RALPH HARDELOT'S MEDIATION

BY WILLIAM MINTO.

CHAPTER XXVII.

The scene enacted on the morning of Friday was one of the most striking in parchment. English history, but instead of being, as it purported, the happy consummation of a great social change, it proved to be only the prologue to a perplexed and bloody tragedy.

Nevertheless the act proceeded at first with marvellous smoothess.

The hill opposite the Tower was early astir. As the morning wore on the crowd became larger and more noisy, and, knowing nothing of the conclusion arrived at within, began a continuous roar, demanding that the king should come forth to speak to them. This was the burden of their cries in so far as they were articulate, but voices were also raised clamoring for the hearts of traitors and threatening to break in by

Presently, amid the appalling din, two heralds in tabards of white and red appeared on the leads of the western gate, and, blowing their trumpets, made proclamation that the king would go to Mile End soon after prime to speak with his faithful lieges and hear what they had to say to him.

Those near enough to hear ran back with the news, and then the drawbridge was lowered, and the heralds rode out, accompanied by a single horseman, in the garb of a Wycliffian priest. The bridge was quickly raised behind these messengers of peace, and then they rode round by Mile End and Smithfield, where the bulk of the insurgents lay in good order, and back by St. Paul's, halting now and then to repeat with blast of trumpet the welcome proclamation.

Soon after nine the drawbridge was lowered-not to be raised this timeand the royal party i-sued forth. Besides the members of the council, Richard had insisted on taking Raiph Hardelot with him, to ride on his left hand in his plain russet garb. It was a dangerous honor, not so much from the violence of the mob, for with them the garb was popular, but the haughty nobles did not like this irregular promotion. Such danger as there might be to the king from the discontented peasants was shared by his mother, the princess; Clara Roos accompanied her in her carriage, and they rode behind the council, attended by an escort of men-at arms. (Foissart implies that the princess remained behind in the Tower, and was there insulted and frightened by the mob; but the city record distinctly states that she accom-

received with loud, hitarious welcome from the ranks of the assembled peaswill with me?"

He listened with grave dignity while Tyler in the name of his fellows spoke briefly of the hardships suffered by serfs and villeins from false and excessive claims of base service. He touched also on the waste of treasure wrung from poor men on wars from which the realm derived no profit. "These matters," he said in conclusion, "we humbly trust it will please your majesty to take in hand and cause to be in-

your taxes go to the enrichment of mobs. greedy and worthless men; but in the meantime it is our will that we be no more called bond nor reputed so."

no manners." "His tongue may learn another lan-

guage before many days are over," whispered the other, with a significant Richard answered with gracious con-

descension, "Sirs, your request is reasonable, and we grant it freely." Tyler turned to his followers and raising his sonorous voice told them

the king's anwser, whereupon rough shouts of joy rent the air. Then Tyler turned again to the king,

and, in as courteous phrase as his un-trained speech could find, intimated that they must have letters executed to confirm their new privileges, and that those letters must be delivered to them to carry home and show to their fellows. He contrived to convey that they did not mistrust the king, but that his ministers did not possess their

For this also the king was prepared, thanks to the previous communications through Ralph. He beckened to a clerk to come forward, and ordered him to read a form of patent letters which had been drafted in anticipation of this demand. This draft charter released all personal bondmen from their servitude, commuted villeins' services to rent not to exceed fourpence an acre, and granted them liberty to buy and sell in all markets.

The council had offered no opposition to this comprehensive emancipation. There was no harm in making as thorough as possible what could be revoked as easily as it had been granted when the mutinous rascals had dispersed to their homes. The more complete the concession the more likely it was to send them home contented.

And this was indeed its effect. The simple peasants were enraptured with this formal document of freedom. The sacred parchment was carried from

exchange of meaning looks among great men who knew better the value of the

While matters were in this amicable frame, the charter making its round like some adored idol, the king chatted ranks of the insurgents, and beckoning the chance of such an audience.

ance of a knight in armor, who was violence of his language and his gestcoming forward from among them towards the royal train, his features composed in an expression that was meant to be deprecatory and ingratiating.

