talk is this for a public inn?"

"Shall it be a litany, my good clerk?" shouted a third; "or would a hymn be good enough to serve?"

The jongleur had put down his harp in high dudgeon. "Am I to be preached to by a child?" he cried, hairless infant to raise tongue against me, when I have sung in every fair from Tweed to Trent, and have twice been named alond by the Hitt

his throat. Go forward with thy song, Five-a cloak of fur turned up with and if our girl-faced clerk does not minever, a gold goblet with stand and

reproof, he having gone early into the may go reproof, he having gone early into the cloisters and seen little of the rough ways and words of the world. Yet there is truth in what he says, for as you know well, the song was not of the cleanest. I shall stand by him, therefore, and he shall neither be put out on the road, nor shall bis ears be

"Indeed, your high and mighty grace," sneered one of the yeomen,

"have you in sooth so ordained?" "By the Virgin!" said a second, "I think that you may both chance to find yourselves upon the road before long.

"And so belabored as to be scarce

"Hush, lad!" he whispered, "I count them not a fly. They may find they have more tow on their distaff than they know how to spin. Stand thou clear and give me space."

Both the foresters and the laborers had risen from their bench, and Dame Eliza and the travelling doctor had flung themselves between the two parties with soft words and soothing gestures, when the door of the Pied Merlin was flung violently open, and the attention of the company was drawn from their own quarrel to the new-comer who had burst so unceremoniously upon them.

CHAPTER IV.

He was a middle-sized man, of most massive and robust build, with an arching chest and extraordinary breadth of shoulder. His shaven face was as brown as a hazel-nut, tanned and dried by the weather, with harsh well-marked features, which were not improved by a long white scar which stretched from the corner of his left nostril to the angle of the jaw. His eyes were bright and searching, with something of menace and of authority in their quick glitter, and his mouth was firm-set and hard, as befitted one who was wont to set his face against danger. A straight sword by his side and a painted long-bow jutting over his shoulder proclaimed his profession, while his scarred brigandine of chain-mail and his dinted steel cap showed that he was no holiday soldier, but one who was even now fresh from the wars. A white surcoat, with the Llon of St. George in red upon the centre, covered his broad breast, while a sprig of new-plucked broom at the side of his head-gear gave a touch of something of menace and of authority | teeth.

carrier, shrinking away from the fierce eyes of the bowman. "I say yes, dog! By the three kings! I have seen a man gasp out his breath for less. Had you gone through the pain and unease that I Tair from Tweed to Trent, and have twice been named aloud by the High Court of the Minstrels at Beverly? I shall sing no more to-night." "Nay, but you will so," said one of the laborers. "Hi! Dame Eliza, bring a stoup of your best to Will, to clear his throat. Go forward with thy song, and if our girlfaced with thy song,

and it our girlfaced clerk does not love it he can take to the road and go whence he came." "Nay, but not too fast," broke in Hordle John. "There are t words in this matter. It may be that my little comrade has been over-quick in reproof, he having gone early into the

out on the road, nor shall his ears be have crowns in my pouch, my sweet, and I mean to spend them. Bring in wine while the food is dressing. Bu-vons, my brave lads! You shall each empty a stoup with me."

Here was an offer which the com-pany in an English inn, at that or any other date, are slow to refuse. The flagons were regathered, and came back with the white foam dripping over their edges. Two of the wood-men and three of the laborers drank their portions off hurriedly and troop-ed off together, for their homes were distant and the hour late. The others, "Nay, I shall go! I shall go!" said Alleyne hurriedly, as Hordle John be-gan to roll up his sleeves, and bare an arm like a leg of mutton. "I would not have you brawl about me." "I would in the protions off hurriedly and troop-ed off together, for their homes were distant and the hour late. The others, however, drew closer, leaving the place of honor to the right of the glee-had thrown off his steel cap and his had thrown off his steel cap and his brigandine, and had placed them with his sword, his quiver, and his painted long-bow, on the top of his varied heap of plunder in the corner. Now, with his thick and somewhat bowed green jerkin thrown or the blaze, his quarteristic states and the glee-into Italy, stand laughing in his beard as he heard it, uptil his plates rattled again. But to get the full smack of it ye must yourselves be English bow-men, and be far off upon an outland soil."

