#### OUTDOORS IN THE COUNTRY.

I really don't 'xactly understan'
Where the comfort is fer any man
In walkin' hot bricks an' usin' a fan, An' enjoyin' himself as he says he can. Up that in the city.

It's kinder lonesome, maybe you'll say, A-livin' out here day after day. In this kinder easy, careless way; But an hour out here is better'n aday Up that in the city.

As fer that, jus' look at the flowers aroun' 'A-pepin' their heads up all over the groun'. 'An' the fruit a-bendin' the trees 'way

You don't find such things as this in town, Or, rather, in the city.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

# BEAUMAINS THE KNIGHT

It was the feast of Pentecost. King Arthur and all his knights of the Round Table, and all his squires and grooms and pages, and all the ladies of the court, were assembled in King-Kenadon, a castle whose grounds stretched out upon the sands bordering upon Wales. It was near the noon hour, but the King would not go in to the feast till he had beheld or had heard of some adventure.

For such was his custom on this feast day, to eat no meat, till some strange occurrence came to his sight or hearing. And so it was that from all parts of the kingdom knights with stories of deeds done came to give to the King the pleasure of their recital. Suddenly Sir Gauvain, standing at

his window, saw emerging from the woods three men upon horseback, and a dwarf running beside them. Then he quickly descended to Arthur and bade him come to the noon-day repast. "For," said he, "here come some travelers who shall presently tell you of wonderful happenings."

The court soon assembled in the long rooms, and as they sat down to the tables the three riders could be seen dismounting. The one who rode in the middle was taller than any knight present, but so weak seemed he that he leant upon his two compan-ions. Presently they came before the Then a silence fell upon the room, and the young man, who was so tall, and broad and well-featured, rais-ed himself from the support of his men, and addressed Arthur.

"King Arthur, may peace be with thee, and upon thy order of the Table Round. For this am I come, to speak unto you, and to ask of you three gifts. And they shall be well asked, so as to give you no shame in the granting of them, but right worshipfully do I entreat their fulfillment. One request I shall ask you now, and the other two one year from to-day at the Pentecost feast."

"Ask what ye will," answered the King, "and on my honor and my crown I promise to grant thy asking." "Then I ask thee, that for a twelve-month ye give unto me sufficient eat and drink, and in a year from to-day will I ask my other two gifts."

"Oh, bethink thee, young man, ask more of me! For eat and drink have I denied to neither friend nor foe. And you are the likeliest lad I have ever beheld and right truly I believe ye are of noble birth. Great deeds shall ye yet do; of that I am assured."

"Let that be as it will, my King; I have asked my gift."

So Arthur sent for Sir Kay, and gave him charge of the stranger. But the latter would not tell his name, either to Arthur or to another, so Sir Kay mockingly called him Beaumains, which means Fair-hands. And ever he mocked him, and put him in the kitchhe taunted him and said:

"As a man is, so he asketh." But Sir Launcelot and Gauvain rebuked Sir Kay, but he heard them not; and so for a year Beaumains bore his taunts. Sir Launcelot and Gauvain, however, befriended him; they gave him gold to spend, and fine clothes to wear. And at all the tilts and tournaments he was present, and at all games, but always Sir Kay would remark in

passing him:
"How like you my young man of the kitchen?" But Beaumains was meek and mild,

and all the children loved him. So a

year passed by. King Arthur held the festival at Carleon this year, and the splendor was greater than ever before. There waited Arthur to hear of some advanture, and one of his squires came and said: "Sire, ye may go to the feast, for

here comes a maiden with some strange tale." So the King ascended the dats and received the damsel. Then she greeted the King, and begged him for suc-

"For whom," asked Arthur, "and

what is the adventure?"
"My lord," she replied, "I have a lady who is noble and possessed of many lands, but she is besieged by a tyrant. The name I must not reveal, but the cruel man is called the Red Knight of the Red Lawns. Because 1 have heard of the valor of the knights come the knight who committed these of your court, I have come to you!'

Of your Red Knight have I never heard," answered Arthur, "and since you will not tell me the lady's name I can send her no succor."

But Gauvain said: "I know the Red Knight well, They say he has the strength of seven men,

and once I barely escaped him with my life." 'Still," sald the King, "I can give no

help, for I know not the lady."

Beaumain, however, now stepped forth, and said:

"Sire, it is a year since I asked my first gift; I now beg the fulfillment of the other two. One is that ye give in this adventure with the maiden, for it is mine; the other is that I be knightby Sir Launcelot. For from other will I receive knighthood. When I have passed let him ride after me and make me knight when I desire. "All shall be as you say," said Ar-

'For shame!" cried the maiden; "shall I have a kitchen page for my champion?" and in anger she mounted

her horse and rode away. Then came one and told Beaumains that a dwarf waited without and held for him a richly caparisoned horse and all rich goods and things needful, and the court marveled where all this geat came from. But Beaumains arrayer this

himself in the armor, and then came in and said good-by to King Arthur and Gauvain and bade Sir Launcelot follow him. Then he rode after the fine armor, but they saw that he had neither shield nor spear.

