

"How should we be responsible with our

CHAPTER XXI.

The combat of the third day was, by the

will of the earl, to be of a peculiar kind.

It was the custom at that time for the meles

to be fought between an equal number of

knights in open lists, each being at liberty

to carry assistance to his friends as soon

On this occasion, however, the fight was

eral squires on the one side and an equal

number of knights and squires on the other.

As the combat of the previous day had de-

dured without complaint. But no blow was

To Sholto's great and manifest joy the

earl, his master, chose the new captain of

his guard to support him in the fray, and

Then was Sholto's heart high and unlifted

achieve over his brother less than two days

peing recovered from his wound, had com

greatest day of the tourney.

James of Avondale!"

looking on to see him.

Lauder's content.

shook their heads.

shield!

in haste to see the fighting of the last and

As soon as he heard the wager of battle

the marshal cried. "I also will strike a blow

this day for the honor of France. My quinsy

has altogether left me and my blood flows

strong after the rest. I will take part with

And without waiting to be asked he went

off, followed by his servant, Pointou, toward

And as the Marshal de Retz was the chief

guest, it was impossible for James of Avon-

lale to refuse his offer. But there was anger

and blasphemy in his heart, for he knew not

what the Frenchman could do, and though

he had undoubtedly been a gallant knight in

his day, yet in these matters (as James

Douglas whispered to his brother) a week's

steady practice is worth a lifetime of theory.

Still, there was nothing for the brothers

from Douglasdale but to make the best of

their bargain. The person most deserving of

pity, however, was the young laird of the

Ross who being thus dispossessed went out

to the back of the lists and actually shed

tears, being little more than a boy and none

Then he came back hastily and besought

James of Douglas to let him fight as his

squire, saying that as he had never taken

up the knighthood which had been be-

stowed on him by the earl for his journey

to France, there could be nothing irregular

esquire. And thus after an appeal to the

earl himself it was arranged much to Allan

For his third knight the Douglas had

made choice of his third cousin, Hugh,

younger brother of his two opponents, and

it that William and James of Avondate

"He pushes a good tree, our Hughle,"

said James, "if he comes at you, Will, mind

that trick of swerving that he hath. Aim

The conflict on the Boatcroft differed much

from the chivalrous encounters of an earner

It chanced that on the borders of the

crowd which that day begirt the great en-

closure of the lists two burgesses of Dum-

fries stood on tiptoe, to-wit, Robert Sem-

ple, merchant, dealing in cloth and wool

and Ninian Halliburton, the uncle of the

wife of Malise MacKim, master armorer,

whose trade was only conditioned by the

mount of capital he had to lay out and the

It would give an entirely erroneous im-

pression of the state of Scotland if the say-

ngs and doings of the wise and shrewd

ourghers of the towns of Scotland were left

without a chronicler. The burghs of Scot-

and were at once the cradles and strong-

holds of liberty. They were not subject to

the great nobles. They looked with jeal-

ousy on all encroachments on their liberties

and had sharp swords to enforce their ob-

ection. They had been endowed with privi-

eges by the wise and politic kings of Scot-

land from William the Lion down to James

of fate worthy memory. For they were

the best bulwark of the central authority

against the power of the great nobles of the

Now Robert Semple and Ninian Halli

ourton were two worthy citizens of Dum-

fries, men of respectability, well provided

for by the success of their trade and the

ome to the Thrieve for two purposes-to

leliver a large consignment of goods and

gear, foreign provision and fruit to the

controller of the earl's household, and to

receive payment therefor, partly in money

and partly in the wool and cattle, hides

and tallow, which had been the staple prod-

ucts of Galloway throughout her genera-

Their further purposes and intents in

tions.

probability he had of disposing of his pur-

chase within a reasonable time.

at right gauntlet and you will hit

time and a richer country.

simple

his

in his fighting once more as a

the pavilion of the Avondale trio.

as he had disposed of his own man.

The Bailles of Dumfries.

