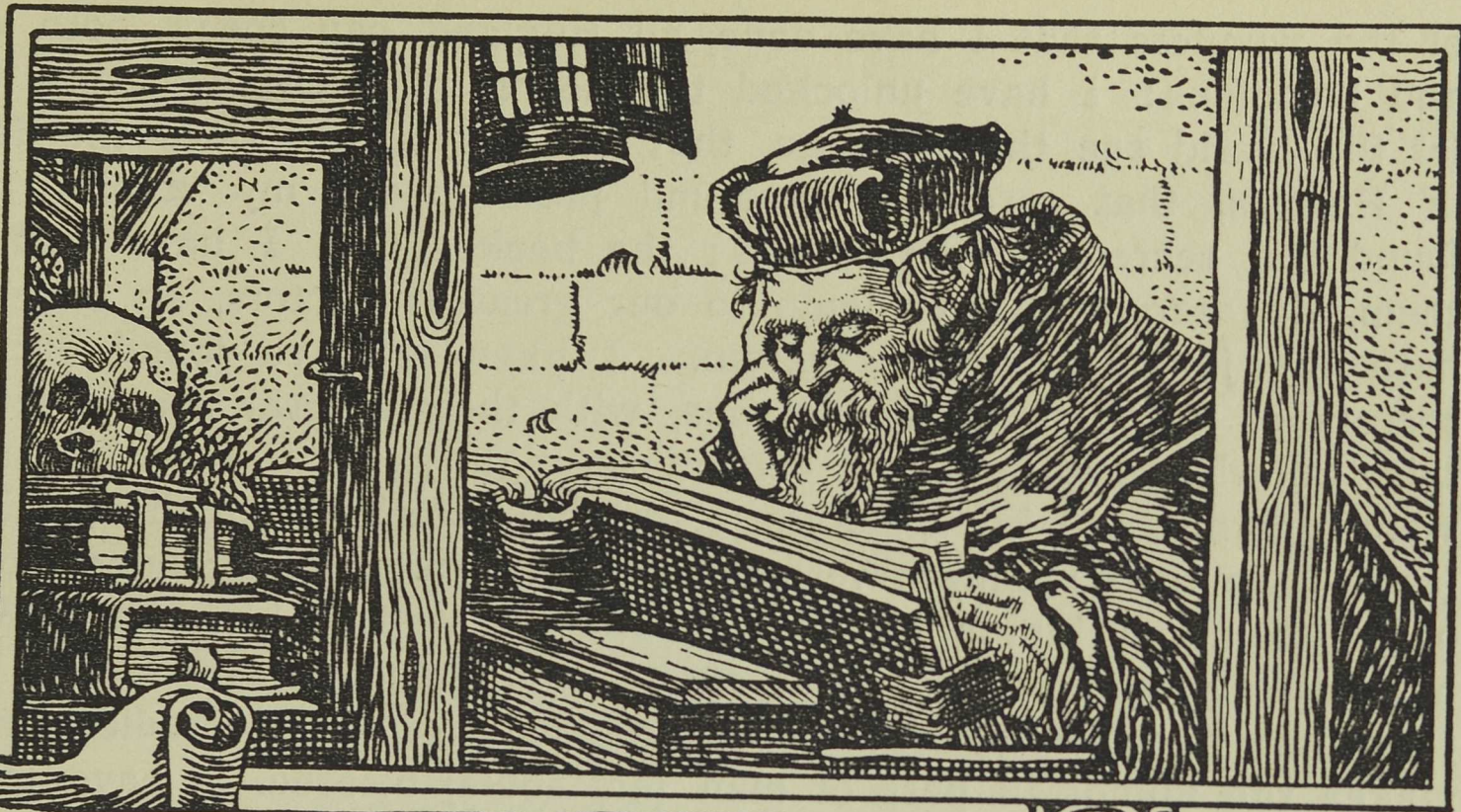


Fryer Bacon seeing them fall, ranne to them, but it was too late, for they were breathlesse ere he came. This made him to grieve exceedingly : he iudging that they had received the cause of their deaths by this glasse, tooke the glasse in his hand, and uttered words to this effect :

Wretched Bacon, wretched in thy knowledge, in thy understanding wretched: for thy art hath beene the ruine of these two gentlemen. Had I been busied in those holy things, the which mine order tyes me to, I had not had that time that made this wicked glasse: wicked I well may call it, that is the causer of so vile an act: would it were sensible, then should it feele my wrath: but being as it is, Ile ruin it for ruining of them: and with that he broke his rare and wonderfull glasse, whose like the whole world had not. In this grief of his, came their newes to him of the deaths of Vandermast and Fryer Bungey: This did increase his grieffe, and made him sorrowfull, that in three days he would not eate any thing but kept his chamber.







HOW FRYER BACON BURNT HIS BOOKS OF MAGICK, AND GAVE HIMSELFE TO THE STUDY OF DIVINITY ONLY; AND HOW HE TURNED ANCHORITE.

**I**N the time that Fryer Bacon kept his chamber, hee fell into divers meditations: sometimes into the vanity of arts and sciences: then would hee condemne himselfe for studying of those things that were so contrary to his order and soules health; and would say, that magicke made a man a Devill: sometimes would hee meditate on divinity; then would he cry out upon himselfe, for neglecting the study of it, and for studying magick: sometime would he meditate on the shortnesse of mans life, then would he condemne himselfe for spending a time so short, so ill as he had done his; so would he goe from one thing to another and in all condemne his former studies.

And that the world should know how truly he did repent his wicked life, he caused to be made a great fire; and sending for many of his friends, schollers, and others, he spake to them after this manner: My good friends and fellow students, it is not unknowne unto you, how that through my art I have attained to that credit, that few men living ever had:



of the wonders that I have done, all England can speak, both king and commons: I have unlocked the secret of art and nature, and let the world see those things, that have layen hid since the death of Hermes, that rare and profound philosopher: my studies have found the secrets of the starres; the bookes that I have made of them, doe serve for presidents to our greatest doctors, so excellent hath my judgment beene therein. I likewise have found out the secrets of trees, plants and stones, with their several uses; yet all this knowledge of mine I esteem so lightly, that I wish that I were ignorant, and knew nothing: for the knowledge of these things, (as I have truly found) serveth not to better a man in goodnesse, but onely to make him proud and thinke too well of himselfe. What hath all my knowledge of natures secrets gained me? Onely this, the losse of a better knowledge, the losse of divine studies, which makes the immortall part of man (his soule) blessed. I have found, that my knowledge has beene a heavy burden, and has kept downe my good thoughts: but I will remove the cause, which are these bookes: which I doe purpose here before you all to burne. They all intreated him to spare the bookes, because in them there were those things that after-ages might receive great benefit by. He would not hearken unto them, but threw them all into the fire, and in that flame burnt the greatest learning in the world. Then did he dispose of all his goods; some part he gave to poor schollers, and some he gave to other poore folkes: nothing left he for himselfe: then caused he to be made in the church-wall a cell, where he locked himselfe in, and there remained till his death. His time hee spent in prayer, meditation, and such divine exercises, and did seeke by all means to perswade men from the study of magicke. Thus lived he some two yeeres space in that cell, never comming forth: his meat and drink he received in at a window, and at that window he did discourse with those that came to him; his grave he digged with his owne nayles, and was laid there when he dyed. Thus was the Life and Death of this famous Fryer, who lived most part of his life a Magician, and dyed a true Penitent Sinner, and an Anchorite.











ROBERT THE DEUYLL  
A ROMANCE







ROBERT THE  
DEUYLL  
A ROMANCE



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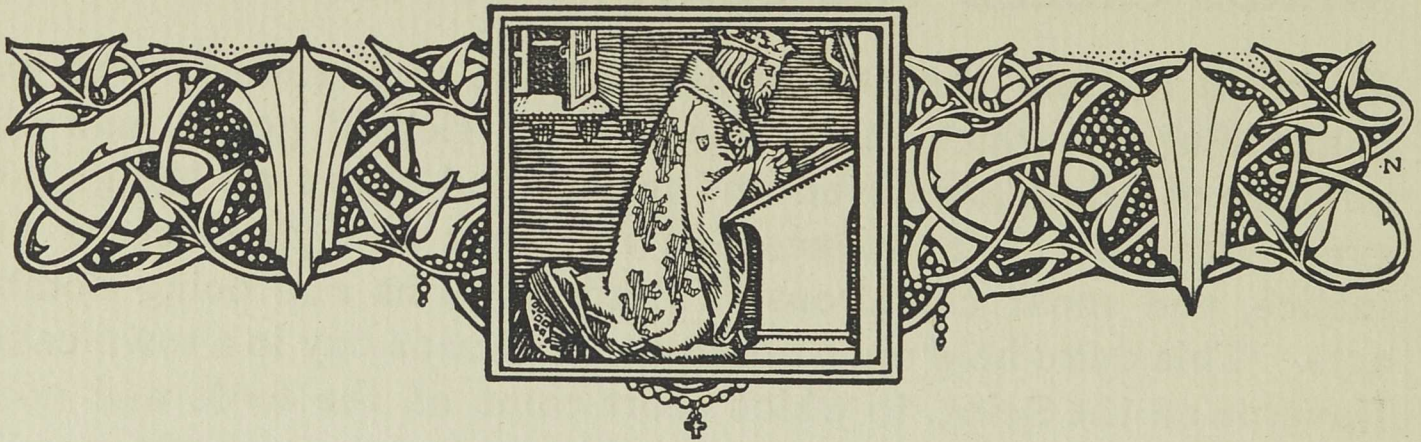
# **R**OBERT THE DEUYLL

HERE BEGINNETH THE LIFE OF THE MOST MISCHIEVOUS ROBERT THE DEVIL, WHO WAS AFTERWARDS CALLED THE SERVANT OF GOD.

IT befell in time past, there was a Duke of Normandy who was called Hubert, which duke was passing rich of goods, and also virtuous of living, and loved and feared God above all things, and great alms deeds, and exceeded all other in righteousness and justice, and most chivalrous in deeds of arms and doing notable acts. This duke held open house on Christmas day in a town called Naverne on the Seine, to which court came all the lords and noble blood of Normandy. And because this noble duke was not married his lords besought him to marry and take a wife to the intent that his lineage might be multiplied thereby and that they might have a rightful heir to inherit his lands after his decease. To which request this good duke answered, and said: "My Lords, what thing you think best for me to do shall be done, upon a condition, in that you



will that I be married, that you purvey me a wife according to my estate, for and if I shall accept any higher or nobler of blood than I am myself, that might not stand with right, and if I take one that is not of so noble a house as I am, that should be to me great shame and all my lineage, wherefore methinks it were better that I keep, as I am than to do that thing that should not be honest, and afterwards repent me." When these words were spoken, and well considered by the lords there present, then there rose up a wise baron, and said to the duke: "My lord, you speak very wisely, and like a noble prince, but if it please your Highness to give audience and hear me speak, I shall show you of a certain person of whom you shall enjoy yourself to hear of her and which you shall obtain I know well." Then answered the duke, and said, "Shew me then who that person is." "Gracious lord," said the baron unto the duke, "the Duke of Burgundy has a daughter which exceedeth all other in beauty, courtesy, and debonnair wisdom and good manners, the which you may have if you desire her, for I know well no man will say nay thereto." To the which the good duke answered and said, the lady pleased him right well, and that the baron had given him good and wise counsel. And in short time after that, this lady was demanded of her father, the Duke of Burgundy, which gave him her willingly. And then their bridal was kept honourably, which were too long to write.





