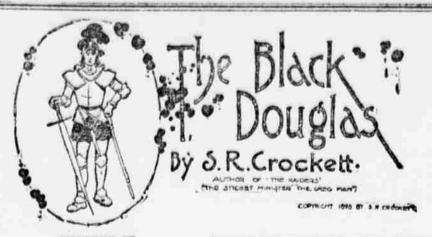
THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1898.



CHAPTER IX.

Laurence Sings a Hymn.

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(Copyright, 1898, by S. R. Crockett.) Laurence turned and beheld his brother In another instant the two young men had clenched and were rolling on the ground, wrestling and striking according to their ability. Sholto might easily have had the better of the fray but for the fact of Laurenco's recent degradation, for the elder brother was the taller by an inch, and of a frame of body more lithe and supple. But the accuracy of Laurence McKim's shape, and the severe training of the smithy had not left a superfluous ounce of flesh on him anywhere.

In a minute the brothers had become the center of a riotous, laughing throng of varlets, archers seeking their corps, young squires sent by their fords to find out the exact positions allotted to each contingent by the provost of the camp. For, as the wappen-shaw was to be of three days' duration, in all its nobler parts, a wilderness of same key. Then aloud to the abbot he tents had already begun to arise under the said, "An' it please you, sir, I can sing, 'O, scattered white thorns of the great Boreland

croft which stretched up from the river. These all laughed and jested after their kind, encouraging the youths to fight it out, and naming Laurence the Brock, or Badger from his stoutness, and slim Shelto the Whitterick, or, as one might say, the Weasel.

"At him, Whitterick! Grip him! Grip him! Now you have him at the pinch. Well pulled, Brock! Good, Brock! Well done! Well done! Ab, would you? Hands off that dagger! Let MacKim, you God-forgotten fool, if you fisticuffs settle it. The Whitterick hath itthe Whitterick!"

And thus ran the comment. Sholto being cumbered with his armor, Laurence might in time have gotten the upper grip. But a di- The old cock is monstrous deaf, at any version occurred which completely altered rate!" the character of the conflict. A stout, reddish young man came up holding in his hand a staff painted with twining stripes of white and red, which showed him to be the marshal of that part of the camp which pertained to the earl of Angus. He looked on a moment from the skirts of the crowd and then elbowed his way self-importantly into the center till he stood immediately about Laurence and Sholto.

"What means this hubbub, I say? Oul! your hold there and come with me. My lord of Angus shall settle this dispute!"

He had come up just when the young men were in the final grips, Sholto at last having gotten his will of his brother's head, and as the saying is, was giving him "Dutch spice" in no very knightly fashion.

The Angus marshal seeing this, seized Sholto by the collar of his mailed shirt, and, drawing him suddenly back, caused him to tose hold of his brother, who as quickly rose to his feet. The red man began to beat Sholto about the headplece right heartily with his staff, which exercise made a great ringing noise, though naturally, the skull cap being the work of Malise MacKim, little harm ensued to the head enclosed therein. But Master Laurence was instantly on fire.

"Here, Foxy-face," he cried, "let my brother a-be? What business is it of yours back to your Angus kernes and ragged crawbogle Highland folk!"

cannot dwell in such fair bodies. What are your names?" The younger knelt with his fingers joined and his eyes meckly on the grass, while Sholto, who had risen, stood quietly by with his steel cap in his hand.

bloom of her beauty.

Behind came the whole array of the

Douglas-Herons and Maxwells, Ard-

knights and barons who own allegiance to

"Laurence MacKim," said the younger. modestly, without venturing to raise his eyes from the ground, "and this is my brother Sholto! "Can you sing, pretty boy?" said the ab-

bot to Laurence. "We have never been taught," answered

Sholto. But his brother, feeling that he was losing chances, broke in:

"I can sing, if it please your holiness!" "And what can you sing, sweet lad?" through the fords of Lochar was a William, said the abbot, smilling with expectation a James or an Archibald Douglas. The king sist his increasing deafness.

"Shut your fool's mouth," said Sholto under his breath to his brother.

"Shut your own! 'Tis ugly as a rat trap at any rate?" responded Laurence in the Mary Quean!

The abbot smiled, well pleased. "Ah, exceeding proper, a song to the honor of the queen of heaven (he devoutly crossed himself at the name); I knew that I could not be mistaken in you!"