CHAPTER XX.

come to visit us nor permit us to go down In an hour Sholto followed them, having into the hall that we might speak with our ridden fast and furious across the long gossips." broomy braes of Boreland and wet the fringes of the silken coverture of his horse lives for the lasses if we let them gad by vain-gloriously swimming the Dee at about?" said Andro, preparing to salute the Castle pool instead of going round by and take himself off. the fords. This he did in the hope that: At this moment the little maid and her Maud Lindesay might see him. And sc elder companion came forward meekly and she did, for as he came round by the out- kneeled down before Sholto. side of the most, making his horse caracole and thinking no little of himself, he heard Maud Lindesay, "and we know that our a voice from an upper window call out: offenses against your highness are helnous. Sholto MacKim, Maudie says that you look But why should you starve us to death? like a draggled crow. No, I will not be Burn us or hang us-we will bear the ex-

Then the words were shut off as if a ture is not for women. For dear pity's band had been set over the mouth which sake, a bite of bread! We have had nothing their money. Neither you nor I, baille, can ness of his deed. spoke. But presently the voice out of the to eat all day except two lace handkerchiefs buy in the lowlands of Holland without a It was lucky for himself that he did not unseen came again-"And I hate you, Sholto and a neck ribbon!" MacKim. For we have had to keep in our "Lord of heavens!" cried Sholto, swingchamber this whole day, because of the two ing on his heel and darting down toward men you have placed over us, as if we had the kitchens, "what a fool unutterable I been prisoners in Black Archibald\*. This am!" very day I am going to ask my brother to hang Black Andro and John, his brother, on the dule tree of Carlinwark."

"Yes, indeed, and truly," cried another] voice, which made his very heart flutter, "and set his new captain of the guard a-dangle in the midst, decked out from head to foot in peacock's feathers."

Sholto was very angry, for, like a boy, he took not chaffing lightly and had neither the harshness of hide which can endure the to be between three knights with their sevrasping of a woman's tongue nor the quickness of tongue to give her the counter re-

So he cast the reins of his horse to a cided, young James Douglas of Avondale stable variet and stamped indoors, carrying was to lead one party as the successful tilter his master's helmet to the armory. Then, of the day of single combat, while the earl still without speech to any, he brushed himself was to head the other. The chances hastily up the stairs toward the upper floor, of battle must be borne and whatever hapwhich he had set Andrew the Penman and pened in the shock of fight was to be enhis brother to guard.

At the turning of the turnpike David to be struck at either knight or squire lying Douglas, the earl's brother, stopped him. on the ground or in any way disabled by Sholto moved his hand to salute and would | wound. But David detained him with an im-

petuous hand. "What is this?" he said. "You have set told him to make choice of the best battle two archers on the stairs, who have shot ax and sword he could find, as well as arm and almost killed the ambassador's two himself with the shield which best suited servants-Ponthou, the man-at-arms, and the strength of his left arm. Henriet, the clerk-just because they "By your permission I will ask my father," wished to take the air upon the roof. Nay, said Sholto. even when I would have visited my sister. "He also fights on our side as the squire I was not permitted. 'None passes here of Alain Fleming,' said the earl. 'If Lausave the earl himself, thil our captain take rence had not been a monk he might have hic orders off us.' That was the word they made a third MacKim!" spoke. Was ever the like done in the castle of the Thrieve to a master of Douglas be- within him, to think of the victory he would

"I am sorry, my Lord David," said after they had parted, and he hastened off Sholto, respectfully, "but there were mat- to choose his arms under the direction of his ters within the knowledge of the earl which father. "Well," said the lad quickly relenting, "let of his brother William and young John

But Sholto smiled, well pleased, thinking trumpet announced the arrival from the debt-for a consideration!"

of Maud Lindesay. I would that I had a lifetime of such loneliness!" he said to himself. At the turning of the stair they

stayed, for there, his foot advanced, his bow ready to deliver its steel bolt at the clicking of a trigger, stood Andro the Swarthy. From where he stood he commanded the stair and could also see along the corridor

David Douglas caught his elbow on some thing which stood a few inches out of the oaken panelling of the turnpike wall. He tried to pull it out. It was the steel quarrell of a cross-bow, wedged firmly into the wood and masonary; he cried:

"Whence came this? Have you murdering any other honest men?" The archer stood ellent, glancing this way and that like a sentinel on duty. The two

young men went on up the state. As their feet were approaching the sixth step, a sudden word came from the Penman like a bolt from his bow.