HOW THE DUKE OF NORMANDY WITH GREAT ROYALTY BROUGHT HIS WIFE, THE DAUGHTER OF THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY, IN TO ROUEN IN NORMANDY, AFTER HE HAD MARRIED HER.



**A**FTER the aforesaid duke had married the said lady, he brought her with a great company of barons, knights, and ladies, with great triumph and glory, unto the land of Normandy, and in the city of Rouen, in the which city she was honourably received and with great melody, and there was great amity between the Burgundians and the Normans, which I let pass for to come sooner to my matter. The foresaid duke and duchess lived together the space of eighteen years without any child. Whether it were God's will it should be so, or it were through their own fault, I cannot judge, for it were better other whiles that some people had no children, and also it were better for the father and mother to get no children, than to lack of chastening, the children and father and mother should all go to the bad : yet was this duke and duchess devout people, who loved and feared God, and gave large alms ; and what time this duke would meddle with his lady, he ever prayed to God to send him a child, to honour and serve God, and to multiply and fortify his lineage ; but neither with prayer nor with alms deeds this good duke and duchess could get no children.

HOW UPON A TIME THIS DUKE AND DUCHESS WALKED ALONE, SORE COMPLAINING THE ONE TO THE OTHER THAT THEY COULD HAVE NO CHILDREN TOGETHER.



**U**PON a time this duke and duchess walked, and the duke began to show his mind to his lady, saying, "Madam, we be not fortunate in so much that we can get no children ; and they that made the marriage between us both they did great sin, for I believe and you had been given to another man, you should have had children, and I also if I had had an other lady." This



lady understood his saying : she answered softly, saying thus : “ Good lord, we must thank God of that which he sendeth us, and take it patiently what so ever it be.”

HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL WAS CONCEIVED,  
AND HOW HIS MOTHER GAVE HIM TO THE  
DEVIL IN HIS CONCEPTION.



HIS duke upon a time rode out a hunting in a great anger and pensiveness, for thought that he could have no child, sore complaining, saying to himself, I see many women have many fair children in which they joy greatly, by which I see well that I am hated of God, and marvel it is that I fall not in despair, for it grieveth me so sore at my heart that I can get no children. The devil, which is always ready to deceive mankind, tempted the good duke, and troubled his mind so that he wist not what to do nor say. Thus moved, he left his hunting and went home to his palace, where he found his lady also vexed and moved. As he came home he took her in his arms, and kissed her, and did his will with her, saying his prayers to our Lord, in this wise : “ O ! Lord Jesu, I beseech thee that I may get a child, at this hour, by which thou mayest be honoured and served.” But the lady, being so sore moved spake thus foolishly, and said : “ In the devil’s name be it, in so much as God has not the power that I conceive, and if I be conceived with child in this hour, I give it to the devil, body and soul.” And this same hour, that this duke and duchess were thus moved, the said lady was conceived with a man child, which in his life wrought much mischief, as ye shall hear after this, but afterwards he was converted, and did great penance, and died a holy man, as is shewn hereafter.







HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL WAS BORN, AND  
WHAT GREAT PAIN HIS MOTHER SUFFERED  
IN HIS BIRTH.

**T**HIS duchess, as we have heard before, was conceived with the aforesaid child, which she bare nine months as commonly women go with child; and ye may well perceive that this lady could not be delivered without great pain, for she travailed more than a month, and if good prayers had not been, and alms deeds, good works, and great penance done for her, she had died of child, for all the ladies and gentlewomen that were with her feared she would have perished and died in travail. Wherefore they were greatly abashed and afraid with the marvellous noise and tokens that they heard and saw in the birth of the said Robert the Devil, in that when the child was born, the sky waxed dark as though it had been night, as it is shewed in old chronicles, that it thundered and lightened so sore, that men thought the firmament had been opened, and all the world should have perished. And there blew so much wind out of the four quarters of the world, and was such storm and tempest, that all the house trembled so sore, that it shook a great piece of it to the earth, in so much that all they that were in the house weened that the world had been at an end, and that they, with the house and all, should have sunk. But in short time it pleased God that all this trouble ceased, and the weather cleared up, and the child was brought to church to be christened, which was named Robert. This child was large of stature at his birth and he had been a year old, whereof the people had great



wonder, and as this child was being brought to the church to be christened and home again, it never ceased howling and crying. And in short space he had long teeth wherewith he bit the nurses in such wise that there was no woman who durst suckle him, for he bit off the heads of their breasts, wherefore they were fain to bring him up with a horn. And when he was twelve months old, he could speak and could go alone better than other children that were three years old. And the older this child grew more crusted; and there was no man that could rule him: and when he found or could come by any children he smote and beat and cast stones at them, and broke their arms and legs and necks and scratched the eyes out of their heads, and therein was all his delight and pleasure.





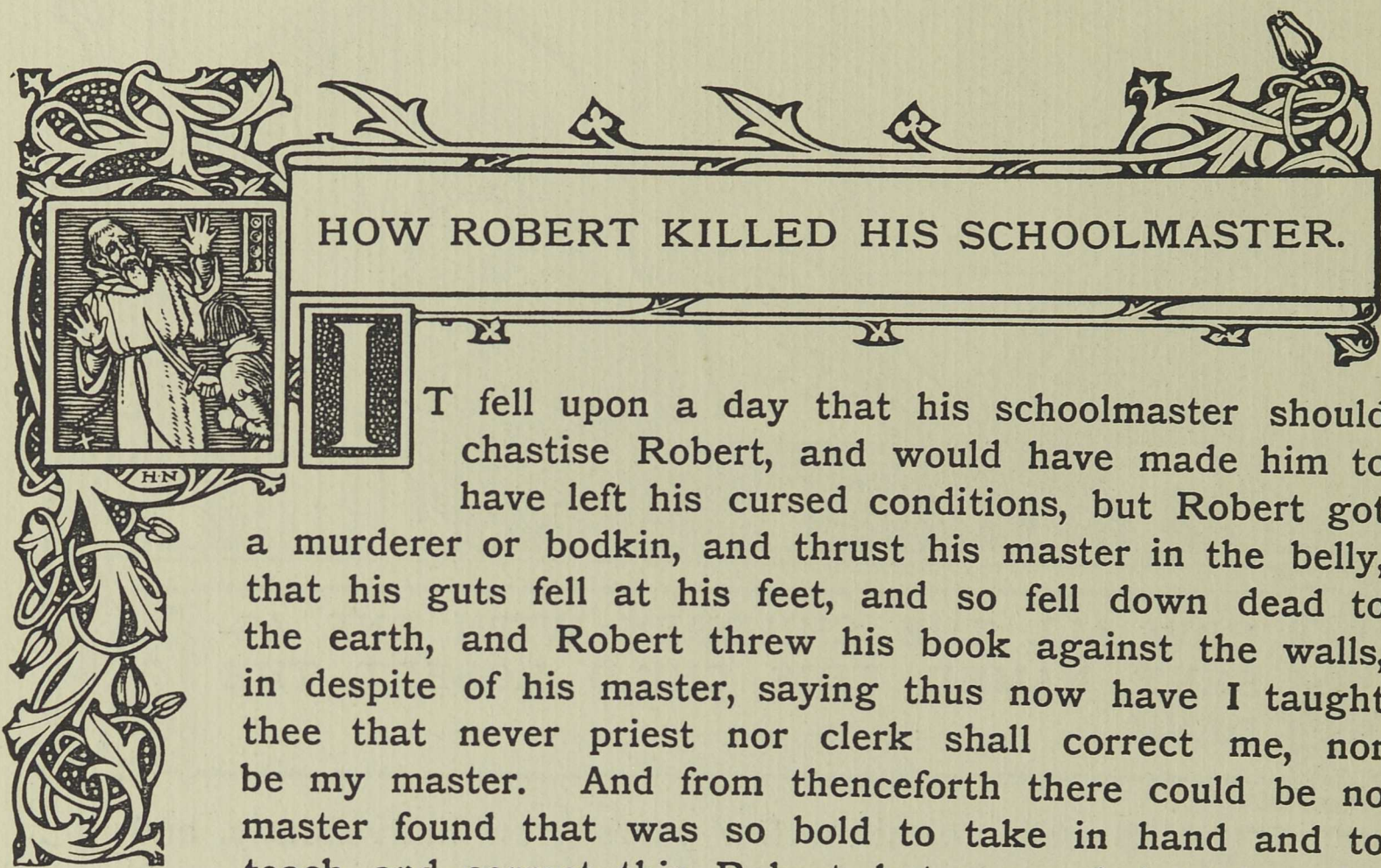


HOW ALL THE CHILDREN WITH ONE ASSENT NAMED THIS CHILD ROBERT THE DEVIL.

**T**HIS child within a few years grew marvellously, and more and more increased in all boldness and shrewdness, and set by no correction, but was ever smiting and cursed deeds doing. And some time there gathered together all the boys of the street to fight with him, but when they saw him they durst not abide him, but cried one to another, "Here cometh Robert!" and many another cried, "Here cometh the cursed mad Robert!" and some cried, "Here cometh Robert the Devil!" and thus crying they voided all the streets, for they durst not abide and look him in the face, and forthwith the children that knew him with one assent called him Robert the Devil, which name he kept during his life, and shall do as long as the world standeth. When this child was seven years old or thereabout, the duke his father seeing and considering his wicked conditions, called him and said unto him thus, "My son me think it necessary and time for me to get you a wise schoolmaster, to learn virtues and doctrine, for ye be of age enough," and when the duke had thus said, he betook his son to



a good, discreet, and wise schoolmaster to rule and teach him all good conditions and manners.



## HOW ROBERT KILLED HIS SCHOOLMASTER.

**L**T fell upon a day that his schoolmaster should chastise Robert, and would have made him to have left his cursed conditions, but Robert got a murderer or bodkin, and thrust his master in the belly, that his guts fell at his feet, and so fell down dead to the earth, and Robert threw his book against the walls, in despite of his master, saying thus now have I taught thee that never priest nor clerk shall correct me, nor be my master. And from thenceforth there could be no master found that was so bold to take in hand and to teach and correct this Robert, but were glad to let him alone and have his own ways, and he put himself to vice and mischief, and to no manner of virtue nor grace, nor would he learn for no man living, but mocked both God and holy church. And when he came to the church and found the priests and clerks singing God's service, he came privily behind them, and cast ashes or dust in their mouths in despite of God. And when he saw anybody in the church busy with their prayers, he would come behind them and give them a souse in the neck that their heads kissed the ground in so much that everybody cursed him for his wicked deeds doing. And the duke his father seeing his mischievous disposition and cursed life of his son, he was so angry with himself, that he wished himself many times dead and out of the world. And the duchess in likewise was greatly moved and much sorrowful by cause of the mischievous life of her son, saying in this wise, "My Lord, our son is now of sufficient age and able to bear arms, wherefore me think it were best that ye made him knight, if then he would remember the order











of knighthood, whereby he might leave his wickedness." The duke was herewithal content. And Robert had at that time but eighteen years of age.



### HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL WAS MADE A KNIGHT BY THE DUKE HIS FATHER.

**H**IS duke assembled upon a high feast of Whitsuntide, all his barons and nobles of his land, and the next of his kin and friends, in the presence of whom he called his son to him saying thus, "Hearken, my son Robert, and take heed what I shall tell you, it is so by the advice of my counsel and good friends, I am now advised to make you a knight, to the intent that ye with other knights to haunt chivalry and knights conditions, to the intent that ye shall leave and forsake your vices and most hateful life." Robert hearing this, answered his father, "I shall do your commandment, but as for the order of knighthood I set nothing thereby, for there is no degree shall cause me leave my conditions nor change my life, for I am not in that mind to do no better than I have done hitherto, nor to amend for no man living." It was the custom of that land, that on Whitsunnight the church should be watched, and tended with much people, and thither came Robert like a madman, and overthrowing all them that came in his way fearing neither God nor the Devil, and he was never still all the night, and in the morning when it was day Robert was made a knight. Then this duke commanded a tournament to be made in which the said Robert wrought maystyes and did marvellous deeds of arms, in killing and bringing down horse and man, no man refusing nor fearing. Of some he brake arms and some legs, and bore them through and killed them out of hand; from him went none unmarked in which jousting Robert killed ten horses: the duke hearing how his son mischiefed and murdered all that came in his hands, he went himself into the tournament and commanded upon a great pain to cease and run no more; then Robert roared for anger and would not



obey his father's commandment but abode still in the field smiting some that he killed of the most valiant that thither were come to tourney, then every man cried upon Robert to cease, but it availed not, for he would not cease for no man, nor was there no man so bold to encounter him, for because that he was so strong this Robert did so much mischief that all the people were in a roar, and assembled all with one assent in a great anger and ran to the duke complaining, saying thus : " Lord, ye be greatly to blame that ye suffer your son to do as he doth ; we beseech you for God's sake to find some remedy for him, to cause him to cease or leave his misrule."





HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL RODE ABOUT THE COUNTRY OF NORMANDY, ROBBING, STEALING, MURDERING, AND BURNING CHURCHES, ABBEYS AND OTHER HOLY PLACES OF RELIGION, AND FORCING OF WOMEN, AND RAVISHING OF MAIDENS.



WHEN when Robert saw there was no man more left in the field, and that he could do no more mischief there, then he took his horse with the spurs to seek his adventures, and began to do every day more harm than the other one, for he forced and ravished maidens and wives without number, he killed murdered so much people, that it was pity, also he robbed churches, abbeys, hermitages and farms, there was not an abbey in all the country but he robbed and pillaged them, these wicked deeds of Robert came to the ears of the good duke, and all they that were thus robbed and rebuked came to complain of the great outrage and suppression done by Robert, and still was doing through all the country. One said, "My lord your son has forced my wife," another said, "he hath ravished my daughter," the other said, "he hath stolen my goods, and robbed my house;" and other said, "he hath wounded me to death," with many similar offences. Thus lay they grievously complaining before the good duke, that great pity it was to see the good duke hearing the grievous and lamentable complaints of the great murder done by Robert his son, throughout all the land of Normandy. Then his heart was suppressed with so great sorrow and thought that the salt tears burst out of his eyes, and he wept tenderly and said; "O right wise God creator of heaven and earth, I have so many times prayed you to send me a child and all my delight was to have a son, to the intent that I might of him have great joy, and solace. And now I have one, the which doth my heart so much pain, sorrow and thought that I wot in no wise what to begin, nor do, nor say thereto, but good Lord only I cry upon thee for help, and remedy to be a little released of my pain and sorrow."



HOW THE DUKE SENT OUT MEN OF ARMS FOR TO TAKE ROBERT HIS SON, WHICH ROBERT TOOK THEM ALL, AND PUT OUT THEIR EYES IN DESPITE OF HIS FATHER, AND SENT THEM SO HOME AGAIN.



HERE was a knight of the duke's house which perceived that this good duke was very sorrowful and pensive, and knew no remedy; then this knight said and spake to him: "My Lord Duke, I would advise you to send for your son Robert and let him be brought to your presence, and there before your nobles, and next friends to rebuke him, and then command him to leave his cursed life, and if he will not, ye to do justice upon him as on a strange man: hereto the duke consented, and thought the knight gave him good counsel, and incontinently he sent out men to seek

Robert, and in any wise they to bring him to his presence: this Robert, hearing of the complaints made of him of all the people upon him unto his father, and that his father had sent out men to take him, wherefore all them that he could get, he put out their eyes, and so he took the men that his father sent for him, and put out their eyes in despite of his father; and when he had thus blinded his father's servants, he said to them in mocking, "Sirs, now shall ye sleep the better; go now home to my father, and tell him that I set little by him, and because he sendeth you to bring me to him, therefore to his despite I have put out your eyes." These poor servants which the duke had sent for Robert his son, came home with great pain and in great heaviness saying thus: "O good Lord see how your son Robert that ye did send us for hath arrayed us, and blinded us." The good duke seeing his men in this case, he waxed very angry, and full of ire, and began to compass in his mind how and by what means he might come by to take Robert his son.



HOW THE DUKE OF NORMANDY MADE A PROCLAMATION THROUGHOUT HIS LAND, HOW MEN SHOULD TAKE ROBERT HIS SON, WITH ALL HIS COMPANY, AND BRING THEM EVERYONE TO PRISON.

**W**HEN spake a wise lord, saying thus, "my Lord take no more thought for ye shall never see the day that Robert your son will come in your presence in so much, as he hath done so great and grievous offences to your commons, and your own messengers that ye send for him; but it were of necessity for you to correct and punish him for his great offences, that he daily doth, and hath done, for we find it written, that the law bindeth you thereto." The duke willing to accomplish the counsel of his lords sent out messengers in all haste, unto all the ports, good towns and barons throughout all his dukedom commanding on his behalf all sheriffs, bailiffs and other officers to do their utmost diligence to take Robert his son prisoner and to hold and keep him surely in prison with all his company and *affinyte*. When Robert heard of this proclamation, he with all his company were sore afraid of the duke's malice and when Robert saw this he was almost out of his wits for anger and whetted his teeth like a boar, and swore a great oath saying thus, "That he would have open war with his father, and subdue and spoil all his lordship."







HOW ROBERT MADE HIM A STRONG HOUSE  
IN A DARK THICK WILDERNESS, WHERE  
HE WROUGHT MISCHIEF WITHOUT COM-  
PARISON AND ABOVE ALL MEASURE OR  
NATURAL REASON.

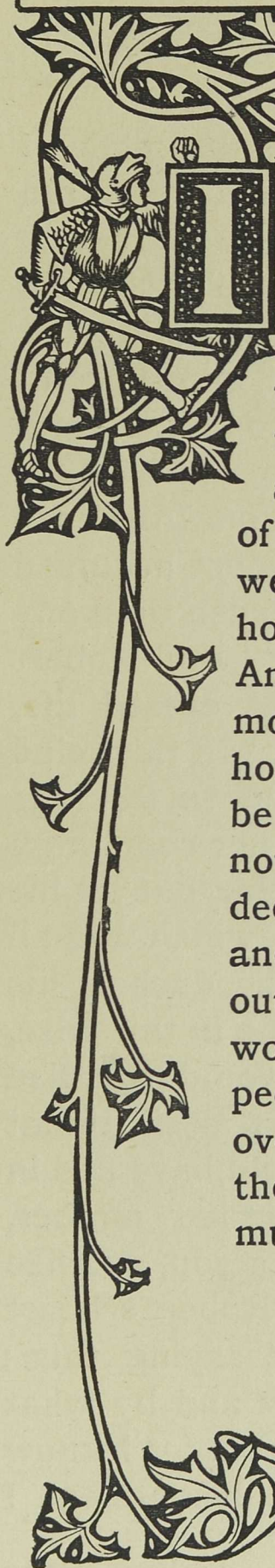
**T**HEN when Robert heard and knew of the fore-  
said things, he let make in a thick, wild forest  
a strong house, wherein he made his dwelling-  
place, and this place was wild and strong and  
meter for wild beasts, than for any people to abide in, and  
there Robert assembled and gathered for his company all  
the most mischievous and false thieves that he could find or  
hear of in his father's land, to wit, murderers, thieves, street  
robbers, rebels, burners of churches and houses, forcers of  
women, robbers of churches, and the most wicked and  
accursed thieves that were under the sun. Robert had  
gathered to do him service whereof he was Captain and in  
the foresaid wilderness Robert with his company did so  
much mischief that no tongue can tell, he murdered  
merchants and all that came by the way, no man durst look  
out or come abroad for fear of Robert and his company, of  
whom every man was afraid, for they robbed all the country,  
in so much, that no man durst look out, but they were killed  
by Robert or his men, also poor pilgrims that went on  
pilgrimage were murdered by Robert and his company, in  
so much, that every man fled from them like as the sheep  
fled from the wolf, for they were as wolves waring, slaying  
all that they could come by, and thus Robert and his com-  
pany led an ungracious life; also he was a great glutton in  
eating and drinking and never fasting, though it were never  
so great a fasting day. In lent or on Ember days, he ate  
flesh, as well on Fridays as on Sundays, but after he had  
done all this mischief, he suffered great pain as hereafter ye  
shall hear.



## HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL KILLED SEVEN HERMITS.



**I**T befel upon at time that Robert, which ever imagined and studied in his mind how and by what means he might do most mischief and murder, as he had been ever accustomed before he rode out of his house or thievish nest to seek his prey, and in the middle of the wood he saw seven holy hermits, to whom he rode as fast as he could with his sword ready drawn, like a man out of his mind, and there he slew seven holy hermits, the which were bold and good men, but they were so virtuous and holy that they suffered the martyrdom for the love of God. And when he had slain these seven devout men, he spake in mockery, and said, "I have found here a nest of a many pope holy *horsons* whom I have shaven their crowns: I trow they be drunk, they were wont to kneel upon their knees, and now they lie upon their backs." There did Robert a cursed deed and blood shedding, in despite of God and holy church, and after that he had done this mischievous deed he rode out of the wood like a devil out of hell, seeming worse than wood, and his clothes were all dyed red with the blood of the people he had murdered and slain, and thus arrayed he rode over the fields, and clothes, hands, face were all red with the blood of the holy hermits, which he had so piteously murdered in the wilderness.





HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL RODE TO HIS MOTHER THE DUCHESS OF NORMANDY, BEING IN THE CASTLE OF DARQUES: SHE WAS COME TO A FEAST.



