

priests for the health of the queen's soul. It passes, the long procession, over the ill-kept roads of the time, through towns and villages, past the bare fields and leafless woods. Sometimes the chill of frost is on the air or, perhaps, the rain falls drearily. Or there may have been the first snow-storms of the winter so that the flakes dropped like favours on the bier and those around it could descry the loveliness of the snow crystals, resting for a moment against the richness of the pall. Nature would do little to enhance the splendour of a "Royal Progress" in December, but the glory of the sunset must have arisen at times just as the cortege drew near to a church and the waiting monks would go out to meet the Queen, when in the distance they discerned the long procession against the red glow of the sky, or, in an evening of mist or rain, appearing, dimly at first, from out of the gloom or coming from the arches of a woodland road.

The King has had the body embalmed that it may still remain beautiful in death, and they have laid in the coffin sweet herbs and "rare spices" that he may think of her wrapped about with their fragrance. And thus she journeys on, through the short winter days, surrounded by

to my Lord Edward,\* would be a more effective means of doing so than a marriage with a little child of ten. And so the proposals made by the King that Alphonso of Spain should give his sister in marriage to the fifteen-year-old Edward of England failed to arouse any enthusiasm in the latter. The practice of warlike sports, acclamation at the tournaments, where he excelled all his nobles, these were of far greater moment than an unknown child in Spain. Thus it meant little to Lord Edward when the King's chief Minister and the Bishop of Bath departed on that mission which was to prove of such import to him and to his kingdom. Their return was awaited anxiously enough by King Henry and his Queen, Eleanor of Provence, but to Edward this marriage, as he sees it again now with the eyes of his boyhood, is but a dictation arising from his father's political standpoint. But when they do return, these emissaries of the King, the matter assumes a different aspect. They bring back from Spain the marriage contract with its seal of gold but in it Alphonso of Castile, Alphonso II Sabino,† the astronomer and mathematician, forerunner of Copernicus, Galileo and Newton, throws out something that is of the nature of a challenge. Before he will confer,



The beautiful effigy, in gilt bronze, of Eleanor of Castile, in the Chapel of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey.

the chanting priests. Behind her the King rides alone on his charger, a stately and impressive figure indeed, for chroniclers have written of the great stature of Edward Longshanks and of his splendid head with its yellow hair. Richly dressed he rides, for again we have it, on the authority of the chroniclers, that the king wore rich materials, but that his garments were not gaudy in pattern or design, for he was accustomed to say that a king was best clothed by his deeds of valour and wise conduct. And so behind the bier is this solitary, kingly figure, followed by the nobles and the great ministers of his realm. Above the intonations of the priests he is conscious only of his sorrow and he reiterates again and again to himself, "I have loved her while she lived and I shall not cease to love her now that she is dead"; at last the stupefying monotony of the repetition of that one absorbing thought stamps out consciousness of what is around him, and on the softly moving wings of memory he is taken back into the past. There are those times in his boyhood when he is listening with little interest, often with impatience, to his father's plans to find him a bride in Spain, thereby to strengthen the grip of England on Gascony. An army, or so it appeared

upon the Lord Edward of England, the hand of his sister the former within a period named, must come to Spain so that the king may judge of his knowledge and confer knighthood upon him; knighthood at the hands of the Castilian monarch, in those times, involved the Royal recognition that the recipient of it was possessed of qualities of high courage, honour, nobility and indeed of all manly virtues.

(To be concluded.)

#### AMERICAN NURSING WORLD.

##### ADDA ELDRIDGE HONOURED.

Much to the delight of all the Members of the National League of Nursing Education, the Walter Burns Saunders Memorial Medal has been awarded to Adda Eldredge, Director of the Midwest Placement Service, for her outstanding contribution to nursing education, particularly in the State of Wisconsin.

\* The son of the king did not then take the title of Prince.

† The learned.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)