"Halt!" he cried, and they gur-r-r-r of his steel ratch t Sholto smiled, for he knew the nature of

the man. "It is I, your captain," he said. "You have done your duty well, Andrew the Penman; now get down to your dinner. But first give an account of your adventures." "Do you relieve us from our charge?" said the archer, with his bow still at the

ready. 'Certainly!" quoth Sholto. "Come, Jock, we are eased," cried Andro the Swarthy up the stair, as he slid the bolt out of its grip with a little click. "Faith, my belly is toom as a last year's

"Did any come hither to vex you?" asked Sholto. "Not to speak of," said the archer "There were the two variets of the Frenchman, and as they would not take a bidding to stand I had perforce to send a quarrell

can see it there behind you!" "Rascal," cried David Douglas, indigmantly, "you do not say that first of all you shot it through the arm of the poor clerk

buzzing past their lugs into the wall. You

"It is like enough," said Andro, coolly, "if his arm were in the way!"

Then there came a voice from the stirs

"And the wretches would neither let any

• The pet name of the deepest dungeon of Castle Thrieve, yet extant and plain to be seen of all.

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ported.

stantly pursing out his lips and half clos- riding straight for his man, be threw it in ing his eyes, as if he were sagely deciding the manner of his country straight at the on the advisability of some bargain. His visor bars of the young earl of Douglas. The ter armorer himself. He had kept his terms the crash sounded dully over the field, also at the college of St. Andrews, where 'Treachery! Treachery!—a foul, false you may find on the list of graduates the stroke! A knave's device!" cried ninename of Robertus Semple, written by the tenths of those who were crowded about foundational hand of Bishop Henry Ward- the barriers. "Stop the fight! Kill the law himself. And in his body, as the baille Frenchman!" of Dumfries would often recall, he bore "Not so," cried Lord Maxwell, "they were the memory if not the marks of the dis- to fight as best they could and they must ciplining of Henry Ogilvy, master in arts, a fight it to the end." wholesome custom, too much neglected by And, being a decision not to be gainsaid, the present regents-as he would add.

"We are your humble prisoners," said up the expense of such days as this!"

pobles of Scotland."

from their conversation hereinafter re-poposed his brother Hugh and the Marshal the combat by throwing down his truncheon de Retz couched spear against young Alan and proclaiming a drawn battle. Ninian Halliburton was a rowy-faced, Fleming, and so they started to ride their clean-shaven man, with a habit of con- course. But at the last moment, instead of companion, Robert Semple, had a similar spear of James of Avondale at the same look of shrewdness, but added to it his time taking him fair in the midst of his face bore also the imprint of a shy and shield, the double assault caused the young lurking humor not unlike that of the mas- man to fall heavily from his saddle, so that

the present regents—as he would add. the combat proceeded on very unequal conveyed to their several pavilions, where house of Douglas.

"This is an excellent affair for us," said terms. Sholto, who had been eagerly in the earl's apothecaries were in attendance. Sholto came for Ninian Halliburton, standing with his hands the stretch to match himself with the squire | William of Douglas was the first to revive, folded placidly over his ample stomach, only of James of Avondale, the young knight of which he did almost as soon as the laces of occasionally wandering in order to feel and the Bass, found himself suddenly astride his helm had been undone and water dashed approve the pile of brown velvet out of of his lord's body and defending himself upon his face. His head still hung, he de- him kneel down. A little behind the young the mirth-loving maid tormented him, found which the sober gown was constructed. "A against both the French ambassador and clared, but that was all. good thing for us, I say, that there are his Squire Ponthou, who had simultaneously great lords like the earl of Douglas to keep crossed over to the attack. For the marshal de Ritz, in complete defiance, if not "It were still better," answered his com- of the written rule of chivalry, at least ping his armor. At the removal of the helpanion, drily, "if the great nobles would against the spirit of gallantry, would have Burn us or hang us—we will bear the ex-treme penalty of the law gladly—but tor-ise instead of treating them with the dule he lay, crying, at the same time, "A than usually pale and drawn. The upper tree if they so much as venture to ask for outrance! A outrance!" to excuse the foul-

goodly provision of the broad gold pieces succeed, for undoubtedly the Douglases strip off his leathern under-doublet from the that are so hard to drag from the great then on the field would have torn him to ambassador's body to search for a wound, pieces for what they not unnaturally con- when Ponthou, his squire, happened to open The rosy gilled bailie of Dumfries looked sidered his treachery. As it was, there his eyes. He had been laid upon the floor,

"False loon!" cried Sholto, shaking his ax at him in the extremity of his anger

We have beaten them fairly. Would that I could get at thee! Come down and fight an encounter to the end. I will take any Maxwell here in my shirt!"

