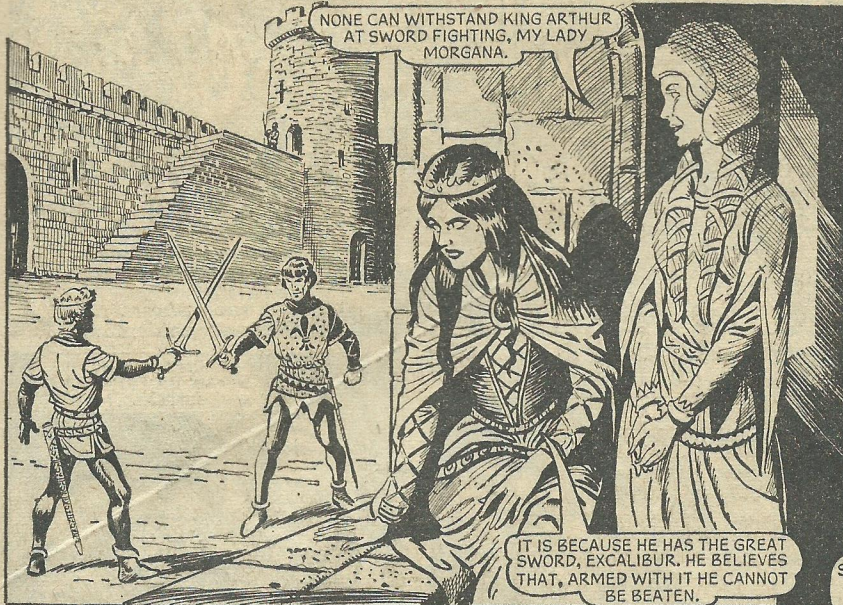


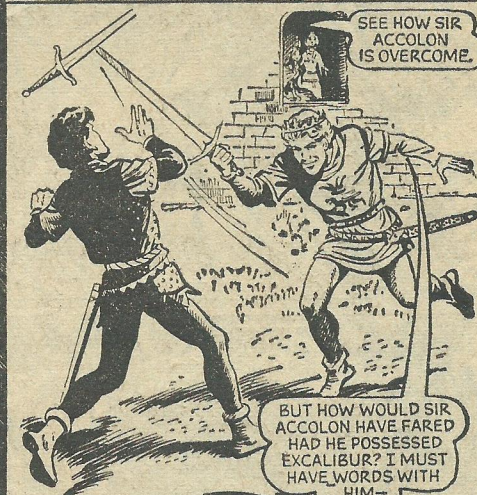
ARTHUR PENDRAGON OF THE BRITONS

PEACE had been brought to Britain by Arthur, the Pendragon or King, and his knights of the Round Table. But not all of Arthur's enemies were fighting men. His half-sister, Lady Morgana, hated him because he was so popular. Pretending friendship, she visited Arthur's court at Camelot. She watched her brother at sword play with Sir Accolon, one of the knights.



NONE CAN WITHSTAND KING ARTHUR AT SWORD FIGHTING, MY LADY MORGANA.

IT IS BECAUSE HE HAS THE GREAT SWORD, EXCALIBUR. HE BELIEVES THAT, ARMED WITH IT HE CANNOT BE BEATEN.



SEE HOW SIR ACCOLON IS OVERCOME.

BUT HOW WOULD SIR ACCOLON HAVE FARED HAD HE POSSESSED EXCALIBUR? I MUST HAVE WORDS WITH HIM—



THAT IS A FINE SWORD YOU HAVE, BROTHER. MAY I SEE IT?

THERE IS A SMITH I KNOW IN THE FOREST WHO IS A CUNNING WORKER WITH METALS. HE CAN DO WHAT I HAVE IN MIND.

THE SCABBARD IS ALSO BEYOND PRICE.

MAKE ME A SWORD AND SCABBARD, MASTER SMITH. I HAVE A DRAWING OF WHAT I WANT. LET THE HILT BE DECORATED WITH GILT AND FALSE JEWELS INSTEAD OF REAL WEALTH AND THE SCABBARD ALSO. HERE IS A BAG OF GOLD TO PAY THE WORK.

AS YOUR LADYSHIP WISHES.

The smith worked hard fashioning the sword.



Several days later. THE WORK IS FINISHED, MY LADY. HERE IS THE SWORD AND SCABBARD.



NOW WE SHALL SEE HOW ARTHUR FARES WHEN HE FIGHTS— WITHOUT EXCALIBUR!

Next morning, as Arthur talked to Merlin, his adviser.



MY LORD, A GREAT STAG HAS BEEN SEEN IN THE WOODS BEYOND THE CITY! SUCH A STAG THAT NO MAN HAS EVER SEEN.

WE MUST HUNT THIS NOBLE CREATURE.