

physician, Becket bidding him write word how things were going. The terms in which the monk's commission was expressed are extremely remarkable. The excommunications had been construed as a blow at the young king. Becket denied this, but so the censures were taken. This pretended physician was to go *velut alter Cushy*, and Cushy was the messenger who brought word to David that the Lord had avenged him of his enemies, and that the young king Absalom was dead.¹

The Earl of Cornwall was well disposed to Becket, but was true to his king and his country. When the rebellion actually broke out three years after, the Earl of Cornwall's loyalty saved Henry's crown. He was willing to befriend the archbishop within the limits of law, but not to the extent upon which Becket counted. He received the disguised monk into his household; he examined him closely as to the archbishop's intentions. He would, perhaps, have allowed him to remain, but a servant of the young king recognized the man through his assumed character as one of Becket's immediate followers two days after his arrival. The earl bade him begone on the instant, and tell his master to look to himself; his life was in peril.

¹ 2 Samuel xviii. 31.