The Prince with his English and Gas-on army moved swiftly southward in con army moved swiftly southward in battle array and Sir Nigel having re-cruited his ranks with the two hun-dred members of the original White Company, from the woods near Mont-pezard, joined the army and received the honorable commission from the Prince, to push ahead into Spain and discover the location and strength of discover the location and strength of the Spanish and French army under King Henry of Transtamare. The lit-tle band wound through the passes of Navarre and into the rugged land of Spain.

Sir Nigel had with him Sir William Felton, Sir Oliver Buttesthorn, stout old Sir Simon Burley, the Scotch knight errant, the Earl of Angus, and Sir Richard Causton, all accounted among the bravest knights in the army, together with contract of the store of the stor with sixty veteran men-at-arms, and hree hundred and twenty archers. Spies with sixty veteran men-at-arms, and three hundred and twenty archers. Spies had been sent out in the morning, and returned after night-fall to say that the King of Spain was encamped some fourteen miles off in the direction of Burgos, having with him twenty thousand horse and forty-five thousand foot. A dry-wood fire had been lit, and round this the leaders crouched, the glare beating upon their rugged faces, while the hardy archers lounged and chatted amid the tethered horses, while they munched their scanty provisions.

"For my part," said Sir Simon Burley, I am of the opinion that we have already done that which we have come for. For do we not now know where the king is, and how great a following he hath, which was the end of our journey."

ney."
"True," answered Sir William Feiton,

"Trye," answered Sir William Feiton, "byt I have come on this venture because it is a long time since I have broken a spear in war, and, certes, I shall not go back until I have run a course with some cavalier of Spain."

"I will not leave you, Sir William," returned Sir Simon Burley: "and yet, as an old soldier and one who hath seen much of war, I cannot but think that it is an ill thing for four hundred men to find themselves between an arof sixty thousand on the one side and a broad river on the other."

"Yet," said Sir Richard Causton, "we cannot for the honor of England go back without a blow struck."

"Nor for the honor of Scotland,

back without a blow struck."

"Nor for the honor of Scotland, either," cried the Earl of Angus.
"By Saint Paul! you have spoken very well," said Sir Nigel, "and I have always heard that there were very worthy gentlemen among the Scots, and fine skirmishing to be had upon their border. Bethink you, Sir Simon, that we have this news from the lips of common spies, who can scarce tell us as much of the enemy and of his forces as the prince would wish to hear." night they led their horses,

All hight they feet their horses, stumbling and groping through wild defiles and rugged alleys, following the guidance of a frightened peasant who was strapped by the wrist to Black Simon's stirrup-leather. With the early dawn they found themselves in a dark with a strapped with the salvaine. dawn they found themselves in a dark ravine, with others sloping away from it on either side, and the bare brown crags rising in long bleak terraces all round them.

"If it please you, fair lord," said Black Simon, 'this man hath misled us, and since there is no tree upon which we may hang him, it might be well to hurl him over yonder cliff."

The peasant, reading the soldier's meaning in his fierce eyes and harsh accents dropped upon his knees, screaming loudly for mercy.

"How comes it dog?" asker Sir William Felton in Spanish, "Where is this camp to which you swore you would lead us?"

"By the sweet Virgin! By the blessed

lead us?"
"By the sweet Virgin! By the blessed
Mother of God!" cried the trembling
peasant, "I swear to you that in the
darkness I have myself lost the path,

I—"At the instant, there rose the scream of a hundred bugles, with the deep rolling of drums and the clashing of cymbals, all sounding together in one deafening uproar. Knights and archers sprang to arms, convinced to some great host was upon them; but the guide dropped upon his knees and thanked Heaven for its mercies.

"We have found them cabalieros!" he cried. This is their morning call."

As he spoke he scrambled down one of the narrow ravines, and, climbing over a low ridge at the further end, he led them into a short valley with a "At the instant, there rose the

led them into a short valley with a stream purling down the centre of it, and a very thick growth of elder and box upon either side. Pushing their way through the dense brushwood, they hadded their same which made their looked upon a scene which made their hearts beat harder and their breath ome faster.

In front of them lay a broad plain watered by two winding streams and covered with grass, stretching away to where, in the furthest distance, the towers of Burgos bristled up against the light blue morning sky. Over all this vast meadow there lay a great city of tents—thousands upon thousands of them, laid out in streets and squares like a well-ordered town. High silken pavilions or colored marquees, shooting up from among the crowd of meaner dwellings, marked where the great lords and barons of Leon and Castile displayed their standards, while over the white roofs, as far as eye could reach, the waying of ancients, pavons, pensils, and banderoles, with flash of gold and glow of colors, proclaimed that all the chivalry of Iberia were mustered in the plain beneath them. Far off, in the centre of the camp, a huge palace of red and white silk, with the royal arms of Castile waving from the summit, announced that the gallant Henry lay there in the midst of his warriors. watered by two winding streams and covered with grass, stretching away to

As the English adventurers, peeping out from behind their brushwood screen, looked down upon this wondrous sight, they could see that the vast army in front of them was already afoot. The first pink light of the rising sun glittered upon the steel caps and breast plates of dense masses of slingers and crossbowmen, who drilled and marched in the spaces which had been left for their exercise. A thousand columns of smoke reeked up into the pure morning air where the faggots were piled and the camp, terties already simmering. In the open plain, clouds of light horse galloped and swooded with swaying bodies and waving laveling, after the fashion which the Spanish ad adopted from their Moorish enemies All along by the sedsy banks of the rivers long lines of pages led their masters' chargers down to water, while the knights themselves lounged in gayly-dressed groups about the doors of their pavilions, or rode out, with their falcons upon their wrists and "(A 50)" of his warriors.

