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and their clothes restored, led the search for booty. Nigel, leaning on his sword by the gateway, saw Aylward totter past, a huge bundle under each arm, another slung over his back and a smaller packet hanging from his mouth. He dropped it for a moment as he passed his young master.

"By these ten finger-bones! I am right glad that I came to the war, and no man could ask for a more goodly life," said he. "I have a present here for every girl in Tilford, and my father need never fear the frown of the sacrist of Waverley again. But how of you, Squire Loring? It standeth not aright that we should gather the harvest whilst you, who sowed it, go forth empty-handed. Come, gentle sir, take these things that I have gathered, and I will go back and find more."

But Nigel smiled and shook his head. "You have gained what your heart desired, and perchance I have done so also," said he

An instant later Knolles strode up to him with outstretched hand. "I ask your pardon, Nigel," said he. "I have spoken too hotly in my wrath."

"Nay, fair sir, I was at fault."

"If we stand here now within this castle it is to you that I owe it. The King shall know of it, and Chandos also. Can I do aught else, Nigel, to prove to you the high esteem in which I hold you?"

The Squire flushed with pleasure. "Do you send a messenger home to England, fair sir, with news of these doings?"

"Surely, I must do so. But do not tell me, Nigel, that you would be that messenger. Ask me some other favor; for indeed I cannot let you go."

"Now God forbid!" cried Nigel. "By Saint Paul! I would not be so caitiff and so thrall as to leave you, when some small deed might still be done. But I would fain send a message by your messenger."

"To whom?"

"It is to the Lady Mary, daughter of old Sir John Buttesthorn who dwells near Guildford."

"But you will write the message, Nigel. Such greetings as a cavalier sends to his lady-love should be under seal."

"Nay, he can carry my message by word of mouth."

"Then I shall tell him, for he goes this morning. What message then shall he say to the lady?"

"He will give her my very humble greeting, and he will say to her that for the second time Saint Catharine has been our friend."

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To be continued next Sunday

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters

SIR NIGEL" is a romantic tale of the loves and adventures of Nigel Loring, a young Englishman of heroic ancestry.

Nigel and his grandmother are the sole survivors of the family, and the Cistercian monks of Waverley Abbey are threatening to eject them from their meager possessions. Young Nigel openly opposes and finally is forcibly taken prisoner to Waverley.

As a conflict over his treatment is about to begin Sir John Chandos, one of the most valiant knights of King Edward, arrives in search of Nigel, announcing that His Majesty is coming to spend the night at his house.

The enmity of the monks is at once transformed into servility, and Nigel leaves in the company of Chandos, followed by Aylward, who determines to be in the young Squire's train.

The King's dinner is held with appropriate éclat. Nigel enlists as Chandos' squire, and the King gives money to buy his war outfit.

On his way to the sea Nigel is intercepted by Mary Buttesthorn, and they go to the shrine of Saint Catharine and plight their troth, Nigel vowing to do three honorable deeds before returning to claim his bride.

Chandos is waiting at Winchelsea. Peter the Red Ferret, a notorious French spy, has stolen the papers containing the plans of a proposed sortie against Calais and made off across the Channel; so Cock Badding the port warden, with Nigel and others, makes off in the schooner Marie Rose to capture him. After numerous tragic vicissitudes a small party boards the French vessel and slaughters all on board. Nigel has a duel with the Red Ferret and finally overcomes him.

Nigel is so wounded that he cannot take part in the fight at Calais. His threat to kill himself if King Edward carries out his purpose of hanging the Red Ferret, as the latter is his own prisoner, saves the Frenchman's life, and he is sent to Cosford to inform Lady Mary that Saint Catharine has smiled upon Nigel the first time.

Sir Robert Knolles is ordered to Brittany. Nigel goes with him. The King attacks and conquers a large fleet of Spanish war-ships in the English Channel. Knolles and his party save the Black Prince from the enemy.

The English attempt the castle of The Butcher of La Brohinière, a notorious knight who levies upon French and English alike.

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