Several knights and other gentlemen had been impressed with the insurgents in the course of their gathering. Some, like the gallant Robert de la Safle, of Norwich, had contemptuously refused to join, and had paid for their hardihood with their lives. But such courage and loyalty were rare. The majority, like Sir John Newton, had con-sented to march with the insurgents. Among them was Sir Richard Rainham, whom Ralph now recognized, taking advantage of the amicable settlement to move out of the ranks of the peasants, plead constraint as an apology for are the traitors? Let me account to his appearance, and try to make his them! The chancellor! The treaspeace with the court.

The princess signifying a desire to moved round to the other side of the sport was soon repeated in savage earncarriage and directed Clara's attention to another figure standing next to the

space that the knight had just quitted. "That face is known to me," he whispered, "but I cannot remember where I saw it,"

"Do you not remember?" she answ-"I shall never forget it." Then, as he still looked puzzled, she

added, "The dungeon at Sturmere. The missing link was found. He re-membered now. It was Jannequin Carter, the savage tatterdemalion whom he had with such difficulty prevented from taking immediate vengeance in the dungeon. Jannequin's face wore a patient, half sleepy air, as if he were waiting contentedly for something and took little interest in the great business of the hour.

But they had little time to observe him or to speculate upon his appearits round, and the toil-worn faces of panied the king in a chariot.—Riley's the peasant ranks, turned now towards the king in expectation of the next move, were gleaming with satisfaction.

The king held the charter gayly aloft, as they were ready.

This gracious information was prowith happy acclamation.

A king and his people reconciled. tionable mandate of over powering numbers. chief between them swept away with a word; a score of industrious pens ready four-turreted White Tower-quickly of the finest trains in the world to make the promise of freedom good forever. It was a happy scene, more in keeping with the bright June day than once divined its meaning. He was the ferocity and clamor of wrathful prepared and calm—calmer, he said to quired into, for we are persuaded that the ferocity and clamor of wrathful

aspect. The great mass of the insurg- tainly, had he borne himself with such ents were steady, laborious men, who "Our will," muttered Salisbury had risen against the law because the aside to De la Pole. "The knave has law made their lives a continuous mishad risen against the law because the ery. They had no sympathy with disorder, with wanton riot and destruc-

tion; homely, patient, long-suffering drudges, they desired relief from the pinch that had become intolerable, and were obedient and tractable in the hands of their leaders. But mixed up with these simble, patient rustics, were lawbreakers, restive under any restraint, ready for the wildest excesses speech. Brevity was the distinguish the insurrection, and all who were steady and law-abiding among their followers, withdrew outside the walls the Philadelphia Times: on the king's invitation, all control over the riotous passions of these men was removed and a reign of terror

ensued. A large mob on Tower Hill witnessed the departure of the royal party for Mile End. They were expected to fol-low, and some did, but it soon became apparent that there was more exciting

work in hand. As the men-at-arms who formed at the rear of the royal procession rode out over the drawbridge, a daring spirit contrived, at the risk of being trampled under the hoofs of the horses, to slip past and gain the archway of the inner gate. Little was thought of it by the warders. It looked like a mad freak. The insurgents were to be conciliated; it seemed harsh in the hurry of the moment, to thrust the madcap under the horses' feet; a little good-humored rough remonstrance and the hilarious ruffian was allowed to shelter himself in the porter's door within the arch-way. Another and another, dodging nimbly and warily past the horses, fol-lowed this daring lead, and as they passed into the porter's door they were allowed to pass up the stairs leading to the upper chamber from which the drawbridge was worked.

point to point and read aloud so that all might hear, thousands of eyes foltowing it with devout veneration and joy. They were too absorbed in this sudden exultation to mark the sinister last man-at-arms was out and the order.