**R**OBERT rode so far and so long, that he came to the castle of Darques; but he met before with a shepherd which had told him that his mother the duchess should come to the said castle to dinner, and so he rode thither. But when Robert came there, and the people saw him come, they ran away from him, like the hare from the hounds; one ran and shut him in his house, an other ran into the church for fear. Robert seeing this, that all the people fled from him for fear, he began to sigh in his heart, and said to himself,—O! Almighty God, how may this be, that every man fleeth thus from me! Now I perceive that I am the most mischievous and the most accursed wretch of this world, for I sente better to be a Jew or a Saracen than any Christian man and I see well that I am worst of all ill. Alas! said Robert the Devil, I may well hate and curse my ungracious and cursed life, wherefore I am worthy to be hated of God and the world. In this mind and heaviness came Robert to the castle gate, and alighted down from his horse, but there was no man that durst abide about him, nor come nigh him to hold his horse, and he had no servant to serve him, but let his horse stand there at the gate, and drew out of his sword, which was all bloody, and incontinent took the way to the hall where the duchess his mother was. When the duchess saw Robert her son come in this wise, with a bloody sword in his hand, she was sore afraid, and would have fled away from him, for she knew well his condition. Robert, seeing that every body did flee from him and that his own mother would have fled in likewise, he called unto her piteously afar, and said: “Sweet lady mother, be not afraid of me, but stand still, till I have spoken with you, and flee not from me in the worship of Christ’s passion.” Then Robert’s heart being full of thought and repentance, went nigher her, saying thus: “Dear lady mother, I pray and require you tell me how and by what manner or whereby cometh it that I am so vicious and cursed, for I know well I have it other by you or of my father: wherefore incontinent I heartily desire and pray you shew me the truth thereof.”













HOW THE DUCHESS DESIRED ROBERT HER SON TO SMITE OFF HER HEAD, AND THEN SHE TOLD HIM HOW SHE HAD GIVEN HIM TO THE DEVIL IN HIS CONCEPTION.



HE duchess had greatly marvelling when she heard her son speak these words, and piteously weeping, with a sorrowful heart saying thus to him: "My dear son, I require you heartily that you will smite off my head."

This said the lady for the very great pity that she had upon him, for because she had given him to the devil in his conception. Robert answered his mother with a heavy and piteous cheer, saying thus: "O! dear mother, why should I do so, that so much mischief have done, and this should be the worst deed that ever I did; but I pray you to shew me that I desire to wit of you." Then the duchess, hearing his hearty desire, told him the cause why he was so vicious and full of mischief and how she gave him to the devil in his conception, herself mispraising, said thus unto Robert: "O! son, I am the most unfortunate woman living, and I acknowledge that it is all my fault that ye be so cursed and wicked a liver."







## HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL TOOK LEAVE OF HIS MOTHER.



ROBERT hearing his mother's saying he fell down to the earth in a swoon, for very great sorrow a lay still a long while, then he removed again and came to himself and began bitterly to weep and complain, saying thus: "The fiends of hell be with great diligence to apply them to get and have my body and soul, but now from this time forth, I forsake them all their work, and will never do more harm but good, and amend my life and leave my sins and do penance therefor," then after this Robert spake to his mother, the which was in great sorrow and heaviness, saying thus: "O most reverend lady mother I heartily beseech and require you, that it will please you to have me recommended unto my father; for I will take the way to Rome to be assoiled of my sins, which are innumerable, and too abominable to recount. Therefore will I never sleep one night there I sleep another till I come at Rome, and God will."

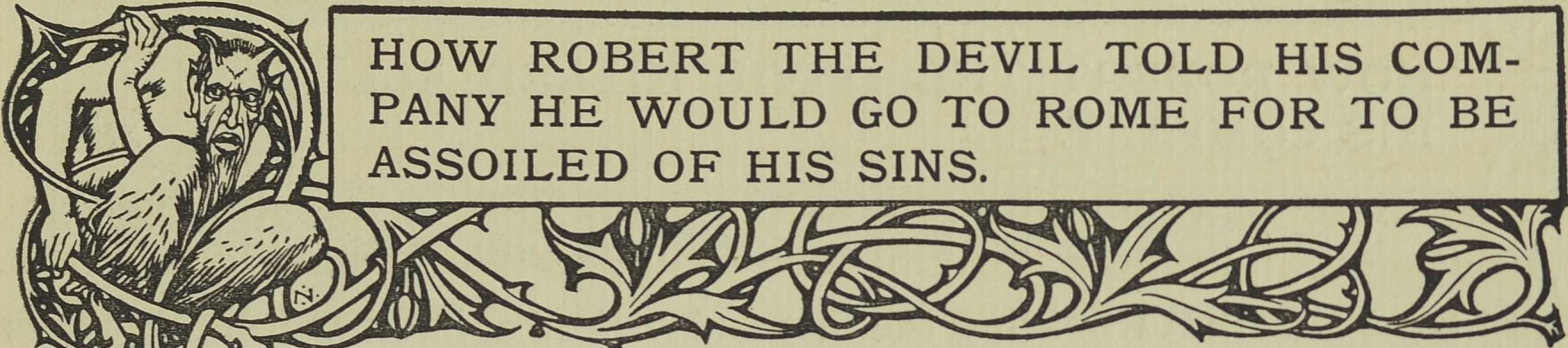
## HOW ROBERT DEPARTED FROM HIS MOTHER, AND RODE INTO THE WILDERNESSS WHERE HE FOUND HIS COMPANY.



ROBERT in great haste lighted upon his horse and rode to the wood where he had left his company the which he found. The duchess made great lamentation for her son Robert, which had taken his leave of her, and said many times to herself, "Alas, what shall I do for it is all my fault that Robert my son hath done so much mischief:" and in the mean while that the duchess made this sorrow and bewailing for her son Robert in came the duke into the chamber, and as soon as she saw him she began to tell him of his son Robert piteously weeping; shewing him what he had said and done, then the good duke asked whether Robert was disposed to leave his vicious life, and if he were sorry for his great offences, "Yea, my lord," said she, "he is sore repentant," then began the duke sore to sigh and said, "Alas, it is all in vain, that Robert thinketh to do, for I hear he shall never have



power to make restitution of the hurts and harms the which he hath done in his life, but I beseech Almighty God to prolong his life, and send him a respite that he may amend his life, and do penance for his sins."



HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL TOLD HIS COMPANY HE WOULD GO TO ROME FOR TO BE ASSOILED OF HIS SINS.

**N**OW is Robert come again to his company which he found sitting at dinner, and when they saw him they rose up and did him reverence; then Robert began to rebuke them for their vicious living saying thus, "My well-beloved fellows, I require you in the reverence of God, that ye will hearken, and take heed to this that I shall shew you, you know well how that we have led hitherto an ungracious and most vicious life, robbed and pillaged churches, forced women, ravished maidens, robbed and killed merchants. "We have robbed and killed nuns, holy anchorites, priests, clerks, and many other people without number have we murdered and robbed, wherefore we be in the way of endless damnation, except that God have mercy upon us. Wherefore I require you everyone for God's sake that ye will change your opinion, and leave your abominable sins, and do penance therefor, for I will go to Rome to be shriven and to have penance for my sins." When Robert had thus said, one of the thieves rose and said to his company in mockery, "Now, sirs, take heed the fox will be an anchorite for he beginneth to preach, Robert mocketh fast with us for he is our captain, and doth more harm alone than all we do, how think ye, will he be long thus holy." Yet said Robert, "Gentle fellows I pray you for God's sake, leave your conditions, and think on our soul, and do penance for your most fell, stinking sins, and cry upon our lord for mercy and forgiveness, and he will forgive you." When Robert had said this, then spake to him one of the thieves and said, "I pray you master be in peace, for it availeth not what you say, ye do but spend your time in waste, for I nor my company will not amend our life for no man living." And all his



company commended him saying, and said all with one voice, "He sayeth true, for an we should die we will not leave our old conditions and cursed life, but and if we have done much hurt hitherto we will do much more hereafter."

HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL KILLED ALL HIS COMPANY.



**R**OBERT hearing the fast and wicked opinion and mischievous purpose of his company, waxed angry, and thought if they remain and abide still here, they will do great mischief and murder, but he went privily to the door and shut it fast, and got a great staff and laid one of the thieves on the head that he fell down dead to the earth. And so he served one after another till he had killed them every one, then said he thus to them, "Sirs, I have rewarded you after your desert, and by cause you have done me good service, I have given you good wages, for whosoever serveth a good master, he is like to have good wages." When Robert thus had done he would have burnt the house, but he considered the great good that was therein, wherefore he let it stand, shut fast the doors and locked them and brought away the key with him to his father's.







HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL SENT THE KEY OF HIS CHIEF HOUSE OR THIEVISH LODGING TO HIS FATHER'S THE DUKE OF NORMANDY, AND HOW HE WENT TO ROME.



THEN when Robert had done all that said is, he took up his hand and blessed him, and rode through the forest the near way to Rome. Robert rode that day so long till the night came on, and was passing sore and hungered, for he had eaten no meat of all that day, and fortun'd to come riding by an abbey, which he had many times robbed, and the abbot was his kinsman and Robert rode into this abbey and said never a word, but when the monks saw Robert come they were afraid, and ran away, saying one to another, "Here cometh the ungracious Robert, the devil hath brought him hither." When Robert heard this, and saw them all run away from him, then his sorrow began to renew, and said in himself, in sore sighing and sorrowful heart: "I may well hate my cursed life, for every man fleeth from me, and I have spent my time ungraciously, and in evil and cursed works," and there withal he rode straight in the church door and alighted down from his horse, devoutly saying his prayers to God in this wise, "O Lord Jesu I most sinful wretch and vessel of all stinking sins. I pray thee that thou wilt have mercy on me and preserve and keep me from all dangers and peril." And then he went and spoke to the abbot and monks so sweetly and so piteously and aimably that they began to go towards him to whom Robert said piteously, weeping kneeling on his knees. "My Lord I knowledge myself that I have grievously offended you, and have great harm and injury unto your abbey. Wherefore I require and pray you in all the honour of Christ's passion of forgiveness." And then he spake to the abbot in this wise, "My Lord Abbot I pray you heartily have me recommended to my lord my father the Duke of Normandy, and deliver him this key of the chief house where I have dwelled with my company, the which I have all slain to the intent that they should do no more harm, and in the house lieth all the goods and treasure that I have stolen from you and other men, wherefore I am right sorry, and I beseech you of forgiveness, and I pray you that this good may be rendered again unto such people as they have belonged to before." Robert abode that



night in the abbey, but in the morning early he went thence and left behind him his horse and his sword wherewith he had done great mischief. And so he went alone towards Rome. And on the same day rode the abbot to the Duke of Normandy, and gave him the key that Robert had delivered him, and told the duke how he was gone to Rome. Then the duke gave all the people their goods again that they lost before as far as it could be found in the house. We will cease of the duke and the abbot, and speak of Robert which goeth to Romeward alone with great devotion.



