

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK SEVEN.

CHAPTER XI.

(Continued.)

The terrace so hardly gained was smoothly paved, and wide enough for ten men to securely walk abreast; on the other side there was no railing or guard of any kind, nothing but a descent of such height as to make a fall certainly fatal. Four times the smooth, foot-worn pavement extended around the temple, broken in its course by six grand stairways, the last of which landed on the azoteas, one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the street.

Such was the highway of the gods, up which the adventurous Christians essayed to march, fighting.

"To my side, Sandoval! And ye, Alvarado, Morla, Lugo, Ordaz, Duero—to my side!" said Cortes, defending himself the while.

"Make with me a line of shields across the way. Let me hear your voices. No battle-cry here but Christ and St. James! When ye are ready, shout that I may hear ye."

One by one the brave gentlemen took their places; then rose the cry, "Christo y Santiago! Christo y Santiago!"

And then the voice of Cortes: "Forward, my friends! Push the dogs! No quarter! Christo y Santiago!"

Behind the line of shields moved the other cavaliers, eager to help when help should be needed.

And then were shown the excellencies of the sword in the hands of the best shields of the infidels could not bar its point; it overcame resistance so quietly that men fell, wounded, or slain outright, before they thought themselves in danger; it won the terrace, and so rapidly that the Christians were themselves astonished.

"Ola, companeros!" said Cortes, who in the fiercest melees was still the watchful captain. "Yonder riseth the second stairway. That the heathen may not use the advantage against us, keep we close to this pack. On their heels! Closer!"

So they mounted the steps of the second stairway, fighting; and the crowd which they kept between them and the enemy on the landing was a better cover even than the fire of the bowmen and arquebusers. And so the terraces were all taken. Of the eight other Christians who fell under the stones and logs rolled upon them from the heights above, two lived long enough to be shrived by the faithful Olmedo.

The azoteas of the temple has been already described as a broad, paved area, unobscured save by the sacrificial stones and the sanctuaries of Huitzil and Tezcatl. A more dreadful place for battle cannot be imagined. The coming and going of worshippers, singly or in processions, and of barefooted pallas, to whom the dizzy height was all the world, had worn its surface smooth as furnished iron. If, as the combat rolled slowly around the terraces, rising higher, and nearer the chiefs and warriors on the summit—if, in faintness of heart or hope, they looked for a way of escape, the sky and remote horizon were all they saw; escape was impossible.

With many others disabled by wounds, lo' ascended to the azoteas in advance of the fight; in despair, but as the faithful might, never doubting that, when the human effort failed, Huitzil, the Omnipotent, would defend himself. He passed through the ranks, and with brave words encouraged the common resolve to conquer or die. Stopping upon the western verge, he looked down upon the palace, and lo! there was a rest in the assault, except where the 'tzin fought, with his face to the temple; and the thousands were standing still, their faces upturned—each where the strange trace found him—to behold the hunted gods in some majestic form at last assert their divinity. So lo' knew, by the whisperings of his own faith.

Again he turned prayerfully to the sanctuaries. At that instant Cortes mounted the last step of the last stairway—after him the line of shields and all the cavaliers—after them again, Olmedo with his crucifix. Then was wrought an effect, simple enough of itself, but so timely that the good man—forgetful that the image of Christ dead on the cross is nothing without the story of his perfect love and sorrowful death—found believers when he afterwards proclaimed it a miracle. He held the sacred effigy up to be seen by all the infidels; they gazed at it as at a god unfriendly to their gods, and waited in awe for the beginning of a struggle between the divine rivals; and while they waited, Cortes and his cavaliers perfected their formation upon the azoteas, and the bowmen and arquebusers began to climb the second stairway of the ascent. The moment of advantage was lost to the Aztecs, and they paid the penalty.

lo' waited with the rest; from crucifix to sanctuary, and sanctuary to crucifix, he turned; yet the gods nursed their power. At last he awoke; too late! there was no escape. Help of man was not possible, and the gods seemed to have abandoned him.

"Tezcuco! Cholula! Teocochtitlan! Up, up, Tlateloco, up!"

Over the azoteas his words rang piercing clear, and through the ranks towards the Christians he rushed. The binding of the spell was broken. Shook the banners, beat war-cry, conch and atabal—and the battle was joined.

the stairway, and take care of our flanks. Ply your bolts—ply them fast—and spare not a cur in the kennel!"

They made no answer, spake not a word. Stolidly, grimly they gazed at him under their morions; they knew their duty, and he knew them. Once more he turned to the right.

"To the sanctuaries!" he shouted to the cavaliers. "We have come for the false gods: let us at them. Charge, gentlemen, Christ with us! Forward all!"

Back came their response, "Forward! Christo y Santiago!"

(To be Continued.)

Rocky Point, West River and Southport Ferry Table.

For public convenience we condense the time table of the Rocky Point, West River and Southport Ferry.

STEAMER LEAVES FERRY WHARF, CHARLOTTETOWN, — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY—9.30 a. m.; 2 p. m.; returning 8.30, 10 a. m.; 2.20 p. m.

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY—8.30, 9.30 a. m.; 2 and 4 p. m.; returning at 9 and 10 a. m.; 2.20 and 4.20 p. m.

SUNDAY—9 a. m.; 1 p. m.; returning 9.30 a. m., 1.30 p. m.

SAIL BOAT LEAVES CONNOLLY'S WHARF, — MONDAY AND THURSDAY—9 and 11 a. m.; 2 and 6 p. m.; returning 8 and 10 a. m.; 12.30, 3 and 5 p. m.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—11 a. m.; 3 and 6 p. m.; returning 8 a. m.; 12.30 and 5 p. m.

SUNDAY—4.30 p. m., coming from Rocky Point at 3.30 p. m.

WEST RIVER. Steamer leaves Ferry Wharf for Shaw's Wharf, — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY—4 p. m., calling at Rocky Point and Westville, coming from Shaw's Wharf same day at 7 a. m., calling at Westville and Rocky Point.

SOUTHPORT. Steamer leaves Charlottetown on week days, commencing at 6 a. m. and continues until 8.30 p. m., running at intervals of every half hour. Returning leaves Southport first trip 6.15 a. m., and continues until 10.10 p. m., running at intervals of every half hour.

ON SUNDAY leaves Charlottetown, first trip at 7 a. m., and every hour until 10 a. m., then leaving at 10.30 and 12 noon, 12.30 and from 1 to 5 p. m., then regular trips at 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30. Returning leaves Southport at 7.30, 8.15, 9.45, 10.15 and 10.45 a. m.; 12.15, 12.45, 1.15 and every hour from 2.30 until 5.30 and afterwards at 6.45, 8 and 8.45 p. m.

THE SUMMER TIME TABLE.—For the convenience of the public we condense the hours of departure and arrival of trains (local time):

FOR THE WEST. 7 and 9.45 a. m.; 4.30 p. m.

FROM THE WEST. 10.35 a. m.; 4 and 8.10 p. m.

FOR THE EAST. 7.30 a. m. and 4.15 p. m.

FROM THE EAST. 10.20 a. m. and 7.15 p. m.

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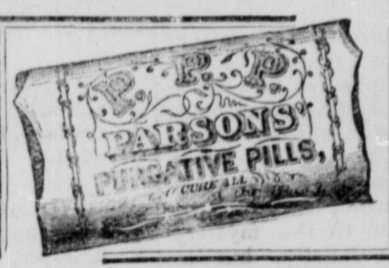
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