"Hold your tongue!" commanded his father briefly. "What else can you expect of a Border man but broken faith?"

The archers rushed in, as was their duty, and separated the remaining combatants. Hugh and his brother William fought it to the last, the younger with all his vigor and with a flerce energy born of his brother James' taunts, William with the calm courtesy and forbearance of an old and assured knight toward one who has yet his spurs to win.

The stunned knights and squires were

He bent with the anxiety of a generous enemy over the unconscious form of the Mar- | who had been left at home to keep the cas- their salutations. "We have known each shal de Retz, from whom they were stripmet the strange parchment face with its lip was retracted and a set of long, white teeth gleamed like those of a wild beast.

The apothecary was just commencing to

wherein the horses bent their heads to pull steps. at the meadow hay as their riders sought As soon as Sholto saw that he was hopeshilling lands.

It was at the great gate of Thrieve that silent man, whose repute was highest for good counsel among all the branches of the effects.

Sholto came forward from the head of of the honors which had so swiftly come his archer guard with a haste which be- upon the young man, rose and respectfully trayed his anxiety, lest in some manner saluted their chief. And Shorto, though he his helm had been undone and water dashed he had exceeded his duty. The earl bade had been silent when the sharp tongue of Dougleses of Avondale, William, James and speech readily enough now. Hugh, sat their horses and the boy David. window of the great hall. On the steps to all and it will be all your turns one day. down to meet the returning train of riders. guard and sped the bolt together." And, truth to tell, that was what Sholto disgraced before them all.

Sholto knelt with a sober countenance be- there stand at the turret stair the ladies liam's sword out of his hand, and, laying you." it on the shoulder of Sholto MacKim, he men, and one battle tries the temper of him) a trifle ruffled in his temper. ing thee. Three days agone you were but from my lord." one of the archer guard, yesterday you were made its captain, today I dub you knight did your lord. Rise, Sir Sholto!"

of the young man whirled and little drumming pulses beat in his temples. His heart cried within him like the overword of a song, "Does she hear? Will she care? Will to kneel till lusty James of Avondale came stair. and caught him by the elbow. "Up, Sir Knight, and give grace and good thanks to your lord. Not your head, but mine, boatcroft."

And practical William of Avondale whisfor the youth that we spoke of?"

"Moreover," said the earl, "that you may suitably support the knighthood which your sword has won, I freely bestow on you the forty-shifling lands of Airelands and Lincolns with Screel and Ben Gairn, on condition that you and yours shall keep the watch fires laid ready for the lighting, and that in time you rear sturdy yeomen to bear in the Douglas train the banneret of MacKim of

Shorto stood before his generous ford trembling and speechless, while James Douglas shook him by the elbow and encouraged him roughly: "Say thy say, man! Hast lost thy tongue?"

But William Douglas nodded approval of the youth.

"Nay," he said, "let alone, James! I like the lad the better that he hath no ready tongue. 'Tis not the praters that fight, as this youth hath fought this day!" So all that Sholto found himself able to do was no more than to kneel on one knee

"Saints' mercy!" shouted stout Ninian ing from the floor, he flung himself across and kiss his master's hand.
Halliburton, "let us get out of this place, the body of his master, dashing aside the not worthy!" "Nay," said his master. "But you have fairly won your spurs. They made me a knight when I was but two years of my age, and I cried all the time for my nurse,

your good mother, who when she came comforted me with pap. Surely it was right that I should make a place for my foster "Sirrah!" cried the earl sternly, "learn to brother within the goodly circle of the Douglas knights."

> CHAPTER XXIV. The Second Flouting of Maud Linde-

Sholto McKim stood on the lowest step of the ascent into the noble gateway of Thrieve, hardly able to believe in his own good fortune. But these were the days when no man awaked without having the possibility of either a knighthood or the gallows tree to encourage him to do his duty between dawn and dark.

