

**OF JOYOUS GARD
BY AELIAN PRINCE**

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Of Joyous Gard by Aelian Prince by Frank Carr

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FRANK CARR

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BY AELIAN PRINCE**

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ÆLIAN PRINCE

LONDON
E. W. ALLEN
4, AVE MARIA LANE, E.C.
1890

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EVERT JARSEN WERDELL
1918

Carr, Frank

IN the Volume OF PALOMIDE, the author has chosen Bamborough Castle, Northumberland, as the best authenticated site of the Keep of Joyous Gard and the country up to the Cheviots as its Province. To this he has adhered in the following pages.

Upon the arrival in Logris, from Cornwall, of La Belle Isonde and Sir Tristram (after King Mark's flight to France) they were led to Joyous Gard by Sir Launcelot of the Lake, and the present portion of Arthurian story opens with the return of La Belle Isonde, Sir Tristram and Palomide, after the jousts of Lonazep.

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OF JOYOUS GARD.

PROEM.

NAMED of a star, sweet Esther! take thy seat,
There, as last eve, beneath these showers of gold,
Laburnum's bloom, and, midst thy vernal court,
Command conclusion of the knightly tale.
The spear-thrust, and the sword-light, and the storm
Of onset—dash, and clang of arms, and death,
Known in our song. But, patience, gentles, all
Sweet gentles of our grove, keep patience still!
For scenes of gentle joyaunce shall beguile,
When entered Joyous Gard, once clothed with hues
As of a dream of poësy—a dream
Of peaceful beauteousness—and listening leave
Mistrust and cares to colder minds, or learn
Your own in other hearts, the tread of fate

Sounding through lives divine ; for these, of truth,
Are notes preluding, all too sadly near,
The swan-song of the Table Round.

Rejoice !

In all your patience, entering Joyous Gard.
Rejoice ! The blissful hours—midst those of gloom
And mingled miseries, few as we know
And disproportioned to the events of life—
Rejoice ! when known their kindred anywhere ;
But now, sequestrate in lone Joyous Gard,
Rejoice, more largely,—Yes, I now begin.—
Yet, in our story, judging from yourselves
Of any weakness, on it be bestowed
Approval from the soul of charity ;
Forgiving, purifying, with intent
To yield the myrrh and frankincense where due,
With happier circumstance of light. Rejoice !
In patience, gentles, ere song claims the tear.

I.

PROUD Lonazep's high feast-days following tourney,

Its royal week fulfilled, and Joyous Gard

Found of Sir Tristram and Isonde, with them

Associate, curious each to learn the Gard's

Dominions,—Ector, Gareth, Blocheris,

Dinadin—mirthful Censor of the Ring;

And he, King Arthur's friend, war-proof; and he,

Sir Gareth, fresh from glory of his quest

For skittish, brown Lynnette; with Ector fair

Of fancy, face, and soul, his clear device

One star of gold, with words, "For Happiness,

One star is all we need:" and in their rear,

Ever rode Palomide, unmasked, unlured,

But captive of Sir Tristram's kindness, felt

The Gard could not reject him.