"Your pardon, most reverend," interjected Sholto, anxiously, "please you to excuse my brother. His voice bath just broken, and he cannot sing at present." Then under his breath he added: "Laurie sing that song, you will have us both stripped in a trice and whipped on the bare back for insolence to the earl's uncle!" "Go to!" said his brother, "I will sing.

"Sing," said the abbot, "I would hear you gladly. So fair a face must be accompanied by the pipe of a nightingale. B sides, we sorely need a tenor for the choir at Sweetheart!"

So, encouraged in this fashion, the daring Laurence began:

Nae priests aboot me shall be seen, To mumble prayers baith morn and e'en, I swap them a' for Mary Quean!

I'll bid nae mass for me be sung, Dies ille, dies tras, Nor clenking bells for me be rung, Sis semper solet fieri! I gang my ways to Mary Quean!

"Ah, very good, very good, truly!" said the abbot, thrusting his hand into his pouch beneath his gown. "Here are two gold nobles for thee, sweet lad, and another for your brother, whose countenance is somewhat less sweet. You have sung well to the praise of our lady. What did you say your name was? Of a surety we must have you at Sweetheart. And you must have the Latin, too, as I heard in the hymn! It is a thing the most marvelous. Verily the very unction of your grace must have visited you in your cradle!'

Laurence held down his head with all his native modesty, but the more open if two gentlemen have a difference. Go Sholto grew red in the face, hearing behind him the tittering and shoulder-shaking of the priests and lay servants in the abbot's

He sat his horse awkwarily, perpetually best mileh cows and hath steadfastly re- that he had a far road to travel. hunching his shoulders forward as if he fused to restore them. Anathama maranafeared to fall over his beast's head. And tha to his wile body and condemned his saving among his own company, no man did soul."

him any honor, which caused him to min Every word of this comment and addiwith wicked sidelong smilles of hate and tion was heard by the person most conenvy, cerned.

Then amid the shouting of the people Or it might be "Henry Amilligan--his there appeared on a milk-white palfrey, nother's son-Ged wot. And his father's, Margaret, the eatl's only sister, already too, doubtless-if only one could know who famous over all Scotland as "the fair maid of Galloway!" With her rode one who, in the father was. The devil dwell in his fat belly! Exorcise tethe esteem of most who saw the pair that So it went on till the temper of the young

day, was yet a rarer flower, even Maud Lindesay, who had come out of the bleak north to keep the lonely little maid comthe breaking point, but he wished not to cause a disturbance among so great a company. For Margaret of Douglas was yet no pany and on a day of such renown. nore than a child, but Maud Lindesay was At last they came to the muster of the 19 years of her age and in the first perfect clean-run limber lads of Kelton, artificers

mostly, and stated retainers of the castle and its various adjacent bourgs of Carlinwark, Rhonehouse, Gelston and Mains of Thrieve,

well Macuflochs, Gordons from the Glen of Some one immediately took the abbot by Kells, with Agnews and MacDowalls from the elbow, and shouted in his ear that this the shireside. But above all, and outnum-Ther vering all, there were the lesser chiefs of was the company he desired to see. he rode forward to the left hand of his the mighty name-Douglases of the north, nephew, as Malise and he possed slowly Moray and Ormont among them-these noble young sons of James the Gross of Avondale down the line, examining the weapons. 'Laurence MacKim! I would see Laurode nearest their cousin, the head of the

rence MacKim!" cried the abbot, holding up clan. Then came Douglases of the border, his hand, as if in the chapel of his monas-Douglases of the Hermitage, of Renfrew, of Douglasdale. Every third man in that great tery. The earl stopped, and Malisy turned company which splashed and caracored right about on his heel in great aston abmert.

"What wants old Marrowbones with our and setting his hand to his best car to as- himself could not have raised in all Scot- Larrie?" he muttered. "Surely be cannot land such a following, and it is small won- | bave gotten into mischlef with the lozses



der if the heart of the young man expanded already. But I kenna-I kenna. When I

CHAPTER NT

to you."

who rode beside him.

for the queen of beauty.

ion he came.

Avondale,

care?"

the other side of the Ludy Sybilla.

The ascetic monkish man found his words

with little loss of time, showing, however,

no resentment for Earl William's neglect of

France.

The Ambassador of France.

The earl had almost arrived at the pavilion erected at the southern end of the

of a belated company. The young man glanced northward with intent to discover will presently deliver his master's message by their pennons who his visitors might be.