The lords of Douglas had gone within and were now drinking the cup of appetite as their armour was being unbraced by the servitors and the chafed limbs rubbed with oil and vinegar after the toils of the tourney. But still Sholto stood where his master had left him, looking at the green scum of duckweed which floated on the surface of the most of Thrieve, yet of a truth seeing nothing whatever, when a low voice pierced the abstraction of his reverie.

"Sir Sholto," said Mistress Maud Linde say, "I bld you a long goodbye, Sir Sholte McKim! Say farewell to him Margaret as you hear me do!"

"Goodbye, kind Sir Sholto!" piped the childish voice of the maid of Galloway, asshe made a little courtesy to Sholto Mc-Kim in imitation of her companion, I know not where you are going, but Maudie bids

me, so I will!" "And wherefore say you goodbye to me?" cried Sholto, finding his words at once in the wholesome atmosphere of raillery which everywhere accompanied that quipsome damsel, Mistress Maud Lindesay.

"Why, because we are humble folk and nut get our ways upstairs out of the way of dignities. Permit me to kiss your hand fair lord!" and here she tripped down the steps and pretended to take his hand. "Hold off!" he cried, snatching it away

angrily, for her tone vexed and thwarted The girl affected a great terror, which merged immediately into a meek and re-

spectful resignation. "No-you are right-we are not worthy

even to kiss your knightly hand," she said "but we will respectfully greet you." Here she swept him a full reverence and ran up the steps again before he could take hold of her. Then, standing on the topmost step, and holding her friend's hand in hers, she spoke to the maid of Galloway in a tone hushed and regretful, as one speaks of the

"No. Margaret," she said, "he will no more play with us hide and seek about the stackyard ricks at the Mains over in the gloamings. Sir Sholto cares no more us or for our childish things. He will not even blow out a lamp with his own honorable lips. No, he will call his squire to do it.

Sholto looked the indignation he would not trust himself to speak.

"He will dine with the earl in hall and drink and stamp and shout with the best when they drink the toasts. But he has become too great a man to carry you and me any more over stepping stones at the ford or pull with us the ripe berries when the briars are drooping purple on the brass of Keltonbill. Bid him goodbye Margaret, for he was our kind friend once And when he rides by to battle, perhaps, it we are good and respectful, he may again wave us a hand and say, 'There are two lasses that once I kenned!"

At this inordinate flouting the new knight, growing more and more angry at each word, came quickly to the breaking point, for his nerves were jarred and

square wooden bodies set on boughs of trees gave vent to a short, sharp cry and started and flung into the river by the earl's variets up the steps with the intention of making and stablemen. Mistress Lindesay pay in some fashion for The liegemen of the Douglas were by this her impertinence. But that very active and time steaming homewards by every mountain gainsome maid was most entirely on the pass. Over the heather and through the alert. Indeed, she had been counting from abounding morasses horse and foot took their the first upon provoking such a movement. way, no longer marching in military order, And so, with her nimble charge at her feets, as when they came, but each taking the Mistress Lindesay was already at the inner route which appeared the shortest to him- port and through the iron-barred gate of self. North, east and west spearheads glinted and armor flashed against the brown of the of the guard, still encumbered with his beather and the green of the little vales armor, could reach the top of the outer

the pearest way to their peel towers and 40- lessly distanced he slackened his gait and with a sober tread befitting a knight and officer of a garrison, he walked along the the earl called for Sholto. He had been passage which led to the chamber sliotted speaking to bis cousin William, a strong, to the captain of the guard, from which that day Landless Jock had removed his The soldiers of the guard, who had heard

"I thank you," he said, acknowledging tie, looked forth disconsolately from the other before. Fortune and misfortune come

stood the little maid, Margaret, and her But up or down, good or ill, we shall not companion, Maud Lindesay, who had come be the worse comrades for having kept the Then there came one behind him who cared most about. He did not wish to be stood at the door of his chamber as he was unbelming himself and said: "My captain,

fore his lord, the earl took his cousin Wil- Margaret and Maud, with a message for "A message for me-what is it?" said "Great occasions bring forth good Sholto testily, being (and small blame to

the sword. You, Sholto, have been quickly "Nay, sir," said the man respectfully, tried, but thy father hath been long temper- "that I know not, but methinks it comes

It will not do to say to what our gallant Sholto condemned all tricks and queens and for the strong courage of the heart that is spiteful damosels, in whose eyes dwelt miswithin and the service which this day you chief brimming over, and whose tongues spoke softest words that yet stung and But for all that he rose not, for the head rankled like fairy arrows dipped in gail and wormwood.