As the English adventurers, peeping

. . .

their greyhounds behind them, in quest and rode quietly forth from his con-

their greyhounds bening them, in quest
of quail or leveret.

The leaders sat amongst the boxwood, and took counsel together as to
what they should do; while from below there surged up the buzz of voices,
the shouting, the neighing of horses,
and all the uproar of a great camp.
"What boots it to wait?" said Sir
William Felton. "Let us ride down
upon their camp before they discover
us."

"And so say I, cried the Scottish earl; for they do not know that there is any enemy within thirty long leagues of them."

leagues of them."

"For my part," said Sir Simon Burley, "I think that it is madness, for you cannot hope to rout this great army; and where are you to go and what are you to do when they have turned upon you?"

"Ney," said Sir Nigel, "I have a punn by which we may attempt some small deed upon them, and yet, by the help of God, may be able to draw off again; which, as Sir Simon Burley hath said, would be scarce possible in any other way."

"How then, Sir Nigel?" asked several voices.

"How then, Sir Nigel?" asked several voices.

"We shall lie here all day; for amid the brushwood it is ill for them to see us. Then when evening comes we shall sally out upon them and see if we may not gain some honorable advancement from them. We shall have nightfall to cover us when we draw off so that we may make our way back through the mountains. I would station a score of archers here in the pass, with all our pennons jutting forth from the rocks, and as many nakirs and drums and bugles as we have with us, so that those who follow us in the fading light, may think that the whole army of the prince is upon them, and fear to go further. What think you of my plan, Sir Simon?"

"By my troth! I think very well of it," cried the prudent old commander. If four hundred men must needs run a tilt against sixty thousand, I cannot see how they can do it better of more safely."

safely."
"And so say I," cried Felton, heartily. "But I wish the day were over, for it will be an ill thing for us if they chance to light upon us."
The words were scarce out of his mouth when there came a clatter of loss stones, the sharp clink of trotting hoofs, and a dark-faced cavalier, mounted upon a white horse, burst through the bushes and rode swiftly down the valley from the end which was farthest from the Spanish camp. Lightly armed, with his vizor open and was farthest from the Spanish camp. Lightly armed, with his vizor open and a hawk perched upon his left wrist he looked about him with the careless air of a man who is bent wholly upon pleasure, and unconscious of the possibility of danger. Suddenly, however, his eyes lit upon the flerce faces which glared out at him from the brushwood. With a cry of terror he thrust his with a cry of terror, he thrust his spurs into his horse's sides, and dash-ed for the narrow opening of the gorge. For a moment it seemed as though he would have reached it, for he had trampled over or dashed aside the ar-chers who threw themselves in his way; but Hordle John seized him by way; but Hordle John seized him by way; but Hordle John seized him by the foot in his grasp of iron and dragged him from the saddle, while two others caught the frightened horse. "Ho, ho!" roared the great archer. "How many cows wilt buy my mother, if I set thee free?" "Hish that bull's bellowing!" cried Sir Nical impatiently. "Bring the man

"Hush that buil's bellowing: cried sir Nigel impatiently. "Bring the man here. By St. Paul! it is not the first time that we have met; for, if I mistake not, it is Don Diego Alvarez, who was once at the prince's court."

"It is indeed I," said the Spanish knight, "I trust that I am now the

prisoner of some honorable knight or gentleman."

"You are the prisoner of the man who took you. Sir Diego. answered Sir Nigel. "And I may tell you that better men than either you or I have found themselves before now prisoners in the hands of the archers of England." "What ransom, then, does he de-mand?" asked the Spaniard.

mand?" asked the Spaniard.

Big John scratched his red head and grinned in high delight when the question was propounded to him. "Tell him," said he, "that I shall have ten cows and a bull too, if it be but a little one. Also a dress of blue sendall for mother and a red one for Joan; with five acres of pasture-land, two scythes, and a fine new grindstone. Likewise a small house, with stalls for the cows and thirty-six gallons of beer for the thirsty weather."

"Tut, tut," said Sir Nigel, laughing.