But the distance was too great, and identification was made more difficult by the carl of Galloway was strained almost to swarming of the populace round the newcomers. So, being unable to make the matter out, Earl William dispatched his brother David to bring him word of their quality. Presently, however, and before David

Douglas' return, shouts of "Avondale! Avondale!" from the men of Lanarkshire informed the young earl of the name of one at least of those who had arrived. A like the beak of an unclean bird, frown darkened his brow so quick and angry

"Earl William," said the marshal, "I bid that it showed the consideration in which the Douglas held his granduncle, James the Gross, earl of Avondale. "I hope, at least," he said in a low voice

to Malise, who stood half a stop behind him, "that my cousins Will and James have come with him. They are good metal father, dukes of Touraine and premier vas- tween fees so bitter, a wide berth to each for a tourney and worth breaking a lance sals of the king of France."

By this time the banners of the visitors could be seen crossing the fords of Lochar, while high advanced above all private pennons two standards could be seen the royal banner of Scotland, and close beside

the rampant lion, the lilies of France. "St. Bride!" cried the earl, "have they brought the king of Scots to visit me? His majesty had been better at his hornbook or playin gball in the tennis court of Ster-

Then came David back, riding swiftly on his fine dark chestnut, which, being free from the mantle in which the horses of knights were swathed, and having its mane and tail left long, made a gallant show as the lad threw it almost on its haunches in his pride of horsemanship.

"William," said David Douglas, "a word in your ear, brother. The whole tribe are Still barehoaded, he took the reins of her here-fat Jamie and all his clan!"

The brothers conferred a little apart, for in those troubled times men learned caution early, and, though the Douglas was the greatest man in Scotland, set, surrounded by meaner men as he was, it behooved him but coday the gods have been good to the at all times to be Jealous of his life and hönor.

Earl Douglas came out of the sparred enclosure of the tilt ring in order to receive his guests.

First, as an escort to the royal ambassafore of France and Scotland, who came hehind, rode the earl of Avondale and his four sons, noble young men and all unlikely to have sprung from such a stock. James the Gross rode a broad Clydesdale mare, a short soft, unwieldly man, sitting squat on the saddle like a frog astride a roof, and glancing sideways out of the pursy recesses of his eyes.

Behind him came his effest son William. of a true Douglas countenance, quick, high and stern. Then followed James, whose lithe body and wondrous dexterity in arms was already winning him repute as one of the bravest knights in all Christendom in every military and knightly exercise. Behind the Avondale Douglases rode two

nen abreast, with a lady on a palfrey between them.

The first to take the eye, both by his tature and remarkable appearance, rode a charger covered from head to tail in the gorgeous red and gold diamond trappings pertaining to a marshal of France. He was in complete armor and wore his visor down A long blue feather floated from his helmet, failing almost upon the flank of his horse A truncheon of gold and black was at his side. A pace behind him the lilies of France were displayed, floating out languidly from a banner staff in the hands of a young

squire. The knight behind whom the hanner

featured man, with mean and shifty eyes, | Shrovetide did he not drive off five of our clerk. But those who knew him best agreed bright as a flower with youth, and instinct ever eager to keep near to ber fair "gouyernante," for the ambassador of the king of with the flery beauty of his race.

It was James the Gross who came forward France had bent one look upon her. to act as herald. "My well beloved nephew." strange and searching that Margaret, though he began, in somewhat whining tones, "I not naturally timid, had cried aloud involusbring you two royal embassies, one from the tarily and clasped her friend's hand with a king of France and the other from the king grasp which she refused to loosen till Sholto jousting meadow when a gust of cheering of Scotland. I have the honor to present to had promised to walk by the side of her borne along the lines announced the arrival .you Marshal Giles de Reiz, ambassador of pony and allow her to net her trembling the most Christian king, Charles VII, who fingers in the thick of his clustering curls. For the armorer's son was in those sim-

ple days an ancient ally of the little noble The marshal, who till now had kept his damsel, and he dreamed, and not without visor down, slowly raised it, and revealed some excuse, that in an age when every a face which, after being once seen, could man's strong arm and brave heart constinever afterward be banished from the tuted his fortune the time might come when memory. It was a large gray-white coun- he might even offer himself to Maud Lindetenance, with high cheek bones and color- say, baron's daughter though she was. For less lips, which were continually working both his father and himself were already one upon the other. Black eyes were set high in favor with their master, the earl, close together under heavy, hairless brows, who could create knights and dispose lordand a long, thin nose curved between them, ships as easily and much more effectually and finally than the king himself.