But since the man stood there and repeated, "I judge the message to be one from my lord," Sholto could do no less than hastthis bring me nearer to her?" So that, in lly pull on his doublet and again betake snite of his lord's command, he continued himself along the corridor to the foot of the

When he arrived there he saw no one and was about to depart again as he had come, when the head of Maud Lindesay aphath a right to be muzzy with the coup I peared round the upper spiral, looking more gat this day on the green meadow of the distractingly mischievous and more bewitching than ever, all rippling over with dark curls and her eyes fairly scintillating pered in his cousin's ear: "And the lands light. She nodded to him and leaned a little further over, holding tightly to the baluster meanwhile.

"Well," said Sholto, roughly, "what are my lord's commands for me, if, indeed, he has charged you with any?" "He says," replied Mistress Maud Linde-

say, "that, since lamps are dangerous things in maidens' chambers, he desires you to assist in the trimming of the waxen tapers tonight-that is, if so menial a service shame not your knighthood."

"Pshaw!" muttered Sholto. "My ford said naught of the sort!" "Well, then," said Maud Lindesay, smiling down upon him, with an expression innocent and sweet as that of an angel on a painted celling, "you will be kind and come

and help us all the same." "That I will not," said Sholto, stamping his foot like an ill-tempered boy.

"Yes, you will-because Margaret asks

"I will not!" Then because I ask you?" Spite of his best endeavors Sholto could not take his eyes from the girl's face, which seemed fairer and more desirable to him now than ever. A quick sob of passion shook him and he found words at last.

"O, Maud Lindesay, why do you treat thus one who loves you with all his heart?" The girl's face changed. The mischief died out of it and something vague and soft welled up in her eyes, making them mistily gray and lustrous. But she only said: "Sholto, it is growing dark already!

It is time the tapers were trimmed!" Then Sholto followed her up the stairs and, though I do not know, there is some reason for thinking that he forgave her all her wickedness in that sweet interspace between the gloaming and the mirk when the lamps were being lighted and the stars



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mingled hope and anxiety. us go and see Margaret now. She must | Lauder, called Lauder of the Bass. These

"Does the earl o' Douglas owe you any arm themselves for the combat, when a if he does I am willing to take over the reasonable bounds.

castle of the ambassador of France, who, "Nay," said Semple, "I only wish he did. Douglases of the Black were never ill payers. They had their hand in every man's ken ye not that I am a baille of Dumfries? neal ark, but as they are easy in taking they are also quick in paying."

"Siller in hand is the greatest virtue of a uyer," said the bailie with unction. "But Robert Semple, though I was willing to oblige ye as a friend by taking over your lebt, I'll no deny that ye gied me a fricht For hae I no this day delivered to the bursay the castle o' Thrieve sax bales o' pepper and three o' the best spice, besides much cumming, alum, ginger, seatwell, almonds, rice, figs, raisins and other sic things. Moreover, there is owing to me for wine and vine gar, mair than twa hunder pound. Was

that no enough to gar me tak a turn when we spoke o' the great nobles no pay'n!" "I would that all our outlying money were as safe," said Semple, "but here come the knights and squires forth from their tents. Tell me, Ninian, which o' the lad

are your sister's sons.' There is but one of them that is Barbara Halliburton's son," answered Halliburton, the ither is her ain man-and a great ramstam, unbiddable, unhallowed deevil he is-Guid forbid that I should say as muckle to

> CHAPTER XXII. Wager of Battle.

The knights had moved slowly out from their pavilions on either side and now stood waiting the order to charge. My Lord Maxwell sat by the side of the Lady Sybilla and held the truncheon, the casting down of which was to part the combatants and end the fight. The three knights on the southern or earl's side were a singular contrast to their opponents. Two of them, the earl and his cousin Hugo, were no more than boys in years, though already old in military exercises, the third, Allan Fleming of Cumberland, was a strong horseman and excellent with his lance, though also slender of body and more distinguished for dexterity than for power of arm. Yet he was destined

to lay a good lance in rest that day and come forth unshamed. The Avondale party was to the eye finitely the stronger; that is, when the knights only were considered. For James Douglas was little less than a giant. His jolly person and frank manners seemed to fill all the field with good humor, and from his station he cried challenges to his cousin, the earl, and defiances to his brother Hugo with broad, rollicking wit, which endeared him to the commons, with whom "Mickle Lord

Jamie" was a popular hero. "Bid our Hugh there rin hame for his hippen clouts lest he make of himself a shame," he cried, "'tis not fair that we should have to fight with babes."

