

ALONE.

I think that I am quite alone
Since that strange night, the mystic light
That lit my eyes, and made me see
Tranced 'mid her stars to listen, when, mine own.

HOW HE ESCAPED.

During the middle ages the country now called Belgium was known by the name of Flanders, or perhaps it would be better to say that Flanders was the largest of the several feudal provinces included in that territory.

The proud and wealthy burghers chafed under the sovereignty of the feudal lords, and in Ghent particularly this feeling of independence was very strong.

Now, Earl Louis was neither a wise statesman nor a brave general, and he foolishly antagonized the public will by endeavoring to rob Ghent of its superior advantages.

Earl Louis then dispatched another company, which met with the same fate. These were needed acts of rebellion, but the men of Ghent were in the right, and the earl was in the wrong.

The earl of Flanders was very angry with the men of Ghent, and he summoned an army by which he hoped to conquer his rebellious subjects.

Earl Louis did not feel much alarmed at the success of the enemy, for the strong walls of Bruges seemed to laugh to scorn all attacks of a besieger.

He instantly summoned his soldiers, and mounting his warhorse rode forth to meet the foe, shouting the warcry of his race.

He was preceded by torchbearers and trumpeters, and a man bearing a banner on which was the famous Flemish lion wrought in gold.

And now up the streets marched the men of Ghent, shouting: "Death to the earl! Down with feudal tyranny!"

"My lord," said Robert de Mareschant, a near and loyal friend, "march not against them—they outnumber us 10 to 1."

"Flanders for the lion!" cried the earl. But when he saw the numerous and well appointed host and heard the murderous cries his heart misgave him.

"What shall I do, Sir Robert?" he asked. "Order your torches out, then exchange clothes with me and get out of the city if you can," replied the faithful officer.

reached by a ladder. Never before had the powerful Earl of Flanders entered so miserably an abode. The woman conducted him to the loft and showed him six children asleep on a bed of straw.

"Conceal yourself, and quickly, for I hear thy pursuers already at the door," she said, pointing to the straw.

The earl hastily crept in among the slumbering children, taking the youngest one in his arms. There was no little quarrelling at first.

"How big brother Max has grown," said one little girl as she snuggled close beside the mighty potentate who had taken refuge in that rude bed.

But they soon became quiet, and the earl lay still with Gretchen slumbering beside him and flaxen haired Hans snoring fearlessly.

Meanwhile a loud pattering had summoned the widow to the door again. "Where is the man who has just entered thy hut?" demanded a savage Gantois.

"Art thou not mistaken?" she answered. "I am a widow and live here alone with my children."

"Nay, but we saw the light upon the way as it glared forth from the open door."

"I did but open it to throw something into the street. If there be a man within, search and find him."

The man casts a quick glance within. He saw the ladder leading to the loft, and taking the light from the widow's hands he hurriedly ascended.

The next morning was the Sabbath, and the great earl was awakened by the wondering cries of the children.

"How funny! Brother Max has come to bed with his clothes on," cried the little girl, who had slept all night in the arms of her illustrious bedfellow.

"Hush, Minna," cried Max himself. "It is some friend of mother's. I heard him last night when he came in."

"Nay, but I am a friend to you all," said Earl Louis. "From this hour count the Earl of Flanders your protector."

The children were hushed to silence at the mention of that great name, and the earl presently descended to the lower room, where he found the pious widow singing her Sunday morning hymn.

"And who art thou, to whom Louis of Flanders owes his life?" asked the earl. "I am the widow of Dolph the Diker, whom the wicked men of Ghent slew when he was at work for his lawful sovereign."

"I cannot restore to thee thy husband," said the earl, "but I never shall forget thy generous kindness in risking your own life to shelter me. Here is a purse of gold crowns, all that I can give thee now, but—"

"God forbid that I should take it when thou needest the gold more than I," interrupted the woman as she put the purse back into his hands.

THE MONTEREY AT SEA.

The Monterey, on her trip from the south, encountered a heavy blow from the northwest and great waves that gave the monitor an opportunity to show her qualities in stormy weather.

At times the forward part of the deck was six or seven feet under water, and looking from the bridge or the pilot-house, water only was in sight, the front part of the ship being covered by the waves.

While this watery commotion caused inconvenience and annoyance to those who were exposed, the officers and the men below were having a comfortable time. In the wardroom the motion was so little noticeable, even during the heaviest seas, that inkstands and glass fruit dishes were not removed from the polished oaken sideboard.

When the waves were at their height the Monterey was turned into the trough of the sea in order to test her roll. At one time the roll was 21 degrees, and the usual roll in the trough of the heaviest seas was 17 or 18 degrees. The usual roll of a vessel in such seas is 40 degrees.

The great guns, Big Betsy and her mate, were tried in the roughest weather. The firing test was thoroughly satisfactory. The guns were firmly held without injury to any apparatus, and the recoil was not noticeable on board.

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