The emissaries of the chancellor and Sir you greeting in the name of your liege Alexander Livingston did not accompany lord, Charles, king of France, and also in the others back to the castle after the short that of his son, the dauphin Louis. I billig and haughly answer which they had reyou also a further token of their good will, ceived, but with their followers returned in that I hall you heir to the great estates the way they had come to their several and dignities of your father and grand- headquarters, giving, as was natural beother on their northward journeys to Edin-The young man bowed, and in spite of the | burgh and Stirling.

interest of his message, the marshal caught "What think you of this day's doings, his eyes resting upon the face of the lady Mistress Lindesay?" asked Sholto, as he swung along beside the train with little Mar-"To this I add that which, save for the garet of Douglas' hand still clutching the nessage of the king, my master, ought fitly thick curls at the back of his neck.

to have come first. I present you to this The muld-of-honor tossed her shapely fair lady, my niece, the the Damosel Sy- head, and with a little pretty upward curl billa de Thouars, late maid of honor to your of the lip exclaimed: ""Twas a stupid day high princess, Margaret of Scotland, who as ever I saw. There was not a single handof late hath expanded into a yet fairer some knight nor yet one beautiful woman flower under the sun of our land of on the field this day!"

"What of James of Avondale when knights are being judged ?" said Sholto with a kind The earl dismounted and threw the reinsof gloomy satisfaction, boyish and characof his horse to Malise, whose face wore an teristic, "he looked often enough in your diexpression of bitterest disappointment and rection to prove that he did not agree with instinctive hatred. Then he went to the side of the Lady Sybilia and, taking her you about the lack of the beautiful woman !" At this Maud Lindesay elevated het pretty nostrils yet further into the air, 'James of Avondale indeed," she said; "he la not to be compared, either for dignity or strength, with the earl himself, nor yet with many others whom I know of lesser

"Sholto MacKim," cried the clear, piping voice of the little Margaret, "how in the world am I to keep hold of your hair if you shake and jork your head like that? If you do not keep still I will send for that pretty boy over there in the scarlet vest, or ask my cousin James to ride with me. And he the Marshal de Retz to take the place on will, too, I know, for he likes bravely to be

Sholto held his head erect and forthtion of the earl and were doubtful of his

There came a subtle and roguish smile in the eyes of Mistress Maud Lindesay as she observed the suddening stiffening of Sholto's

"I am Sir James Irving of Drum, and I slack are ye to run my lord's errands, but stand here on behalf of Sir Alexander Livquick enow to return home upon your ingston, tutor and guardian of the king of tramping, clattering ruck of horses, and cots, to invite your friendship and aid. expecting to ride over my bridge of good The Lord Crichton, some time chancellor of pine planking instead of washing the dirt this realm, hath rebelled against the royal

The long files of horsemen threaded their way across the green plain of the isle toward the open space in front of Thrieve castle, the points of their spears shining the earl of Duglas to suppress this revolt. high in the air and the shafts so thick that Scarcely had these words been uttered seen from a distance they made a network when another knight stepped forward out of of elender lines reticulated against the sun. the train which had followed the earl of The great island fortress of the Douglases

"I am here on behalf of the chancellor of as a fortress and dignity as a residence, cotland, who is no robel against any right authority, but who wishes only to bring this Archibald, the Grim, who built the keep, could not have forescen the wondrous beauty and strength to which Thrieve had

hand, he bowed his head over it, touching palfrey and led her to the stand reserved. Here being arrived, the earl invited her estate to dismount and occupy the central seat, "Till your arrival it lacked an occupant, house of Douglas, and for the first time since the death of my father I see it filled. Smillingly the lady consented, and with a wave of his hand the Earl William invited

beside my dear Maud Lindesay." Then turning haughtily to the herald of the king of Scots, who had been standing alone, looking as if he had been under the inspeche said: "And now, sir, what would you with the Earl Douglas?"

weapons passing muster.

reverence to the banner under whose protecbearing. "Foul feet, slow bellies, fushionless and

from your hoofs in Dee water." authority and fortified him in Edinburgh castle. So, both Sir Alexander Livingston and the most noble lady, the queen mother desire the assistance of the great power of

was then in its highest state of perfection

wood which ran round the top of the castle.