When Sir Kay saw Beaumains depart in such splendor he was vexed, and said:

"I will follow him, and see if he knows me for his superior." And so Sir Kay armed himself and followed Beaumains, and Sir Launce-

lot also followed. When Beaumains came up to the maiden, Sir Kay also was there, and

"How now, Beaumains; do ye know

"Yes," answered the youth, "I know ye for an ungallant and cowardly

knight of Arthur's court." Then Sir Kay ran at Beaumains with his lance, but Beaumains, fighting only with his sword, wrested the lance from Sir Kay's hand, and threw the knight to the ground, sorely wounded. Just then Sir Launcelot came up, and saw the encounter, and Beaumains chal-lenged Sir Launcelot, and using the lance of the fallen knight he again mounted his horse. So another terrible tilt did they have, and at last Sir Launcelot called out to Beaumains to stop the quarrel, "for braver man have I never fought with," said Launcelot,

"and ye need fear no man!"
"Then if that be true, make me knight," said Beaumains. "Right gladly will I, if ye tell me

your name." And Beaumains, after making Sir Launcelot promise not to reveal his birth, told that he was Gareth, the brother to Gauvain. Then was Launcelot glad and he knighted him upon the

All this did the malden see, but her

anger was unappeased. And continually she said to Beaumains:
"Depart from me, thou page of the kitchen! I'll have naught with thee." And she chided him and taunted him, but always he was meek and he bore

with her. So, in time, they came to a dark for-est, and a man came flying to them begging help. Six robbers had besieged his master, and were now binding him and taking his property. All six did the newly-made knight kill after a flerce struggle, and the lord whose life he had saved offered him great re-

wards, but he would take nothing.

And when he again approached the maiden she still scoffed at him, and said that only through unhappiness and misadventure had he been successful. He answered nothing to her abuse, but bore all with the honor and respect towards her that a knight ever gave to women.

In the meantime, Sir Launcelot had returned to the court, his men bearing the wounded Sir Kay. And when Ar-thur and the court heard of the brav-ery of the newly-made knight and that he was of noble birth, though as yet his name remained unknown, they made a feast and rejoiced. But Sir Kay, ever after, was held in scorn, and received back the mockery that he was so wont to bestow upon others.

The damsel still rode on, followed by Beaumains. One day, at twilight time, they came to a black lawn, and on the lawn was a black hawthorne; and a black shield and banner were there beside a horse in sable trap-pings. When they approached the maiden said:

"Oh, kitchen page, flee away, for here is a knight that will lay you in the

But Beaumains answered not. And the knight came out, and long and bitterly they fought. At last the black hereafter. knight lay nigh unto death, and he pleaded for his life. But Beaumain would not heed him, and so he died.

Shortly afterwards they met the brother of the black knight, and when Beaumains had subdued him he promsed to serve him with all his followers, if only he might live.

And so it was that Beaumains ever conquered, but still the maiden ever chided him and said it was only by misadventure. At last he conquered with so much strength the bravest

men that the maiden repented and begged his forgiveness. "But return now," she said, "for we approach the Knight of the Red Lawns, and he has the strength of seven men.

Forbear to challenge him!"
"Maiden," said Beaumains in reply,
"when you scorned me I had renewed strength to prove to you my greatness but now that you speak kindly to me I feel my might a hundredfold. Let the Red Knight be ever so strong, him will I subdue!"

So they approached the land of the Red Knight, and Beaumains saw hanging from the trees many knights clad in cloth of gold, with golden spurs up-on their boots, and with their shields and lances hanging upon them.

"What means this dreadful sight?" sald he.

"Alas, sir," wept the malden, "these are the champions who have tried to rescue my sister, the Lady Lyoness! Yonder she stands at her window! But how can you hope to overgood lords to such shame!"

"Fear not, maiden! Now that I have seen the Lady Lyoness I will suffer such a death rather than not attempt to succor her."

Three days did Beaumains fight with the Red Knight, and in the end he was successful; but so earnestly did all his barons and serfs beg for his life that l'enumains spared it, on condition that he would go to Arthur's court and tell the story of his fierce encounter. The Red Knight promised and yielded up the Lady Lyoness, and at her com-man i Beaumains departed, to return

to her again in twelve months. So was the advanture of the maiden carried through to the end, and the of Gareth or Beaumains, as we better know him, was sung throughout Arthur's kingdom from that day forth. -Virginia Horten.

Tie Vastness of the Earth. Some idea of the vast extent of the surface of the earth may be obtained hen it is noted that if a lofty church temple is ascended and the landscape visible from it looked at 900,000 such landscapes must be viewed in order that the whole earth may be seen.

Tufts College graduated seventy-two this year, the largest class in its his-

England's Army and Navy.

There are few things more mortify lady. But many followed to look at ing to the English than recent revela-him clothed in cloth of gold and all tions regarding their army and navy. First came the Naval Maneuvers which demonstrated that the "tight little island" is not nearly so secure from foreign invasion as has been imagined for many years. Then there was the speech of Lord Charles Beresford before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce in which he pointed out the inadequacy of the naval force of Great Britain to provide crews for the ships fit for service, to say nothing of the vessels now under construction and of the reserve force necessary to fill up the ranks when they have been depleted by the casualities of war. Upon the heels of all this came the statement from Lord Wolseley before the Commission on Indian Expenditure that he would not like to put the Indian troops in front of European soldiers, and would not like to fight French, German or any other army with Indian troops. The latter statement has aroused great indignation among the troops in India and can have none but a bad effect. Althrough England is not so happy and so self-satisfied as usual. Taken with the comparative isolation of England and the hostility of almost all Europe, it is not surprising that she is looking about for friends, and has assumed toward the United States a tone of unwonted friendliness. The plan for a board of arbitration to settle differences with this country is popular in England and will be popular here when there is a conviction that England's motives are not wholly selfish. After all is said it appears that England has taken hold of more territory than she is able to control in peace. The time has come when she will have to set bounds to her earth-hunger and be satisfied with what she has already taken in hand.

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