green jerkin thrown open, and a great quart pot in his corded fist, he looked green jerkin thrown open, and a great quart pot in his corded fist, he looked the picture of comfort and good-fel-lowship. His hard-set face had soft-ened, and the thick crop of crisp brown curls which had been hidden by his helmet grew low upon his massive neck. He might have been forty years of age, though hard toll and harder pleasure had left their grim marks upon his features, Alleyne sat, star-ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one eves at a two of man ing with one with one with one eves at a two of two one in two one in two of the interval two of man ing with one withon withou with upon his features, Alleyne sat, star-ing with open eyes at a type of man

up and saw the questioning glance which the young clerk threw upon him. He raised his flagon and drank to him, with a merry flash of his white

walls!" cried another. "What sort of Genoan velvet with twelve ells of stranger and more stirring were soon purple silk. Thou rase I, there is dirt on the hem! Thou hast brushed it against some wall, coquin!" "Not I, most worthy sir," cried the figure of Hordle John, all thrown into red light and black shadow by the flickering fire in the centre-memory was to come often lovingly back to it. At the time he was lost in admiration

"What of the cord? The cord was made in England: A rough cord, a tough cord, A cord that bowmen love; So we'll drain our jacks To the English flax And the land where the hemp was wove. And the

"What of the shaft? . The shaft was cut in England: A long shaft, a strong shaft, Barbed and trim and true: So we'll drink all together To the gray goose feather And the land where the gray goose flew.

What of the men? The men were bred in England: the bowmen-the yeomen-The lads of dale and fell. Here's to you-mand to you! To the hearts that are true and the land where the true hearts dwell." And th

"Well sung, by my hilt!" shouted the archer, in high delight. "Many a night have I heard that song, both in about coffee? More than the grocer? the old war-time and after, in the days of the White Company, when Black Simon of Norwich would lead the stave, and four hundred of the best bowmen that ever drew string would come roaring in upon the chorus. I have seen old John Hawkwood, the same who has led half the company

upon his features, Alleyne sat, star-ing with open eyes at a type of man so strange and so unlike any whom he had met. Men had been good or had been bad in his catalogue, but here was a man who was flerce one instant and gentle the next, with a curse on his lips and a smile in his rev. What was to be made of such a man as that? It chanced that the soldier looked It chanced that the soldier looked

Though there may be peace between our own provinces and the French, yet within the marches of France there is always war, for the country is much divided against itself, and is



Don't take scoop coffee when you want Arbuckles' ARIOSA Coffee, which is sold only in sealed packages and never to proportion and blend for uniform re-sold only in sealed packages and never the supply to preserve uniform quality. If you want to proportion and blend for uniform re-the supply to preserve uniform quality. If you want to proportion and blend for uniform re-sold only in sealed packages and never the supply to preserve uniform quality. Arbuckles' ARIOSA Coffee, which is sold only in sealed packages and never loose out of a "scoop." A grocer may recommend a loose cof-fee at so much a pound. He is all right. He means well. If he handled the coffee himself, from the tree to you, you might well trust him implicitly. But he does not ! He may know something about coffee.

He may make a solution of the solution of the fundred million pounds? Multiple a salesman, maybe a wholesaler, maybe a little local roaster. It does not matter. What do they know about coffee? More than the grocer? Perhaps. Where do they get their coffee? Where does it come from? Whose hands touched it last? Where had they been? Where had they been? Where had they been? Where had they been?

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Where	do they get their coffee?
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perience, to select sound, sweet green If your grocer will not sell you the the water Street. New York City. Dept. 9 in Michigan Avenue, Chicago. III. Dept. perience, to select sound, sweet green If your grocer will not sell you the coffee of high cup merit; and another genuine Arbuckles' ARIOSA Coffee it

"Nay, I am a man of peace," said Alleyne Edricson. "Besides I have other work to do." "Peste!" growled the soldier, strik-ing his flagon on the board until the dishes danced again. "What, in the name of the devil hath come over the his high mark of the flagon of the soldier.

dishes danced again. "What, in the name of the devil, hath come over the folk? Why sit ye all moping by the fireside, like crows round a dead horse, when there is man's work to be done within a few short leagues of ye? Out upon you all, as a set of laggards and hang-backs! By my hilt! I believe that the men of England are all in Exercise stready, and that what is left folk? Why sit ye all moping by the France already, and that what is left behind are in sooth the women dressed up in their paltocks and hosen." "Archer," quoth Hordle John, "you

"Archer," quoth Hordle John, "you m_n; but the other, heated by the have lied more than once and more than twice; for which, and also be-gave the practised wrestler the very

cause I see much in you to mislike. I am sorely tempted to lay you upon your back." "By my hilt! then, I have found a man at last!" shouted the bowman. "And, 'fore God, you are a better man than I take you for if you can lay me on my back Bor even when the great red hards that clutched for him, and, catching his man round the thighs, harded him over his shoulder-heiped as much by his own mad rush as by