From the four corners of the roof flew

the banners of four provinces which owned

the sway of the mighty house, Galloway,

Annandale, Lanark and the Marches, while

from the center, on a taller flagstaff than

any, flew the standard royal, for so it

might be called, the hearts and stars of

The outer walls thus blazed with color

and the woods around gave back the con-

stant reverberation of artillery, as with

hand guns and artillery of weight the gar-

rison greeted the return of the earl and his

guests. The green castle island from end to

end was thick with tents and gay with

pavilions of many hues and various design,

their walls covered with devices, and each

flying the colors of its owners, while on

poles without dangled shields and harness

of various kinds, ready for the younger

he Douglases' more than royal house.

distracted realm back into some assured peace, and to deliver the young king out of the hands of flatterers and letchers. I have attained under his successors. This night the honor of requesting on behalf of the of the Wappenshaw the lofty gray walls chancellor of Scotland, Sir William Crich- were hung with gaily colored tapestries resentative of royal authordraped from the overhauging gallery of

Meantime Sholto had recovered from his surprise, and the crowd of varlets was melting apace, thinking the Angus marshal some one of consequence. But the brothers Mac-Kim were not the lads to take beating with recitative. "O, walt, wait, Larrie MacKim, a stick meekly, and the provost, who indeed had nothing to do with the Galloway part of the encampment, had far better have thou have, and not an inch of hide on thee confined his officiousness to his own quarters.

"Take him on the right, Sholto," cried Laurence, "and I will have at him from this side." The Red Angus drew his sword and tion threatened forthwith to slav the lads if they gray grimalkin of the woods Sholto leaped within his guard ere he had time to draw back his arm for thrust or parry, and at the same moment Laurence, snatching the red and white staff out of his hand, dealt him so sturdy a blow between the shoulders that, though he was of weight equal to both of his opponents, he was knocked breathless at the first blow and went down beneath the impetus of Sholto's attack.

Laurence coolly disengaged his brother and began to thrash the Angus man with his own staff upon all exposed parts till the dry wood broke. Then he threw the pieces at his head, and the two brothers went off arm in arm to find a woody covert in which to repair damages against the weapon showing and the inspection of their lord and his keen-eyed master armorer.

As soon as they had discovered such a sequestered holt, Laurence, who had frequent experience of such rough- and-tumble encounters, stripped off his doublet of purple velvet and turning the sleeve inside out he showed his brother that it was lined with a rough surfaced cloth almost of the nature of teasle. This being rubbed brickly upon any dusty garment or fouled armor proved most excellent for restoring the gloss and beauty. The young men, being, as it were, born to the trade, and knowing that their armament must meet their father's inexorable eye as he passed along their lines with the earl, rubbed and polished their best, and when, after half an hour's brisk work, each examined the other not a speck or stain was left to tell of the various casual incidents of the morning. Two bright, fresh-colored youths emerged from their thicket, immaculately clad and with countenances of such cheruble innocence that my las family. Lord Abbot William of the groat Cistercian ; train: "They look like two young angels, of seats for the ladies along one side and a It is a shame and a sin that two such fair throne in the midst for the Douglas himinnocents should be compelled to join in self, as high and as nobly upholstered as if aught ruder than the chanting of psalms in the king of Scots had been presiding in the 10,000 paternosters and the 300 miseres

Whereat one of the company who had been At 10 by the great sun dial of Thrieve the witness to their treatment of the Angus cari, armed in complete armor of rare work, provost and also of Laurence's encounter damascened with gold and bearing in his with the knight of the black armor was hand the truncheon of commander, rode first seized incontinently with a fit of coughing through the fords of Lochar, and immewhich almost choked him.

will speak to my nephew, the earl, concern- high-bred beauty attested his Douglas birth. ing you. Your faces plead for you. Evil Next rode the earl of Angus, a red, foxy-



train, and being sure that they would form their master as soon as he passed by concerning the true import of Master Lau renco's song. He was muttering a rapid till I get you on the Carlinwark shore. A sore back and a stiff skinful of bones shalt that is not black and blue. Amen." he added, stopping his maledictions quickly,

for at that moment the abbot came some what abruptly to the end of his benedic

The great churchman rode away on his came near him. But with a spring like a fair white palfrey horse, with a smile and a backward wave of his hand.

"I will speak to my nephew concerning you this very day, my child!" he cried. And the countenance of the most gentl youth kept its sweet innocence and angelic grace to the last, but that of Sholto was dark and frowning.

CHAPTER X.

The Braes of Balmaghie.

By 10 of the clock the bracs of Balmaghie were a sight most glorious to look upon. Well nigh 12,000 men were gathered there, of them ready to thrust a lance or ride a charge.