"Mayhap he will be as David to your Goliah, great gomeril," replied the earl with equal good humor, seeing his cousin Hugh blush and fumble uncomfortably at his arms. Then to the lad himself he said: "Keep light hand on your rein, a good grip at the knee, and after the first shock we will ride round them like swallows about so

many bullocks." The other two Avondale knights, William Douglas and the Marshal de Retz, were also large men, and the latter clothed in black armor, and with the royal ermines of Brittany quartered on his shield, looked a stern and commanding figure. The squires were equally well matched.

These fought on foot, armed according to

custom, with sword, ax and dagger-though

Sholto would much have preferred to trust

to his arrow skill even against the plate of

saving nature of their wives. They had the knights. The trumpets blew their warning from the judge's gallery. The six opposing knights laid their lances in rest. The squires leaned a little forward as if about to run a race. Lord Maxwell raised his truncheon. The trumpets sounded again, and as their stirring tarantara rang down the wide strath of Dee the riders spurred their horses into full career. It so chanced that as they had stood James of Avondale was opposite the venturing so far west of the safe precincts earl, each being in the midst, as was their

I am near bursen. Haud off, there, variet Keep off the tail o' my brown velvet gown. It cost night 20 silver shillings an ell." "A Douglas! A Douglas! Treachery! Treachery!" yelled a wild Minnigaff man, thrusting a naked brand high into the air within an inch of the burgess' nose. That worthy citizen almost fell backwards in dismay, and indeed must have done so but for the pressure of the crowd behind him. He

pelled to keep his place in the front rank of the spectators. "Well done, young lad," cried the crowd, seeing Sholto ward und strike at Ponthou and his master, "God, but he is fechtin"

was, therefore, much against his will, com-

like the black dell himself!" "It will be as chancy for him," cried the wild Minnigaff hiffman, "for I would tear the harrigals oot o' Sholto MacKim mysel' if onything happen to the earl!"

But the captain of the guard, light as a feather, had easily avoided the thrust of the marshal's spear, taking it at an angle and turning it aside with his shield. Then springing up behind him, he pulled the French knight down to the ground with the hook of his ax, by that trick of attack which was the lesson taught once for all to the Scots of the lowlands upon the stricken field

of the Red Harlaw. The marshal fell heavily and lay still, for he was an old man and the weight of his armor very great.

"Slay him! Slay him!" yelled the people, still furious at what, not without reason, they considered rank treachery. Sholto recovered himself and reached his

master only in time to find Ponthou bending over Earl Douglas with a dagger in his band. With a wild yell he lashed out at the Breton squire, and his ax striking fair on

his steel cap, Ponthou fell senseless across

the body of Douglas. "Well done, Sholto MacKim-well done, ad," came from all the barriers, and even Ninian Halliburton cried: "Ye shall hae a silken doublet for that!" then, recollecting himself, he added: "At little mair than

cost price!"

"God in heeven, 'tis bonny feehtin'!" cries the man from Mannigaff. "O, if I could dirk the fause hound I wad dee happy!" And the hillman danced on the toes of the baille of Dumfries and shook the barriers with his hand till he received a rap over the knuckles from the handle of a

the Penman. "Haud back, there, heathen-besom!" cried the archer; "gin ye want ever again to taste braxy!"

partisan, directed by the stout arms of Andro

Over the rest of the field the fortune war had been somewhat various. William of Douglas had unhorsed his brother Hugh at the first shock, but immediately fore going his advantage with the most chivalrous courtesy, he leaped from his own horse and drew his sword. On the right Alan Fleming, being by the

marshal's action suddenly deprived of his opponent, had wheeled his charger and borne down sideways upon James of Douglas and that doughty champion, having fully recovered from the shock of his en counter with the earl and being taken from an unexpected quarter, went down as much to his own surprise as to that of the people at the barriers, who had looked upor as the strongest champion on the field. It was evident, however, that in spite of the loss of their leader, the earl's party stood every chance to win the field.