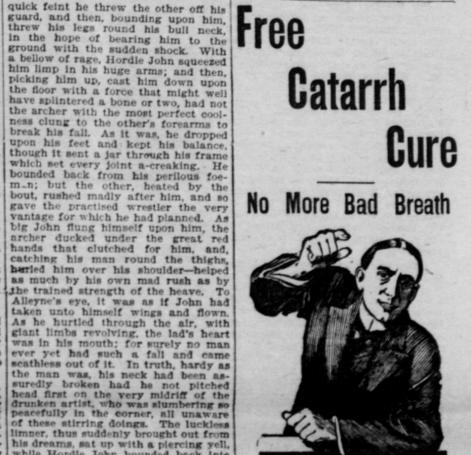
than I take you for if you can lay me on my back. For seven long years 1 have found no man in the Company who could make my jerkin dusty." "We have had enough bobance and boasting." said Hordle John, rising and throwing off his doublet. "I will show you that there are better men left in England than ever went thieving to France." France."

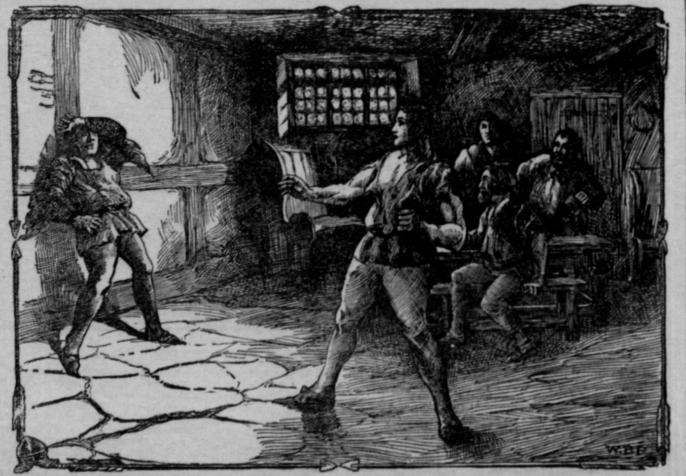
"Pasques Dieu!" cried the arch loosening his jerkin, and eyeing his foeman over with the keen glance of one who is a judge of manhood. "I have only once before seen such a body of a man. By your leave my red.

But he does not 1 He may know something about coffee. He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You don't know—if you did it would not million pounds? He may know something about coffee. He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You don't know—if you did it would not million pounds? He may know something about coffee. He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may be at a something a little roast-He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He may think he does, but let that pass. He buys it loose ! From whom? You He buys it lo

Where had they been? They can't tell Java from Brazilian by the looks after it is roasted, and it takes a man, expert by years of practical ex-perience, to select, sound the select of the takes are taken by years of practical ex-by the looks after it is roasted, and it takes a man, expert by years of practical ex-by the looks after it is roasted, and it takes a man, expert by years of practical ex-by the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the looks after it is roasted, and it takes the power and ambition to work. Address our nearest office :

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"HORDLE JOHN HURLED HIM ACROSS THE ROOM SO THAT HIS HEAD CRACKED AGAINST THE WALL."

gayety and grace to his grim, warworn equipment.

"La petite is frightened," said he. "Ah, c'est l'amour, l'amour! - Curse this trick of French, which will stick to my throat. I must wash it out with some good English ale. By my hilt! camarades, there is no drop of French blood in my body, and I am a French blood in my body, and I am a true English bowman, Samkin Aylward by name; and I tell you, mes amis, that it warms my very heart-roots to set my feet on the dear old land once more. When I came off the galley at Hythe, this very day, I down on my bones, and I kissed the good brown earth, as I kiss thee now, ma belle, for it was eight long years since I had seen it. The very smell of it seemed life to me. But where are my six ras-

seen it. The very smell of it seemed life to me. But where are my six ras-cals? Hola, there! En avant!" At the order, six men, dressed as common drudges, mar hed solemnly into the room, each bearing a huge bundle upon his head. They formed in military line, while the soldier stood in front of them with stern eyes, checking off their several packages. "Number one-a French feather-bed with the two counterpanes of white with the two counterpanes of white sandell," said he.

sandell," said he. "Here, worthy sir," answered the first of the bearers, laying a great package down in the corner. "Number two-seven ells of red Turkey cloth and nine clis of cloth of gold. Put it down by the other. Good dame, I prythee give each of these men a bottrine of wine or a jack of ale. Three-a full piece of white

offence, most holy sir"-with a vicious snap at Alleyne-"and with the kind permit of the company, I will venture upon it." Many a time in the after days Al-leyne Edrickson seemed to see that

ack of leyne Edrickson seemed to see that white scene, for all that so many which were