The line of the tents which had been se strictly kept within its own pale

fence of green wands basket wise, pointed and thrust into the earth like the trap spring of those who quarrels and bickerings of the squires who had been sent forward to choose and arrange the several encampments. Nor were rough and tumble fights, such as we have seen the MacKims indulging in, thought deroga tory to the dignity of any save belted kuights.

Each camp displayed the banner of its own lord, but, higher than all, from the top of every mound and broomy hillock, floated the better than those of any Frenchman that banner of the overlord. This was the white ever breathed. For this thou shalt kneel lion of Galloway on a ground of blue, and six nights on the cold stone of the holy meekly, adding to himself, 'It cannot be so beneath it, but on the same staff, a pennon chapel house and say of paternosters ten thard work as hammering at the forge, and whereon was the bleeding heart of the Doug- thousand and of misereres thou shalt sing

three hundred. And this shall chance to j abbey of Dulce Cor, looking upon them with that is called the boatcroft. At either end when thou speakest to the abbot of The lists were set up on the level meadow teach thee to be scanter with thy breath bare, bowed heads as they knelt reverently a pavilion had been erected, and the lists Foundation Devorgill concerning better men on one knee to ask his blessing, said to his | were strongly fenced in, with a rising tier | than thyself." Then the priest gasped and fell back, and none other was found with aught to say against Master Laurence, which, considering

was not unnatural. As the earl passed along he was annoved diately after him came his brother, David, "Bless you, my sons," said the abbot, "I a tall, handsome boy, whose olive skin and

ithin him was 16 I can mind-I can mind. And the Presently, soon after the arrival of the loon may well be his father's own son." And Malize, the man of brawn, cavalcade, the wappen-shaw was set in array, and, company by company, the long watched out of his quiet gray eyes the fouble line extended as far as the eye could face of Abbot William, wondering what was reach from north to south along the side to come next. of the broad and sluggish moving river. Laurence stood forth at a word of com-

Sholto, who, in virtue of his courage and mand from the earl. He saluted, and then good marksmanship had been placed over dropped the point of his sword meekly upon the archer company which waited on the the ground. His white and rose cherub's right of the ford, fell in behind the cortege | face expressed the utmost goodness and inof the earl. He was first man of all to have | nocence

his equipment examined and his weapons "Dear kinsman," said the abbot to his btained, as they deserved the commendanephew. "I have a request to prefer which tion of his liege lord, and the grim, unwill- I hope you will grant, though it deprive you ing approval of Malise, the master armorer, of one retainer. This youth is not fit comwhose unerring eye could not detect so much pany for rude soldiers and rufflers of the as a speck on a shirt of mail or a grain of camp. His mind is already on higher things. rust on the waist piece of shining steel. He hath good, clerkly Latin, also, being Then the earl rode down the lines, and skilled in the humanities, as I have heard Sholto, remembering the encounter among proven with mine own cars. His grace of the dust of the roadway, breathed more anguage and deportment is manifest, and

freely when he saw his father's back. he can sing the sweetest and most spiritual songs in praise of Mary and the saints. I And surely that day the heart of the Douglas must have ben proud and high would have him in our choir at Sweetheart within him, for there they stood, company abbey, where we have much need both of

behind ordered company, the men on whom | voice such as his, and also of a youth whose he could count to the death. And the lad sanctity and innocence will leaven with the of 18, who in Scotland was greater than the grace of the spirit the neophytes of our colwhom 5,000 were well mounted knights and king, looked upon their steadfast thousands lege, and the consideration of which may even bring repentance into older and more fully equipped men-at-arms, every man of with a swelling heart. hardened hearts." The abbot had made particular inquiries

Malise MacKim could not believe his ears where Laurence was stationed, which was in the archer company of the laird of Kelton. As he listened to the abbot's rounded periods. ap extended from well-nigh opposite the Most of the monkish band had been made too. But all the same his gray eyes twinkled island castle of Thrieve to the kirk-hill of happy by the deception practiced on the his mouth slowly drew itself together into almaghle. Every knight's following was about concerning Mary Quean, and were the round of an O, from which issued a oo desirous to have such a rogue to play lovg, low whistle, perfectly audible to all pranks in the dull abbey to tell any tales about him except the abbot.

on Laurence MacKim. But one Berguet, a Clotatered quiet of the neophytes if they get "Lord have mercy on the innocence and catch mowdiewarts. Many also were the Scotland, and whose nature was that of a our Larrie for an example!" muttered Maspy and a sycophant, approached and vol- | lise to himself as he turned away. inteered the information to the abbot that . Even the young carl smilled, perhaps re-

this lad to whom he was desirous of showing membering the last time he had seen the this lad to whom he was desirous of showing i youth before him, clutching and tearing like "Eh, what," said the abbot, "a bodle for a wildcat at his brother's throat in the thy ill-set tongue, false loon, dost think I smithy at Carlinwark.

did not hear him sing his fair and seemly William pleasantly to Laurence. He would, berer, that I am a Douglas, and have ears gladly have purchased his uncle's at even a greater price.

