



1. There was a time	2. when owners of shops and businesses in Chicago
3. had to pay large sums of money to gangsters	4. in return for 'protection'.
5. If the money was not paid promptly,	6. the gangsters would quickly put a man out of business
7. by destroying his shop.	8. Obtaining 'protection money'
9. is not a modern crime.	10. As long ago as the fourteenth century, an Englishman,
11. Sir John Hawkwood, made the remarkable discovery	12. that people would rather pay large sums of money
13. than have their life work destroyed by gangsters.	14. Six hundred years ago, Sir John Hawkwood
15. arrived in Italy with a band of soldiers	16. and settled near Florence.
17. He soon made a name for himself	18. and came to be known to the Italians as Giovanni Acuto.
19. Whenever the Italian city-states were at war with each other,	20. Hawkwood used to hire his soldiers to princes
21. who were willing to pay the high price he demanded.	22. In times of peace, when business was bad,
23. Hawkwood and his men would march into a city-state	24. and after burning down a few farms, would offer to go away
25. if protection money was paid to them	26. Hawkwood made large sums of money in this way.
27. In spite of this,	28. the Italians regarded him as a sort of hero.
29. When he died at the age of eighty,	30. the Florentines gave him a state funeral
31. and had a picture painted	32. which was dedicated to the memory
33. of the most valiant soldier	34. and most notable leader, Signor Giovanni Hawkodue'.