

Talk for Feb. 2, 1980.

Four hundred years ago a great imperial gathering was held at the ~~the~~ ^{great} city of Worms, on the Rhine river, the ancient capital of Burgundy. The leaders of the Holy Roman Empire were gathered there, presided over by the great emperor, Charles V. A monk who was also a professor in the University of Wittenberg came before the tribunal. He was called upon to retract ^{certain} statements which he had made, ~~which he regarded as the truth.~~ He refused to retract his statements, closing his refusal with the words, "Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me. Amen." Leaving the great assembly, he began the ~~long~~ ^{back to Wittenberg} trip home, on horseback. Though he had come under a safe-conduct, soon after his departure orders were given that he be seized and imprisoned.

The little company journeyed northeast for many days. When their ~~journey~~ was about half over they passed through the neighborhood of Eisenach, the monk's boyhood home. Avoiding the town, they ~~went through the hills~~ followed the road that wound its way over the hills a few miles to the south. As they passed through a clump of trees some hidden men suddenly dashed out upon them, seized the monk, and carried him with them. His ~~friends~~ companions believed that the enemies of the man had done away with him.

But they were mistaken. His friend and protector, the Duke of Saxony, who had been near the Emperor at the Assembly, ^{had} feared such a catastrophe and ^{had} determined to prevent it. He had secretly given orders to some of his men, ~~with the result that~~ and this ambush was the result of his orders. His men carried their prisoner to the Wartburg, a powerful castle perched on the hill overlooking the town of Eisenach. Here he was dressed as a knight, and the world was kept in ignorance of his whereabouts. But he was furnished with abundant materials for study. In his simple