"If your lordship pleases," said Laurence if I like it not why then I can always run away.

"You think you have a call to become holy clerk?"

"I feel it here!" quoth Master Laurence appocritically, indicating correctly, how-ON THE CROSS. ver, the organ whose wants have made clerks of so many-that is, the stomach.

incle, here is the lad's father, Malise Mac-

servant. Ask him concerning his son." by the iterated requests of his uncle to be informed when they should come to the "Tis all up a rotten tree now!" muttered company of the laird of Kelton. And the Laurence. "My father will reveal all."

good abbot, being like all deaf men, apt to Malise MacKim smiled grimly, but with speak a little loud, did not improve matters by constantly making remarks behind his and relative of his chief he said: "Truly, I again on the white housing of her palfrey. hand, upon the appearance of character (as | had never thought of this, my son, as worthy known to him) of the various dependents o be a holy clerk. But I will not stand in of the Douglas house who had come out to the way of his advancement or thwari your show their loyalty and exhibit their pre- favor. Take him for a year on trial, and if the expression of the finest natural modesty, from the left bank to the southernmost cor paredness for battle. you can make a monk of him, do so and wel-

And thus it was. The young carl would come. I recommend a leathern strap, well came to the Earl Douglas after his first sur- single charge of powder or even a few ome in his inspection to a company of hardened in the fire, for the purpose of mak- prise was one in which triumph was blended strokes of a woodman's ax would have been Solwayside men-stiff-jointed fishers of sal- | ing a beginning." mon nets, out of the parishes of Rerrick or

"He shell, indeed, have penance if he Borgue; or, as it might be, rough colts from need it. For the good of the soul must the this?" he said, half aloud. And he turned avoid the extreme inconvenience of passing the rock scarps of Colvend, scramblers after, body suffer!" said Abbot William, sentenwild birds' nests on perilous heachs and tiously.

poachers on the deer preserves of Cloak "Saint's bones and cracklings!" muttered Moss as often as they had a chance. Then Laurence, "this is none so cheerful. But I drawn of countenance, the mouth open and reck which upheld the slight additional the earl, having zealously commended the can always run away if the strap grows over squared with wonder. His jaw was fallen weight of the earl's gold buckle in his cap particular Barnbachle or Munchers who led limber, and then let them catch me if they slack and his hands gripped one upon the found himself, not wholly by accident, i them, all would be peace and contord till can. Sholto will help me." out of the crowd behind would issue the "Fall out!" commanded the earl, sharply, growling comment of his uncle, the abbot "and join yourself to the company of Abbot

of Duice Cor. William. Come, Malise, we lose our time."

of Scotland fluttered was a man of different ity, the aid and alliance of my lord of Dougmold. His spare frame seemed buried in the suit of armor which he wore somewhat lan! A smile of haughty contempt passed over awkwardly. His pale, ascetic face looked the face of the earl, and he dismissed both more in place in a monkish cloister than on heralds, uttering in the hearing of all those

a knightly tilting ground, and he glanced words which afterward became so famous this way and that with the swift and furtive over Scotland: suspicion of one who, while setting one trap, "Let dog eat dog-what should the lion

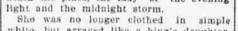
frey between these two took all men's re France and a herald of the king of Scots. The Earl Douglas having let his eyes once rest upon her, could not again remove them

wonder which he saw. It was the fady of the pavilion under neath the pines, the lady of the evening light and the midnight storm.

white, but arrayed like a king's daughter.