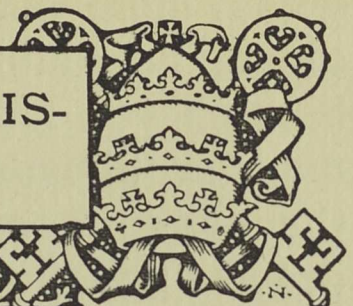




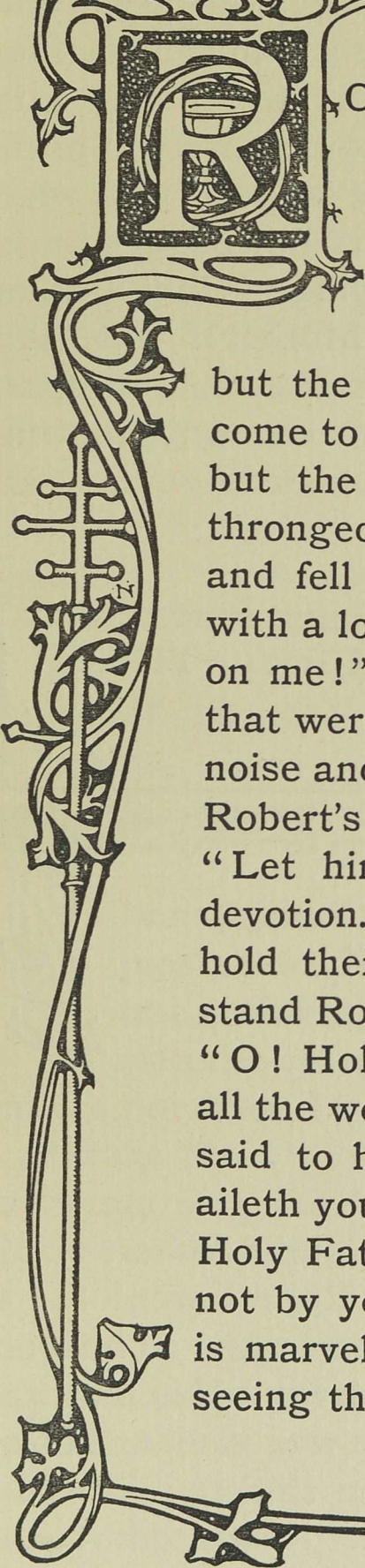








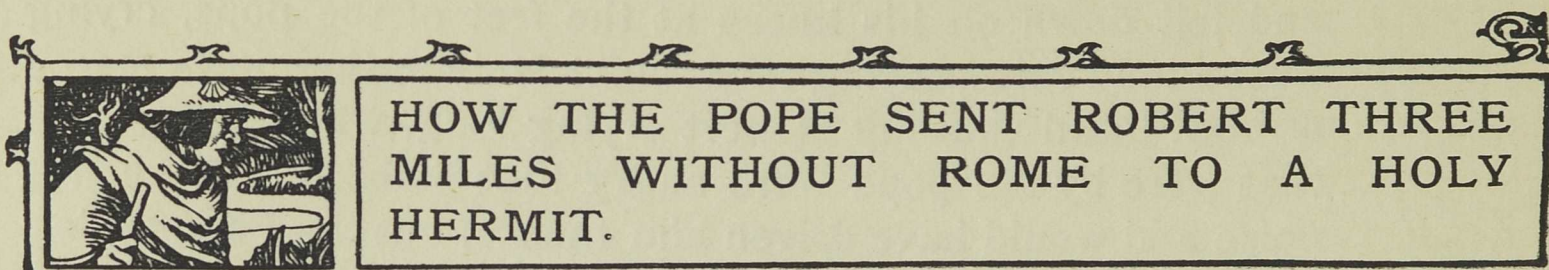
HOW ROBERT CAME TO ROME FOR REMISSION OF HIS SINS.



**R**OBERT went so long over hills and dales alone, till at last with great pain and poverty he came to Rome in to the city, upon a shere Thursday at night, and on the Friday after, the Pope himself said the divine service, as the custom was in St Peter's Church; and Robert pressed fast to have come to the Pope, but the Pope's servants saw that Robert pressed so sore to come to the pope, they smote him, and bade him go back: but the more they smote him, the more he pressed and thronged to get nigh the Pope, and so at last he gat to him, and fell down on his knees at the feet of the pope, crying with a loud voice, saying thus: "O! Holy Father, have mercy on me!" and thus lay Robert crying long, while the people that were by the pope were angry that Robert made such a noise and would have driven him thence, but the Pope seeing Robert's great desire, had pity upon him, said to the people, "Let him alone, for in all that I can see he hath great devotion." Wherefore the Pope commanded them all to hold their peace, that he might the better hear and understand Robert. Then said Robert to the Pope in this manner: "O! Holy Father, I am the most and the greatest sinner of all the world!" The Pope took Robert up by the hand, and said to him: "Good friend, what is your desire, and what aileth you to make all this noise?" Then said Robert: "O! Holy Father, I beseech you to hear my confession, for I be not by you assoiled, I am damned world without end, for it is marvel that the devil bare me not away body and soul, seeing the foul innumerable sin that I am laden and bounden



withal more than any man living; and in so much that ye are he that giveth help and comfort to them that have need, therefore I humbly beseech you for the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ to hear and purge me of my abominable sins whereby I am deceived and departed from all the joys of heaven, and I am worse than a Jew." The Pope hearing this, deemed and thought in himself whither this were Robert the Devil, and asked him, "Son, be ye Robert the which I have heard so much speaking of, the which is worst of all men." Then Robert answered and said, "Yea." Then the Pope said; "I will assoil you, but I conjure you in the name of God that ye do no man harm." The Pope and all that were about him were afraid to look upon Robert. Robert fell on his knees with great devotion and repentance of his sins, saying, "Holy Father, nay as long as I live I promise God and His blessed Mother I will never hurt Christian creature." Then incontinently the Pope took Robert apart, and heard his confession, to whom Robert shrove him devoutly, shewing how his mother had given him to the devil in his conception, whereof the Pope was sore afraid.



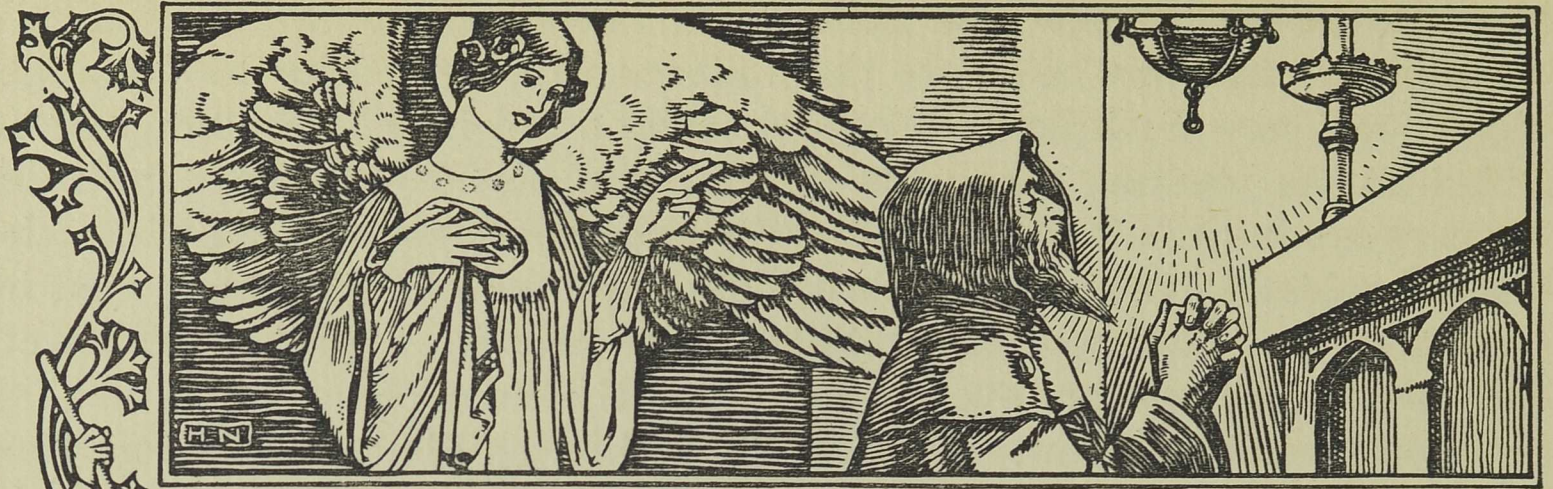
**T**HE Pope this hearing was greatly abashed, and blessed him, and said to Robert: "My dear son, you must go three miles without the town, and then ye shall find a hermit which is my ghostly father, and to him ye shall confess you, and say that I send you to him, and he shall assoil you." Robert answered the Pope: "I will go with a good will;" and took his leave of the Pope saying, "God give me grace to do that may be to the health of my soul." So that night Robert abode in Rome, for it was late, and in the early morning Robert went out of Rome, toward the place where he should find the hermit; and so he went so long over hills and dales with great desire to be shriven of his sins, and at last he came where the hermit dwelled, whereof he was glad, and came to the hermit and told him how the Pope had sent him thither to be confessed of him. Then the hermit said he was heartily welcome; and within a while Robert began to confess and shew his sin, and first he



shewed the hermit how his mother had given him to the devil in his conception; and how he smote the children in his youth or he could go alone; and how he killed his schoolmaster; and how many knights he killed at the jousting when his father made him knight; and he rode through his father's land, robbing and stealing, forcing women and ravishing of maidens; and how he thrust out the eyes of his father's men in despite of him; and how he had killed seven hermits, and shortly shewed him all the offences that ever he did, since the hour of his birth till that time, whereof the hermit had marvel, but he was glad that Robert was repentant of his sins. When Robert had thus confessed him, the hermit said to him: "Son, this night ye shall abide here, and tomorrow I shall give good counsel of that ye have to do." Robert that was so cursed and mischievous, fearful cruel, and proud as a lion, is now as gentle and courteous, and sweet of words, and wise in his deeds, as ever was any duke or prince living. Then Robert was so weary and overcome with going that he could neither eat nor drink, but went apart and said his prayers to Almighty God, praying him through his infinite mercy, that he would keep him from the fiend's temptation and deceit, the hermit made Robert to lie that night in a little chapel that stood high to his cell, and the hermit prayed all the night to our Lord for Robert, which saw that he had great repentance for his sins, and thus praying the hermit fell asleep.







HOW GOD SENT AN ANGEL TO THE HERMIT TO SHEW HIM THE PENANCE HE SHOULD GIVE TO ROBERT FOR HIS SINS.

**T**HE hermit being thus asleep, there came to him an angel, saying to him in this wise: "Holy Father, hear and take heed of the message that God commandeth thee; if that Robert will be shriven of his sins, he must keep and counterfeit the ways of a fool, and be as he were dumb; and he may eat no manner of meat, but that he can take it from the dogs; and in this wise without speaking and counterfeiting the fool, and nothing eating but what he can take from the dogs must he be till time that it please God to shew him that his sin be forgiven;" and with this vision the hermit awoke out of his sleep, and began to remember himself of this that said is, and thanked the Lord of his message down to him. And when the day began to appear the hermit called Robert unto him, with fair and comfortable words saying to him, "My friend, come hither to me"; and incontinently Robert came to him with great devotion, him confessing. And when Robert had shriven him, the hermit said thus unto him: "Son, I thought and advised me of the penance that ye shall have, to get remission of your sins, in which ye greatly offended against God, that is to wit ye must counterfeit and play the fool; and ye may eat no meat but that ye can take it from the dogs when men give them aught; also you must keep you dumb without speech, and lie among dogges, for thus hath God this night commanded me by



an angel to give you this for your penance, and ye may offend no man the while your penance be a doing ; and this penance ye must do for your sins in manner and form as I have told you, till such time as it shall please your Lord to send you word that your sins be forgiven." Robert being merry and glad, thanking our Lord that he was assoiled of his sins and had therefore so light penance as he thought that it was. Now taketh Robert leave of the hermit, and goeth to do his sharp penance, which he held but light, remembering his great abominable stinking sins that he hath done all the days of his life ; this was a fair miracle, for he that was so vicious and so furious a rebel, and proud a sinner, is now so full of virtues and fair conditions and tame as a lamb.