ROSS THE ROOM SO THAT HIS HEAD CRACKED AGAINST THE WALL."
Notes a good man can always each up to pick it up, where a good man can always each up to pick it up, where a good man can always each up to pick it up, where a good man can always each up to pick it up, where a good man can always each up to pick it up, the tool of Peterl it would be a proper life, and here al drink to mine oil comrade the third. A rough of the saints be with them! the rough the saints be with the saints be with the rough the saints be the saints be string. The roared out the catch in a hards about of laughter. "I trust that fi the saints be the saints the saints be the saints the saints."
Mathinks I have some remembrance, the filt." Frank the saints the saints the saints be the saints the site saints be the saints the saints the saints. The point that it will give thee the saints be the saints the saints be the saints the saints. The sainte at the saints be the saints the saints be there the saints be the saints be the saints be the saints. The saints be the saints be the saints be the saints the saints be the saints b

en, young sir?" asked the

body of a man. By your leave, my red-headed friend. I should be right sorry to exchange buffets with you; and I will allow that there is no man in the Company who would pull against you on a rope; so let that be a salve to your mide. On the other hand, I should be cried throwing out his arms on a rope; so let that be a salve to your pride. On the other hand, I should judge that you have led a life of ease for some months back, and that my muscle is harder than your own. I am ready to wager upon myself against you, if you are not afeard." "Afeard, thou lurden!" growled big John. "I never saw the face yet of a man that I was afeard of. Come out, and we shall see who is the better man."

man. "But the wager?"

"I have nought to wager. Come out or the love and the lust of the thing. "Nought to wager!" cri d the soldier.

"Why, idiot, you have that which I covet above all things. It is that big body of thine that I am after. See now. I have a French feather bed there, which I have been at pains to keep these years back. I had it at the sack-ing of Issodun, and the king himself hath not such a bed. If you throw me, it is thine; but, if I throw you, then ou are under a vow to serve the White

"ou are under a vow to serve the White Company as long as we be enrolled." "Then you may bid farewell to your bed, soldier," roared Hordle John. "Nay; I shall keep the bed, and 1 shall have you to France in spite of your teeth, and you shall live to thank me for it. How shall it be, then, my infant? Collar and elbow, or close-lock, or catch how you can?" "To the devil with your tricks!" said John, opening and shutting his great red hands. "Stand forth, and let me clip thee."

John, opening and shutting his great red hands. "Stand forth, and let me clip thee." "Shalt clip me as best you can, then," quoth the archer, moving out into the open space, and keeping a most wary eye upon his opponent. He had thrown off his green jerkin, and his chest was covered only L. a pink silk jupon, or undershirt, cut low in the neck and sleeveless. Hordle John was near stripped from his waist upward, and his huge body, with his great muscles swelling out like the gnaried roots of an oak, towered high above the soldier. The other, however, though near a foot shorter, was a man of great strength; J.d there was a gloss upon his white skin which was wanting in the heavier limbs of the renegade monk. He was quick on his feet too, and skilled at the game; so that it was clear, from the poise of head and shine of eye, that he counted the chances to be in his favor. It would have been hard that night, through the whole length of England, to set up a finer pair in the face of each other. Big John stood walting in the centre with a sullen, menac' g ., and his red hair in a bristle, while the archer

Big John stood walting in the centre with a sullen, menac' g ...e, and his red hair in a bristle, while the archer paced lightly and swiftly to the right and the left with crooked knee and hands advanced. Then with a sudden dash, so swift and flerce that the eye could scarce follow it, he flew in upon his man and locked h leg around him. It was a grip that between men of equal strength would mean a failt but Hordle John tore him off from him across the room, so that his head cracked up against the wall. "Ma foil" cried the bowman, pass-ing his fingers through his curls. "you were not far from the feather-bed then, mon gar." Nothing daunted, he approached his man once more; but this time with more caution than before. With a

"One more fall, by all the saints!" he cried, throwing out his arms.

"Not I," quoth the archer, pulling on his clothes. "I have come well out of the business. I would sooner wrestle with the great bear of Navarre."

"'It was a trick!" cried John. "Aye was it! By my ten finger-bones! it is a trick that will add a proper man to the ranks of the Company

"Oh, for that," said the other, "count it not a fly; for I had promised myself a good hour ago that I should go with thee, since the life seems to be a goodly and proper one. Yet I would fain have had the feather-bed." (To be Continued Next Week.)



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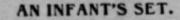
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