fears to be taken in another. But the lady who rode on a white palgard, even in the presence of a marshal of

being, as it were, fixed by greatness of the



Mistress Mnud Lindesny. The sports of the first days of the great vappenshaw were over. The Lord James Douglas, second son of the Gross One, had won the tourneying by unhousing all his opponents without even breaking a lance, olto MacKim wore on his cap the golden buckle of archery, and took his way happily homeward, much uplifted that the somewhat fraudulent eyes of Mistress Maud Lindesay had smiled upon him while the French

squires to clean and oil for the use of their lady was preening it there. masters on the remaining days of the The knightly part of the great muster had tournament. gone back to their tents and lodgings. The Sholto waited at the bridge head, impacommonalty were mostly stringing away tient with the press, and eager to be left hrough the vales and hill passes to their alone with his own thoughts, that he might nomes, no longer in ordered companies, but go over the words and looks of his heart's in bands of two or three. Disputes and idol, and suck all the sweet pain he could misunderstandings arose here and there beout of her hard-heartedness. Suddenly tween men of different provinces. The passed backward from lip to lip, according Galloway men called "Annandale thieves" to the universal, and, indeed, obligatory, at those border men who came at the sumcustom of the time, there reached him the mons of the hereditary warder of the "passing of the word." He heard his own Marches. The borderers replied by loud name repeated over and over, in fifty volces bleatings, which signified that they held the and tones, waxing louder as the "word"

CHAPTER XII

Galwegians of no better understanding than, neared him. "Sholto MacKim-Sholto MacKim, son of their native sheep. Malise, the armorer, wanted to speak with It was a strange and varied company which rode home to Thrieve to receive the the carl. Sholto MacKim! Sholto ----A great nolt of a Moray highlandman with hospitality of the young earl of Douglas a mouth like a gash, shouted in his very

and duke of Touraine. The castle itself heing no more than a military fortress, conear. taining, in addition to the soldiers' quar-

ters, only the apartments designed for the family (and scant enough of those), could Methodist missionary work among the Japnot of course accommodate so great a company. But, as was the custom at all great

houses, though more in England and of Japan, France than in poverty-stricken Scotland, the earl of Douglas had in store an abun dant supply of tents, some of them woven of arras and ornamented with cloth gold, others of humbler but equally service able material.

His mother, the countess of Douglas who knew nothing of the occurrences of the WHILE THE FRENCH LADY PINNED night of the great storm, or guessed at the suspicions of witchcraft and diablerie, which made a hell of the breast of Malise, the master armorer, received her son's guests

Earl William smiled yet more broadly, from which there flowed down a graceful with distinguished courtesy. Malise himbut, anxious to be gone, he said: "Mine cloud of finest lace. This, even as the earl self had gone so soon as he set eyes on looked at her, she caught at with a bewitch- the companion of the Marshal de Retz to Kim, my master armorer and right good ing gesture and brought over her shoulder find the abbot, that they might consult to with her gloved hand. A close-fitting robe of gether, only, however, to discover that the palest blue outlined the perfections of her gentle churchman had quitted the field as body. A single fleur-de-lis in gold was em- soon as he had obtained the consent of his broidered on the breast of her white bodice, nephew to the possession of the new choris-

salutation to the dignitary of the church and the same device appeared again and ter, to whom he had taken so sudden and violent a fancy. The hoofs of the whole cavalcade were soon She sat in her saddle, gently smilling, and looking down with a sweetness which was sounding hollow and dull upon the wooder

> bridge which the carl's father had erected either the perfection of finished coquetry or Strangely enough, the first thought that ner of the Isle of Thrieve, a bridge which

> sufficient to remove and disable, but which with mirth. "What will the abbot and Malise think of nevertheless enabled the castle dwellers t the ford at all stages of the river. him about in order to look upon the face of his master armorer.

> Sholto MacKim, with all the consciousness of a shining success in the stiffness of the He found Malise MacKim ashen pale and other like those of one praying to the the immediate neighborhood where his heart's beloved, Maud Lindesay, like a val-Bultits.

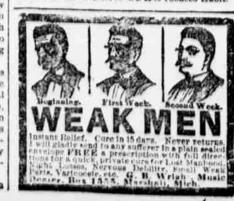
The earl smiled, and bidding Malise unlace last seneschal, had kept her place all day his beimet in compliment to his guests, he close beside the maid of Galloway, as Mar-"A close-fisted old thief! The saints pity Thus was one of our heroes brought into stood bareheaded before them, his head ap- garet of Douglas was always called. him not! He will surely fry in hell! Last; the way of becoming a learned and hely pearing above the blackness of his armor; And now the little girl was more than







Pleasant, Palatat Good, Never Sicken. Meaken or Grine, De, Zie, Sie CURE CONSTIPATION. NO-TO-BAG Sold and guaranteed by all drug



On her head was a high peaked colffure