HOW ROBERT THE DEVIL TOOK LEAVE OF THE HERMIT AND WENT AGAIN TO ROME TO DO HIS PENANCE THAT THE HERMIT HAD GIVEN HIM.



**R**OBERT had taken leave of the hermit, there for to his penance. And when he came unto the city he began to leap and run about the streets, making himself as he had been a fool, and the children in the streets saw Robert run in this way, and they after him shouting and crying and casting with mire and dirt and all such filth as they found in the streets, and the burgesses of the city lay in their windows and laughed and mocked with Robert. Then when Robert has thus played the fool in Rome a certain season, he came on a time to the Emperor's Court and saw the gate did stand open, and came straight into the hall and there jetted up and down from the one side to the other, sometime he went fast and sometime softly and then he hopped and ran and other while stood still, but he stood not long in one place. The Emperor seeing Robert thus playing the fool, he said to one of his servants, see yonder is a fair favoured young man, me think he is out of his mind, the which is a great pity, for he is fair and a well made man, go and give him meat. This Emperor's servant did as he was commanded, and called Robert to him and would have



given him some meat, but Robert would neither eat nor drink, and while Robert sat thus at the table, the Emperor saw one of his hounds which was bitten with another dog; wherefore the Emperor cast him a bone, and the dog caught the bone and began to gnaw thereon, and Robert seeing that leaped from the table and took it from him, but the dog fought with Robert for the bone and held fast the one end and Robert the other end, but Robert saw it would be no better but sat him down on the ground and gnawed on the one end of the bone and the dog on the other; the Emperor and they that looked on laughed at Robert and the dog, but Robert did so much that he got the bone alone, and lay and gnawed it for he was sore hungered; the Emperor seeing that Robert was so sore hungered he cast to another dog a whole loaf, but Robert took it from him and brake it in two pieces, and gave the dog half, for because he got it for the dog's sake, the Emperor seeing this laughed thereat and said to his servants; "we have here now the most foolish fool, and the veriest neddy that ever I saw, for he taketh the dogs meat from them, and eateth it himself, thereby a man may perfectly know that he is a natural fool;" all that were in the hall gave the dogs as much meat as they might eat, to the intent that Robert might fill his belly with them, and when he had filled his belly he rose up and walked up and down in the hall with a staff in his hand smiting upon stools and benches like as and if he had been a very innocent fool. And thus walking he looked on every side, and saw a door where men went in to a fair garden in the which garden there stood a fair fountain or well, and thither went Robert to drink, for he was evil athirst, and when night came on Robert followed the aforesaid dog where so ever he went, the which was accustomed to lie every night under a stair and there he went and laid him down by the dog. The Emperor seeing this had compassion on Robert and commanded that men should bear him a bed, that he might lie thereon to sleep; anon two servants brought Robert a bed to sleep on, but he pointed to bear it away again, for he had liefer to lie on the floor and cold earth than upon a soft bed, whereof the Emperor had great marvel, and commanded that men should bear him clean straw, which they did, then Robert which was faint and weary of going, laid him down to sleep on the straw. Now have this in your minds, ye proud hearts and sinners think on Robert's great penance and wilful poverty, and how he so great a gentleman born, forsook his father and his mother, and all his friends, and his country and land, and all his delicate meats and drinks, and gave raiment and worldly pleasure, with all that of such a state appertaineth, how willingly he hath all forsaken



for the salvation of his soul, and is gone out of a duke's bed to a dog's kennel, and with dogs he ate and drank and slept and rose when they rose, and in this penance lived Robert seven years or there about, and the dog that he commonly slept with all perceived that he fared the better, and had more meat for Robert's sake than he was wont to have before, and that no man did beat him for his sake, wherefore he began to love Robert passing well in so much men might as soon have killed him as driven him from Robert.





HOW ROBERT THREW DOWN A BRIDE ON  
A FOUL DUNGHILL, AND HOW HE PUT A  
LIVING CAT IN HOLLOW SATHING POT WITH  
POWDERED BEEF.



**T** befel upon a time that there was a bride should go to church to be wed which was gaily apparelled, as unto a bride appertained; Robert seeing this bride thus gaily arrayed, took her by the hand, and led her through a passing foul dunghill, and there made her fall and found her gay array; and then he ran lightly away, shouting and laughing, and ran into the bride's kitchen where her dinner was apparelled (prepared) and caught a living cat and cast it into the pot of powdered beef. The which incontinently was told to the Emperor, whereat he and all his Lords laughed, and had great game thereat, and they loved Robert passing well, for he made much mirth without harm.





HOW THE SENESCHAL HAD GATHERED  
A GREAT ARMY OF MEN OF WAR OF  
SARACENS, AND LAID SIEGE TO ROME,  
BY CAUSE THE EMPEROR WOULD NOT  
GIVE HIM HIS DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE.



IN the mean season while Robert was thus in Rome doing his penance as aforesaid, which dured seven years or there about in the Emperor's Court, the which Emperor had a fair daughter, but she was born dumb and never spoke, and the emperor's seneschal diverse times had desired his daughter in marriage of the emperor, but he would never grant him her, wherefore the seneschal was greatly moved and angry therewith the Emperor, for he thought he might have won of him his empire by force, and might, in so much the seneschal came upon a time with a great host of Saracens, and laid siege to the city of Rome, whereof the emperor had great marvel and wondered, then the emperor gathered and assembled all the lords barons asking of them counsel, saying thus, "My lords, give me good counsel that we may withstand these heathen dogs which have laid siege to our city, wherefore I take great thought for they keep all my land under their subjection and they will bring us to confusion if that God out of his endless mercy help us not, wherefore I pray you everyone to go fight with them with all our power and might and drive them away." Then answered the lords and knights all with one assent saying, "Sovereign lord your council is good and wise, wherefore we be all ready to go with you and give them battle and defend our right both land and city." The Emperor thanked them for this answer and was glad thereof, and made proclamation throughout all his lands and cities that every man old and young that were able to bear arms, should make them ready to fight against their most cruel enemies the Saracens which were come unto his land, and continent when this proclamation was done among the commons every man was willing and ready to go with the emperor to fight and defend their right, and so they went forth in a fair ordinance with the Emperor to fight upon their mortal enemies the heathen dogs. And for all that the Emperor had much more people than the seneschal, yet the seneschal had won the field had not



God of his grace sent thither Robert to resist and help the Romans in their great necessity.

HOW OUR SAVIOUR JESUS HAVING COMPASSION ON THE CHRISTIAN BLOOD, SENT ROBERT BY AN ANGEL A WHITE HORSE AND HARNESS, AND COMMANDED HIM TO GO RESCUE AND HELP THE ROMANS AGAINST THE HEATHEN DOGS THE SARACENS.



THE Emperor and the Romans went to the battle as said is against the Saracens, and Robert was at home, where he was accustomed to walk in the garden to a fountain or well to drink, and this was on the same day that the Emperor with his host should give battle against the Saracens: then came there, a voice out of Heaven sent from our Lord, saying in this manner: "Robert, God commandeth you, by me, that you incontinently arm you with this harness, and alight upon this horse that God hath sent you, and ride in all haste possible and rescue the Emperor and his people." Robert hearing the commandment of God was abashed in his mind, and durst not do against God's commandment, but incontinently he armed him and leaped on the horse without tarrying and rode his way. The Emperor's daughter which I told you of before, stood at a window and saw Robert thus armed on horseback, then if she could have spoken she would have told it, but she could not speak for she was dumb, but she remembered and bare it surely in her mind. Robert thus horsed and harnessed, rode into the Emperor's host which he saw sore overpressed with their enemies the Turks, in so much, that had not God and Robert rescued them, the Christians had been all slain, but when Robert was come into the host he put him in the most press of the Turks and fought and laid on each side on these cursed hounds: there a man might have seen arms, legs, heads tumble on the ground, both horse and man that never rose after: it was a world to see the murder that Robert did among the












damned dogs the Saracens : so to make a short tale Robert did so much, that the Saracens were constrained to fly away and the Emperor held the field and had the victory over them.



HOW ROBERT TURNED AGAIN TO THE FORE-  
SAID FOUNTAIN, AND THERE UNARMED HIM,  
WHEN HE HAD THUS SUBDUED AND VAN-  
QUISHED THE SARACENS AND PUT THEM  
TO FLIGHT.

HOW hath the Emperor got the field and the honour, thanked be God, and Robert is turned again to the said fountain, and there unarmed him and laid the harness on the horse which incontinently vanished away that no man could know or perceive where he became; and Robert bode still standing by the fountain. The Emperor's daughter seeing this had great marvel of this, and would have told it forth but she was dumb and could not speak. Robert had a *race* in his face which he got in the battle, but he was none otherwise hurt; the Emperor was glad, and thanked God of his victory against the false dogs the Saracens; and thus being merry to come home to his palace; and when they were all set to dinner, Robert presented himself before the Emperor as he was wont to do, playing the fool, and making him dumb as before rehearsed is; the Emperor rejoiced in himself when he saw Robert, for he loved him well; and when he perceived Robert's hurt in his face, and thought that some of his servants had hurt him while he was out, wherefore he was angry, and said: "Here in this court be some envious men, for while we have been out at battle, they have beaten and hurt this poor innocent creature in his face, which is great sin, for though he be a fool, he doeth no man harm. So the Emperor commanded them all upon a great pain that no man should do him harm, if they did they should be punished that all others should be warned by them. Then the Emperor began to ask his knights if there were any of them that could tell of the knight with the white horse that came privily to the field, and so valiantly rescued them, the Emperor's daughter this hearing pointed the Emperor her father that it was Robert; but the Emperor understood not what his daughter meant when she





pointed, for she could not speak, wherefore he called her mistress to him, and asked her what his daughter meant by pointing, and her mistress answered and said: "Your daughter means by her pointing that this day ye have gotten the battle and victory through the help of your fool Robert, and the *race* that is in his face he hath gotten it in the battle." The Emperor understanding the mind and intent of his daughter, he was angry and said to her mistress: "You should teach and learn my daughter wisdom, and not folly nor peevishness, wherewithal I am discontent." The daughter seeing that her father was angry, pointed no more, notwithstanding that she wist well that it was true that she pointed and meant, for in as much as she had seen the angel bring him the horse and harness. This remained in this wise a certain season, and after that the Saracens were put to flight by the Romans, as said is, yet came the seneschal again with much more company, and laid siege to Rome; and the Romans would have lost the field again, had not the knight on the white horse been, to whom God sent horse and harness as he had done before. To make a short tale, this knight did so much that the Saracens were put to flight, and the Romans won the field and victory as they did before. There were some of the Emperor's men laid wait where this knight became, but as soon as the battle was done he was gone, no man could tell where he had become, save only the Emperor's daughter which saw him at the fountain again, unarming him.

