



*'I will be generous,' said the Abbot. 'If you pay me three hundred crowns, the castle and lands will be yours.'*

from under his cloak. He opened three of the bags and poured three hundred gold crowns onto the table.

The Sheriff of Nottingham was staring at the servant. He could not see his face clearly because the servant's head was covered with a hood.

'Have I seen you before?' asked the Sheriff. But the servant did not answer.

'You have your money,' said Sir Richard of Lea. 'And I have my castle and lands back. Now, give me the papers.'

Then Sir Richard of Lea took the papers and walked out of the hall. His servant followed him.

The Abbot, the Sheriff and Sir Guy of Gisbourne were silent. They felt angry and surprised.

'I have lost one hundred crowns,' said the Abbot at last.

'And Prince John has lost a castle and lands,' said Sir Guy. But the Sheriff was thoughtful.

'That servant reminded me of someone,' he said. 'He reminded me of the beggar at the archery contest. I think that servant was Robin Hood!'

When they were outside the abbey, Sir Richard said goodbye to Robin.

'I shall tell King Richard about you, Robin Hood,' Sir Richard said. 'I shall tell him how you helped a knight who was in trouble. And I shall tell him how Prince John takes taxes from the ordinary people to make himself rich. When King Richard hears my news, I am sure that he will return to England. He will bring justice to this land at last.'