disposed of the laird of Stra'ven, squire to William of Avondale having by one mighty ax stroke beaten the Douglasdale man down to his knees. "A Douglas! A Douglas!" shouted the populace; "Let them have it!" And the adherents of the earl were pro

ceeding to carry out this intent when my

up at his friend with a quick expression of sounded out a mighty roar of anger all as being the most seriously wounded of the about the barriers and the crowd pressed combatants, though as least in honor he fell so fiercely and threateningly that it was all to be attended last. have been lonely all this fair day of sum- three had already entered their pavilion to siller?" he asked in a hushed whisper, "for the archers could do to keep them within Instantly he cried out a strange Breton word unintelligible to all present and, leap-

> astonished anothecary, who had only time to discern on the marshal's shoulder the scar of a recent cautery before Ponthou had restored the leathern under-doublet to its "Hands off! Do not touch my master! alone can bring him to. Leave the room, all

of you!"

speak humbly to more honorable men." "My lord," cried Ponthou, instantly re called to himself, "believe me, I meant no ill. But true it is I alone can recover him. I have often seen him taken thus. But I must be left alone. My master hath a blemish upon him and one great gentleman does not humiliate another in the presence of underlings. My Lord Douglas, as you love honor, bid all to leave me alone for a

"Much cared he for honor when he three the lance at my master," growled Sholto Had I known I would have driven my bill point six inches lower, and then would there have been a most satisfactory blemish in hi neckbone.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

Sholto Wins Knighthood The ambassador recovered quickly after that he had been left with his servant Ponthou, according to the latter's request. The lady Sybilla manifested the most tender concern in the matter of the accident of judgment which had been the means of diverting her uncle from his own opponent and bringing him into collision with the Earl Douglas.

"Often have I striven with mine uncle Gilles that he should ride no more in the lists, for since he received the lance thrust in the eye by the side of La Pucelle before the walls of Orleans, he sees no more aright, but bears ever to the side of the eye which sees and away from that wherein

he had his wound." "Indeed, I knew not that the Marshal de Retz had been wounded in the eye, or I should not have permitted him to ride in the tourney," said the earl; "the fault was

mine alone.' The Lady Sybilla smiled upon him very sweetly and graciously. "You are great soldiers-you Douglases Six knights are chosen from the muster of half a kingdom to ride a melee. Four ar

Douglases, and, moreover, cousins german

"Indeed, we might well have compassed the sword play," said the Earl William for in our twenty generations we never learned aught else. Our arms are strong enough and our skulls thick enough, but even mine uncle the abbot hath his Latin by the ear, and one Semple, a simple burgher of Dumfries, did best him at it-or at least would have shamed him, but that he desired not to lose the custom of the

"When you come to France," replied the girl smiling on him, "it will, indeed, be stirring to see you ride about with young Messire Lelain, the champion of Burgundy, or with that miriadet of Dijon, whose arm is like that of a giant, and can fell an ox at a blow."

"Truly," said the young earl modestly, 'you do me over much honor. My cousin fames there, he is the champion among us and alone could easily have overborne me today, even without the aid of your uncle's blind eve. Even William of Avondale is a better lance, and young Hugh will be when his time comes."

ommend itself to me, being full of selfsufficience." "Sholto-yes, he is his father's son and

"Your squire fought a good fight," she went on, "though his countenance does not not only was Alan Fleming the only knigh left on horseback, but Malise McKim had

> his valiant laying on of the ax this day." had been dotted thickly over the castle island were already mostly struck and the ground was littered with miscellaneous de-

fought well. He is a MacKim and cannot do otherwise. He will make a good knight and I will dub him one ere this sun set for The great muster was now over. The tents

of their burgh of Dumfries may be gathered right as leaders. The Master of Avondalo Lord Maxwell unexpectedly put an end to bris, soon to be carted off in trail carts with Jangled by the excitements of the day.

were coming out. (To be Continued.) than coughing.

> At druggists or sent prepaid; price, 25c nd 50c; large pocket flask, \$1.00. Dr. Iumphreys' Manual at druggists or sent

H-U-M-P-H-R-E-Y-S