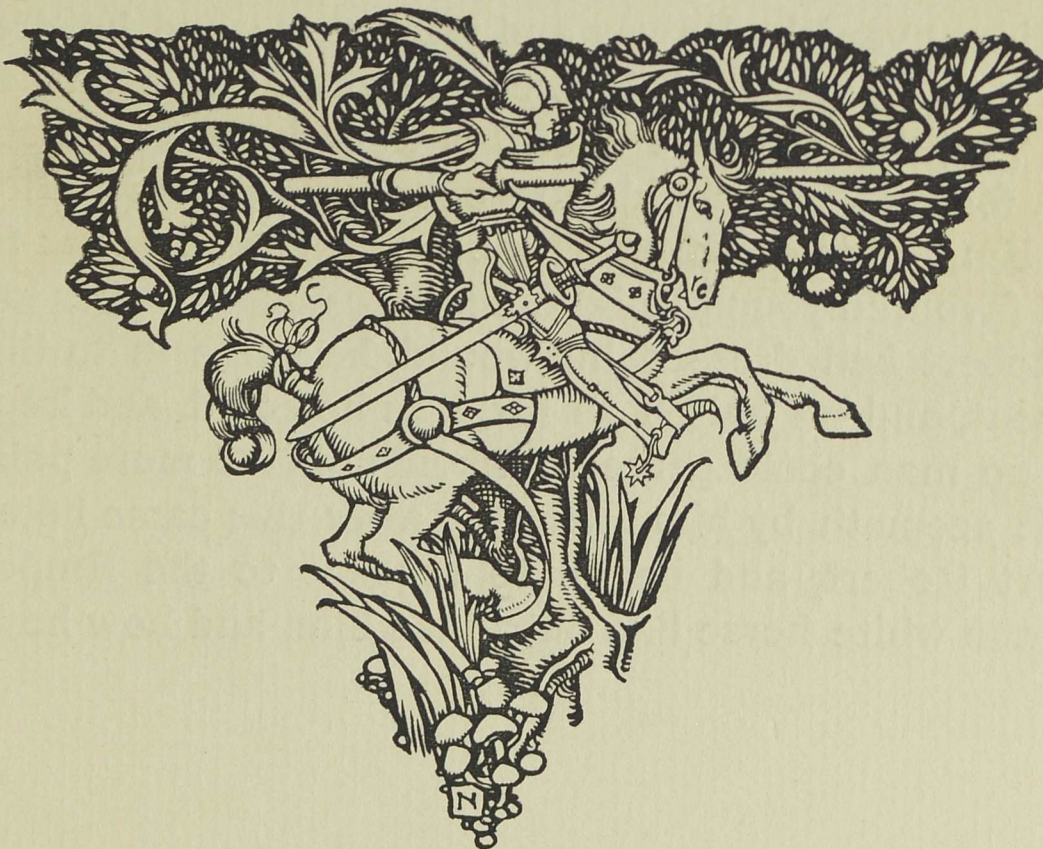




HOW ROBERT GOT THE THIRD BATTLE  
AS HE DID BEFORE, WHICH SHE KEPT  
SECRET.

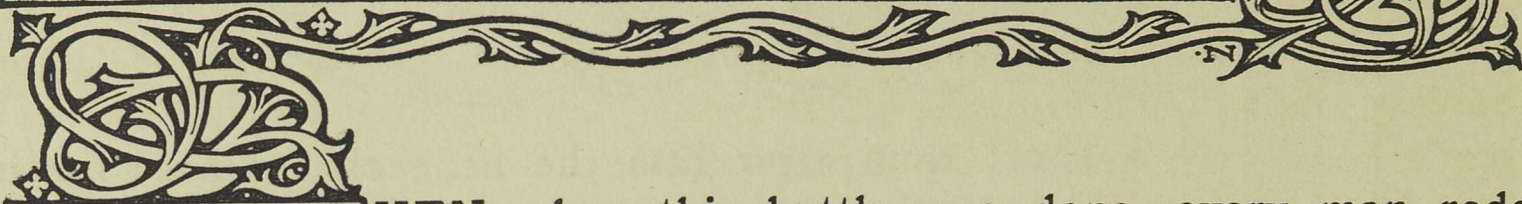


**L**N a short time after this the seneschal turned again with a much greater power than he had before, and laid siege to Rome; and yet the Emperor rode to the battle, he commanded his knights and barons to take good heed from whence that knight came with the white horse, and what he was, and where he became, for he had great desire to know what he was. The knights answered it should be done. The day came that they must ride forth to the battle, and certain of the best knights rode privily into a wood that stood a little there beside, and there they waited which way the knight on the white horse should come to the battle; but they lost their labour, for they could not tell whence he came. But when they saw him in the battle, they rode towards him to help him and receive him. This same battle was sore fought on both sides, but the Saracens lost their courage, for Robert laid on so great and mighty strokes, that no man might stand under his hand; so that in conclusion Robert did so much and so valiantly, that the Saracens were put to the discomfiture whereof the Emperor was greatly enjoyed; the seneschal with the Saracens were passing angry, and sore moved therewith all.





HOW ONE OF THE EMPEROR'S KNIGHTS  
HURT ROBERT IN HIS THIGH WITH A  
SPEAR.



**T**HEN when this battle was done, every man rode home, and Robert would have turned again to the fountain to unarm him as he was wont to do before, but the foresaid knights were turned again to the wood, to await for the knight with the white horse; and when they saw him come, they rode all at once out of the wood, and cried with a loud voice saying unto him: "O noble knight, tarry and speak with us, and who that ye be, whence and out of what land ye come to the intent that we may shew it to the Emperor, which specially he desireth for to know." Robert this hearing was sore ashamed, and smote his white horse with his spurs, flying over hills and valleys, for because he would not be known; but there followed him a bold knight, well horsed, with a spear meaning to have killed his white horse, but he missed and he smote Robert in the thigh with his spear, and the spear head brake and stuck still in his thigh, but yet for all this he could get no knowledge of the knight with the white horse, for he rode from them all everyone, whereof they were passing sorry. Robert rode so sore, till at the last he came unto the fountain and unarmed him, and laid the harness on the horse as he had done before, which incontinent vanished away and was gone; and he drew the spear head out of his thigh and hid it between two great stones by the fountain; then he laid grease and moss upon his wound, for he durst let no man look thereto, for fear he should have been known. And all this saw and marked the Emperor's daughter; for because she saw that Robert was a fair and well favoured young knight, she began to cast her love unto him. And when Robert had dressed his wound, he came in to the hall, to get him some meat, and he halted as little as he could, and kept it secretly, that almost no man could perceive it, and suffered more pain a thousand times than it seemeth by him. Shortly after this came home the knight that had hurt Robert, and began to recount to the Emperor how the knight with the white horse had outridden him, and how he had hurt him



sore against his will, and said to the Emperor: "I beseech you my Lord the Emperor, hear what I shall tell you, and in what manner ye shall know who is he that hath holpen you; it is best ye make a proclamation and publish throughout your empire, and if there be any knight in white harness, with a white horse that he be brought to your presence, and that he bring with him the spear-head wherewithal he was hurt in his thigh, shewing the wound, and that ye give him your daughter to wife, and half your empire with her." The Emperor this hearing, was of his counsel very glad, and incontinently all haste proclaimed and published throughout all the empire, and thought that the knight had given him good counsel.

HOW THE SENESCHAL THRUST A SPEAR-HEAD INTO HIS THIGH, MEANING TO HAVE BEGUILLED THE EMPEROR, AND TO HAVE WON HIS DAUGHTER THEREBY.



**L**T befel in a short time after, that the seneschal had knowledge and understanding of the Emperor's proclamation, and how he might win the Emperor's daughter, which he had many times been about, he did great diligence and caused to be sought and gotten a white horse and white harness, and thrust a spear-head in his thigh, meaning thereby to deceive the Emperor, and to get his daughter to wife: and when this was done, he commanded all his men to arm them, and ride with him to the Emperor; and he rode so sore till he came to Rome with great royalty and solace, and without any tarrying he rode straight to the Emperor, saying to him in this wise: "My Lord, I am he that you so valiantly received: three times I have caused you to have honour and victory against the cursed Saracens." The Emperor thinking upon no treason nor deceit, said: "Ye be a valiant and a wise knight; but I had went the contrary, for we have taken you for a villain and a foresworn knight." The seneschal was very angry and sore moved here withal, and answered the Emperor shortly and angerly: "My Lord Emperor, marvel you nothing hereof, for I am not such a coward as ye ween that I be:" and thus saying he took out the spear-head and showed it to the Emperor, and uncovered the wound that he had made himself in his thigh. The knight stood by which that hurt Robert before, and began to compass in his mind, for he saw well that it was not the head of the



spear, but he durst say nothing for fear, lest the seneschal would have killed him. We will leave now of the seneschal, and speak of Robert, which is among dogs, sore wounded, as ye have heard before.

HOW GOD SENT AN ANGEL TO THE HERMIT THAT HE SHOULD GO TO ROME AND SEEK ROBERT, FOR HE HAD FULL DONE HIS PENANCE.



THE hermit which ye have heard of before, that shrove and set Robert his penance, lay on a night in his cell, and slept, and thus sleeping there came to him a voice, and bad him lightly arise and go to Rome, to the place where Robert was doing his penance; and the angel told the hermit all the doings of Robert, shewing how that his penance was fully done, and that God had forgiven him his sins, whereof the hermit was very glad, and in the morning early he arose and went to Rome ward, and in likewise in the same morning the seneschal rose be time and went to Rome to the emperor to desire and have his daughter according to the publication and cry, to the which the emperor consented her to him without any long adjustment. But when the daughter understood that she was given to the seneschal she railed and raged as though she had been mad; she tore her hair from her head, and all to tare her clothes, but it might nothing avail her, for she was constrained, and must be arrayed like a bride, and an emperor's daughter which should be married, and the Emperor led her by the hand himself to the church royally accompanied with lords and ladies and gentlewomen but the daughter made the greatest sorrow of the world in so much that no man could content her mind.



HOW THE EMPEROR'S DAUGHTER THROUGH THE GRACE OF GOD BEGAN FOR TO SPEAK THE FIRST WORD THAT EVER SHE SPAKE IN HER LIFE.



