

## Sir Dagonet's Quest

By F. B. Money-Coutts

### I

**K**ING MARK came riding, in great despite,  
Seeking Sir Tristram to slay,  
And chanced on a merry and courteous knight,  
But knew him not for that jesting wight  
Sir Dinadan, brave and gay.

### II

As saddle to saddle they paced along,  
Hoving afar they saw  
Horses and knights in a gallant throng  
Under the forest shaw.

### III

Said Dinadan, "Lo! by yon cloth of gold  
Launcelot rides this way!"  
And Mark, like a man that shakes with cold,  
Said, "Launcelot here? Then I cannot hold  
Longer with you to-day!"

When

## IV

When Dinadan spied he might scarce abide  
For terror, he cried, " I see  
Sir Launcelot's shield ! On a silver field  
Three lions and lilies three ! "

## V

But he said it to shape a jest and jape,  
That cowardly King to school ;  
For lions and lilies emblazoned thrice  
He wist full well were the new device  
Of Dagonet, Arthur's fool.

## VI

Now Mark had turned him about, to slip  
Back, like a snake, for fear ;  
But Dinadan rode to his fellowship,  
Who made of him passing cheer.

## VII

He told them his craft and all agreed ;  
So Dagonet, armed to fight,  
Adventured his spear and spurred at speed,  
Crying, " Ho ! ye caitiff of Cornish breed !  
Keep ye, ye craven knight ! "

Now

## VIII

Now out, now in, through thick and through thin,  
Mark fled from that shield aghast ;  
Through thick and through thin, with dindle and din,  
Sir Dagonet followed fast !

## IX

Then the knights chased after, with Ho ! and Yield !  
And he ran like a rated hound ;  
And the cry rose high and the laughter pealed,  
Till wood and water and forest and field  
Rang with the noise and sound !