Little was thought of it in the hurry of the moment. A crowd is always the Strand, London, is to be commemorated by placing a beautiful stained glass window in St. Clement's part of the moment. A crowd is always the Strand, London, is to be commemorated by placing a beautiful stained glass window in St. Clement's part of the moment. Little was thought of it in the hurry

was given to raise the bridge,

The drawbridge could not be raised. The rowdies had thrust the porter aside and were in possession of the machinery. The entrance to the Tower was open. In a twinkling the situation was realized by the mob. With frantic yells, only half serious as yet, they rushed at the gate and poured in.

Conspicuous in the Tower Hill crowd from early morning had been a burly ruffian in the glaring costume of the Herod of the Mystery Plays. These plays had not been intermitted upon Corpus Christi day, any more than the solemn procession. The crowds, excit-ed as they were, would have been loath to forego this popular entertainment, with the counsellors near him, and the and it was not every Corpus Christi princess looked with interest at the day that the horny-handed players had to Ralph asked him to tell her the of the players, and notably this Herod names of any among them whom he and the Devil and his Imps—great knew As he ran his eyes along in compli-ance with .this request his attention over; and Herod in especial had made was suddenly arrested by the appear- himself prominent in the crowd by the ures, and the amazing power of his lungs. He was a fellow of gigantic depth and breadth of chest, with a huge black curly head, and, taking his stand opposite the Tower, he swaggered with his wooden sword, beat his breast like a chimpanzee, and yelled out an endless stream of menaces and imprecations.

When this noisy ribald saw the crowd rushing through the gates, he dashed forward to join the stream, doubling the ferocity of his cries. "Now for the traitors!" he yelled. "Bring them before me, that I may chop off their heads and make footballs of them! Out with the traitors! Seek them out! The chancellor! The treasurer! Where

His cries were taken up by the mob, speak to the Earl of Arundel, Ralph and what was uttered at first in coarse est. The devilish suggestion quickly matured itself in heated brains, always apter for evil than for good, and the appetite of the human tiger was roused. It passed through the crowd like some who had rushed for the open gates on a street, Portland, Oregon. mad frolic impulse found themselves as they pushed annd jostled along, gnashing their teeth and howling for the chancellor, like a pack of hungry wolves. Wolves in full cry—but there was one thing that made their united voices more horrible to the ear than any sound of infuriated beasts, the leaven of savage laughter that ran through it and filled up the lulls in the

volume of their more brutish howling. The officers of the garrison were taken by surprise. No one dared to take responsibility. The cry was raised by the rioters that they came in the ance in such curious proximity to the king's name, that the king had given knight. The draft charter had made them the traitors to deal with at their king's name, that the king had given for reliable business dealings with them the traitors to deal with at their all patrons. F. E. Beach & Co. carpleasure. There was no time to deliberate, no time to consult superior auththe king in expectation of the next ority. The outer gate was mastered with a rush, and the mob poured along by the south wall and around and and intimated that the whole staff of hrough the entrance in the bloody ants, the king repeated the formal chancery clerks would at once be set to Tower while the warders of the great words of the previous day; "Sirs, I am work to write out the desired letters portcullis were still hearkening in beyour king. I am come hither to speak with you at your request; what is your with the great seal and delivered to sudden irruption. Their first sure them by townships and villages as fast knowledge that the mob had broken into the fortress came from agile ruffians who leaped up the stairs with the cry claimed in louder tones and greeted that they came in the king's name, and who brought with them the unques-

Within the square central keep-the surrounded by the howling mob, Sudhis terror-struck attendants, than he In the city things were a less smiling had ever felt in his life. Never, cermeek and gracious dignity.

(To be continued.)

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"Mornin', Jim!"
"Mornin', Zach!" "What did you give your horse for

"Turpentine." "Good mornin'." "Good mornin'."

They again encountered each other ; few days later, with this result: "Mornin', Jim!" "Mornin', Zach!"

you gave your

"What did you say horse for the botts?" "Turpentine." "Killed mine."

the botts?"

"Mine, too." "Good mornin"!" "Good mornin"!" .

lt Depends.

"What is a captain of industry?" a-ked the boy, who is going to be very wise some day.
"It is a term that is applied to the

head of a great monopoly when he is at a banquet. And what is a robber baron?"

"It's the same man when he is in politics."—Washington Star.

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