

the grounds where the haymen & plaj. & he saw how
much stronger & more skilful at the game his nephew
was than the other hay and turning to one of his
warriors he said "It is he will for Ireland if his lad
was as good a soldier as he is at hay's game". I think
Sir replied the warrior that he will not be found
wanting when he comes to be tried. Then the king
called the boy to him & asked him to go with him to
the feast. "I cannot go sir" replied the lad "until
the game is finished, then I will come after you".
"Very well" said the king and he went on to the Smiths
house. When the game was over the boy took his
"hurl" which was a curved stick for playing at
ball with and his little silver ball and ran off
to the Smiths house. But when he got there he saw a
big fence along the gate of the yard and it looked
so lowly that the Smith heard and asked the king if
he had told anyone to follow him. "No" replied the
king - but he suddenly remembered that he had told
his nephew to follow him & he at once had his own
man to the gate and saw the lad from being torn to
pieces. So they ran on till dark and saw the boy
standing in the yard with the great dog lying dead at
his feet. and one of them caught the lad up and
setting him on his shoulder carried him in triumph
into the Smiths house to the king at the table. The
king was right glad to see his young nephew safe - but the
Smith whilst he welcomed him & exclaimed "Tho' I am
glad to see you I have to pay for it for this dog of mine
was so brave that he not only guarded my house - but neither
wolves nor robbers dared to come near any of my neighbours
except to see for fear of him, and what shall I do without him