"Tut, tut," said Sir Nigel, laughing.
"All these things may be had for money; and I think, Don Diego, that five thousand crowns is not too much for so renowned a knight."
"It shall be duly paid him."
"For some days we must keep you with us; and I must crave leave also to use your shield, your armor and your horse. I have need of it this day, but it shall be duly returned to you. Set guards, Aylward, with arrow on string, at either end of the pass; for it may happen that some other cavaliers may visit us ere the time be come:"

All day the little band of English-All day the little band of Englishmen lay in the sheltered gorge, looking down upon the vast host of their unconscious enemies. The sun had sunk behind a cloud-bank in the west before Sir Nigel at last gave word that the men should resume their arms and have their horses ready. He had himself thrown off his armor, and had dressed himself from head to foot in the harness of the captured Spaniard. "Sir William," said he, "it is my opinion to attempt a small ceed, and I ask you therefore that you will lead this outfall upon the camp. For me, I will ride into their camp with my squire and two archess.

"God be with thee, my honored lord, and have thee in his holy keeping. The Lady Loring hath asked me, the priest, so set down in writing what nath benatien at Twynnam, and an that concerns the death of thy ill neighbor the Socman of Minstead. For when ye had left us, this evil man gathered around him all outlaws, villeins, and masterless men until they were come to such a force that they slew were come to such a force that they slew were come to such a force that they slew were come to such a force that they slew and scattered the king's men who went gainst them. Then, coming forth from ne woods, they laid slege to the easile, and for two days they girt us in and shot and against us, with such numbers as were a marvel to see. Yet the Lady Loring held the place stoutly, and on the second day the Socman was slain—by nis own men, as some think—so that we were delivered from their hand; for the form their hand; for the second day the scenarious that we were delivered from their hand; for the form their hand; for the second day the scenarious that we were delivered from their hand; for the second day the scenarious the force that they slew that they slew them. There is south grants bizzonry and who are they who have done us so made holio; for the scenarious the scenarious the force that they slew the scenarious the force that we were a marvel to see. Yet the Lady Loring held the place stoutly, and on the second day the Socman was slain—by nis own men, as some think—so that we were delivered from their hand; for the force that they slew the scenarious them. There is such given the left?"

"You are raight the night of Santiago of Santiago of Calutava" answered Felton.

"You are right, for I can also see them. There is such gipanish bizzonry and who are they who have done us so made held the place stoutly, and on the second day the Socman was slain—by nis own men, as some think-so that we were come to such a force of the left."

"It is the ensign of the Knights of Santiago of Santiago of Santiago of Santiago of Santiag

the have threshood him his night. The which we might make our stank."

Ilm she at the tent of the brive Do Gross in the tent of the tent

"Nigel!" cri Sir Simon Daney, hurry ing u, with consternation toon his race, 2, sward tens me that there are not ten score arrows left in all their sheaves, ten score arrows left in all their sheaves. See! they are springing from their nor and cutting their solierets that they rush upon us. Might we not even make a retreat?"

The state of the s

with a handful of men the ferce tide which surged up against them. Yet it would have fared ill with them had not the archers from either side closel in upon the flanks of the attrackers, and pressed them very slowly and foot by loot down the long slope, until they were on the plain once more, where their relows were already rallying for a fresh assult.

But terrible indeed was the cost at which the last had been repetite. Of the three hundred and seventy men who had held the crest, one hundred and seventy two were left standing, many of whom were sorely wounded and weak from loss of blood, Sir Oliver Buttesthorn, Sir Richard Causton, Sir Simon Burley, Black Simon, Johnston, a hundred and fifty archers, and forty-seven men-at-arms had fallen, while the pittless hall of stores was aiready whizzing and plping once more about their ears, threatening every lastiant to further reduce their numbers. Sir Nigel looked about him as his shattered ranks, and his face flushed with a soldier's pride.

"By St. Paul!" he cried, "I have fought in many a little bickering, but never one that I would be more loth to hive missed than this. But you are wounded Alleyne!"

"It is hought." answered his squire, stanching the blood which dripped from a sword-cut across his forched.

"These gentlemen of Spain seem to be most courteous and worthy people. I see that they are already forming to continue this debate with us. Form up the bowmen two deep instead of four. By my faith! some very brave men have gone from among us. Aylward, you are a trusty soldier, for all that your shoulder has never felt accolade, nor your heels worn the gold spurs. Do you take charge of the right: I will hold the center, and you, my Lord of Angus, the left."

"Ho! for Sir Samkin Aylward!" cried a rough voice among the archers, and a roar of laughter greeted their new leader, "By my hilt!" said the old bowman, "I never thought to lead a wing in a stricken held. Stand close, camarades, for, by these finger-bones! we must pluy the man this day."

"Come hither, All

this day."

"Come hither, Alleyne," said Sir Nigel,
whiking back to the edge of the clift
which formed the rear of their position.
"And you, Norbury," he continued, beckonling to the squire of Sir Oliver, "do you
also come here."

The two grupes hands.

The two squires hurried across to him, and the three stood looking down into the rocky ravine which lay a hundred and fifty feet beneath them.

fifty feet beneath them.

"The prince must hear of how things are with us," said the knight. "Another onfall we may withstand, but they are many and we are few, so that the time must come when we can no longer form line across the hill, Yet if help were brought us we might hold the crest until it comes. See yonder horses which stray among the rocks beneath us?"

"I see them my fair lord."

"And see yonder path which winds along the hill upon the further end of the valley?"

"I see it."

see it."

'Were you on those horses and riding