**W**HEN as the Emperor with all his estate was come in to the church, the Emperor's daughter which was dumb, should marry the seneschal, there did our Lord a fair miracle, for the love of the holy man Robert, to the entent he should be exalted, whom everybody held for a fool and with him mocked. When the priest should begin the service, and to marry the seneschal and this young maid together, the daughter through the grace of God began to speak to the Emperor her father in this wise: "Father I hold you not wise, but for overseen in that you believe that this proud foolish traitor telleth you, for all that he telleth you is lies; but here in this town is a holy and devout person, for whose sake God has given me speech, wherefore I love him in my heart, for I have always seen and marked his valiance and holiness, but no man would believe me what pointing or signs I made:" then the Emperor this hearing, was almost out of his mind for joy when he heard his daughter thus speak, the which never spake before, thereby he knew well enough that the seneschal had betrayed and deceived him: the seneschal this hearing was angry and foul ashamed, and lighted on his horse and rode away and all his company. The Pope being present asked the maiden who the man was that she spoke of, that the maid led the Pope and the Emperor her father to the fountain where Robert was wont to arm and unarm him, and there she took out the spear-head from between the two stones where Robert had hidden it and then she caused the spear to be brought forth, whereof the head was broken, which was lightly brought to her, and that the head and spear joined together in one as close as though they had not been broken, then said the maid to the Pope, we have had three times victory by his noble valiance against the miscreant Saracens, for I have three times seen his horse and harness



wherewith he hath three times armed and unarmed him, but I cannot tell who brought him horse and harness, nor unto whom he delivered it, but I know well that when he had done this he laid himself down by the dogs"; and the maiden said unto the Emperor her father in this wise, "This is he that hath saved your lands and your honour, and gat you the victory of the heathen hounds the Saracens, wherefore ye ought of duty to reward him, and if it please you we will go all to him and speak with him"; then went they for the fool, the Emperor and the daughter with all the lords and ladies under Robert whom they found lying among the dogs, they followed him and did him reverence, but Robert answered them not.

HOW THE HERMIT FOUND ROBERT, AND  
COMMANDED HIM TO SPEAK, SAYING TO  
HIM, THAT HIS PENANCE WAS FULL DONE  
AND HIS SINS FORGIVEN.

**T**HE Emperor spake to Robert and said, "I pray you sweet friend come to me and shew me your thigh I will needs see:" when Robert heard the emperor say these words he wist well enough wherefore he was come to him, but he let him as though he had not understood him, and Robert did many mad conceits to make the Pope and the Emperor laugh and forget that they spoke of, but the Pope spake to Robert, and conjured him in the name of God that on the cross died for our redemption, that if it be God's will that thou hast spoken that thou speak now to us, and then Robert rose up like a fool and gave the Pope his blessing, and herewithal Robert looked behind him and saw the hermit that set him his penance and as soon as the hermit saw Robert which he had long sought he cried to him with a loud voice











that every man might hear him that were there: "My friend hearken unto me I know well that ye be Robert that men call the Devil, but now ye be in grace and conceit with Almighty God, and for that foul and hideous name ye shall have a fair name, and be called the Servant of God, ye be he that has saved this land from the Saracens, wherefore I pray you that ye serve and worship God as ye have done hitherto, for our Lord sendeth me now to you commanding you to speak, and no more to counterfeit the fool, for it is God's will and commandment, for he hath forgiven you all your sins, for by cause ye have made satisfaction and full done your penance:" when Robert heard this he fell lightly on his knees and lifted up his hands towards Heaven saying thus; "I give laud and thanks to God creator of Heaven and earth, that it hath pleased thee to forgive me my abominable and great sins through so little and light penance that I have done:" therefore, when the Pope, the Emperor and the daughter, and all that were there present heard Robert speak thus sweetly, they were all hereof greatly enjoyed and had great marvel of; the emperor seeing his noble valiance, virtue and courtesy that in him was, and would have given him his daughter to wife, but the hermit would not it should be so wherefore every man departed and went home.







HOW ROBERT TURNED AGAIN TO ROME  
FOR TO MARRY THE EMPEROR'S DAUGH-  
TER BY THE COMMANDMENT AND WILL  
OF GOD.

**N**OW the story telleth as after that Robert had remission of his sins and was gone towards his country, then out of Rome God commanded him that he should turn again to Rome, and marry the Emperor's daughter, which loved him passingly well, and he should have by her a son whereby the Christian belief should be increased and fortified and defended. Robert at the commandment of God turned again to Rome, and married the Emperor's daughter with great triumph and solace; for the Emperor and all the Romans were thereof very glad, this bridal was royally kept and every man that saw Robert loved him above all others; and the people said one to another, that they were greatly beholden to Robert that he had redeemed them from their mortal enemies the Saracens, this feast was great and notable and dured xiiij days; and when the feast and bridal was done Robert would depart with his lady into Normandy to visit his father and mother and took leave of the Emperor which gave him many royal and great gifts, as gold and silver and precious stones of divers colours, also the Emperor gave him knights and squires to ride and conduct him in to his country.



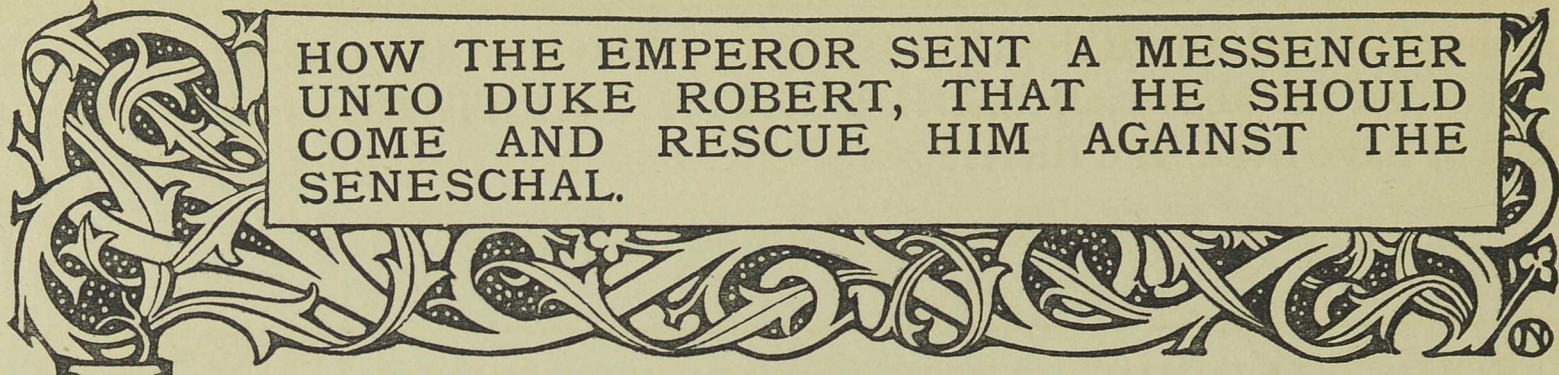
HOW ROBERT AND HIS LADY CAME TO  
ROUEN IN NORMANDY WITH GREAT HON-  
OUR AND WORSHIP.




ROBERT and his lady rode so far they came into Normandy into the noble city of Rouen with great mirth and solace, where they were received with great triumph for the comyntee of the country were sorry and in great heaviness that their duke Robert's father was deceased, for because he was a wise and renowned prince. A little beside dwelled a cursed knight, which had done the duchess great wrong and suppressed many knights after her husband's decease. But when Robert was come every man dreaded him and did him great reverence and worship, then some said we wende (thought) he had been dead, and all the lords and burgesses of Rouen gathered them together and with great honour and reverence they received Robert and held him as their lord and sovereign. And when they had received him honourably they shewed him of this before said knight; he had many times suppressed, and done wrong to his mother, sithen (since) the death of his father, then when Robert heard and understood this, he sent lightly men of arms to take the said knight which they did so much that they took him and brought him to Robert which made him to be hanged, wherefore the duchess was right glad but she was much more glad that her son Robert was come home for she thought he had been dead; and when Robert and his mother were thus together, he recounted unto her, how the emperor had given him his daughter in marriage, and how he had done his penance, the duchess hearing her son's words, she began to weep very sore, for because he had suffered so great poverty and penance through his default.







HOW THE EMPEROR SENT A MESSENGER  
UNTO DUKE ROBERT, THAT HE SHOULD  
COME AND RESCUE HIM AGAINST THE  
SENESCHAL.



**I**N the mean season, while Robert was thus at Rouen with his mother and his lady in great joy and solace, there came a messenger from the Emperor unto Robert, which did him reverence, and saying thus unto him: "My Lord Duke, the Emperor hath sent me hither to you, and he prayeth you for to come and rescue him against the false traitor the seneschal with the Saracens, which have laid siege to Rome." When Robert heard these words, he was sorry in his mind for the Emperor; and shortly assembled as many men of arms as he could get in his land of Normandy, and forth withall rode with them toward Rome, to help and succour the Emperor; but before he could come thither the false traitor the seneschal had slain the Emperor, which was great pity; but Robert went straight to Rome and lightly with all his power and might went against the seneschal. And when Robert espied the false traitor, he cried to him saying thus: "Abide, thou false traitor, now thou shalt never escape my hands if thou abide me in the field, for thou art now nigh thy life's end; thou didst put once a spear-head in thy thigh for to have deceived the Romans, defend now thy life against me, for thou shalt never escape my hands, and thou hast also slain my lord the Emperor, wherefore thou shalt be well rewarded after that thou has deserved." And with these words Robert, with a great desire and mighty courage, rode unto the seneschal and gave him such a stroke on the helmet, that he clove helmet and head unto the teeth, and incontinent the traitor fell down dead unto the earth, and Robert made him to be brought in to Rome, to the intent that he should be there slain to revenge the Romans, the which was done in the presence of all the people that were in Rome; and in this wise finished that traitor the seneschal his life, and had a shameful death, whereby men may make and take heed that it



is great folly to covet or desire things passing their degree; for and the seneschal had not desired the Emperor's daughter, the which passed and exceeded far above his degree, he had not died this shameful death, but might have lived, and the Emperor also, and have died good friends.

HOW THAT THE DUKE ROBERT TURNED AGAIN TO ROUEN AFTER THAT HE HAD MADE THE SENESCHAL TO BE SLAIN.



**R**OBERT the duke defended the city from their enemies, and then he returned again with all his company unto Rouen to his wife, which was passing sorrowful and pensive; but when she heard that the traitor the seneschal had slain her father, she was almost out of her mind; but Robert's mother comforted her in the best manner that she could or might. And for to make shortly an end of our matter, and so to finish this book we will let pass to write of the great dole and sorrow of the young duchess, and speak of the duke Robert, which in his youth was about to all mischief and vice, and all ungraciousness, without any measure or reason, for he was a greater devourer and a more vengeable than any lion, nothing sparing, nor on no man having mercy nor pity. And after this he lived twelve years in great penance, like a wild man, without any speech, and like a dumb beast eating and drinking with dogs, and thereafter he was exalted and honoured of them, which before did hold him for a fool or an innocent, and mocked with him. This Robert lived long in virtue and honour with that noble lady his wife, and he was beloved and dreaded of high and low degree, for he did right and justice as well over the rich as over the poor, keeping his land in rest and peace, and begot a child with her, and which he called Richard, which did afterward many noble acts and deeds of arms with great Charlemagne, King of France, for he did help him for to give and fortify, the Christian faith, and he made always great war upon the Saracens. And he lived in his land in rest and peace, and was beloved of poor and rich, and all his coment loved him in likewise as Robert his father was loved, for they lived both devoutly and in virtue, wherefore I pray God that we may so live in this life we may obtain and come to ever-



lasting life. To the which bring us he that bought us and all mankind  
with his precious blood and bitter passion. Amen.

Thus endeth the life of Robert the Devil,  
That was the servant of our Lord,  
And of his conditions that was full of evil  
Emprinted in London by Wynkyn de Worde.

Here endeth the life o the most fearfullest and unmercifullest and  
mischievous Robert the Devil, which was afterward called the  
Servant of our Lord Jesus Christ.

























