THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK SEVEN.

CHAPTER XI.

(Continued.)

The Christians took up their wounded, and carried them tenderly to the shade, for the sun blazed down from the cloudless sky.

Around Cortes gathered the captains, resting themselves.

"The Tlascalans must hold the yard," he said, well pleased, and with raised visor. "That charge I commit to thee, Lugo."

Lugo bared his face, and said, sullenly:

"Thou knowest, senor, that I am accustomed to obey thee questionless; but this liketh me not. I——"

"By the love of Christ——"

"Even so, Senor," said Lugo, interrupting him in turn. "I feel bidden by the love of Christ to go up, and help cast down the accursed idols."

The face of the crafty leader changed quicly.

"*Klx*, father!" he said. "Here is one malcontent, because I would have him stay and take care of us while we climb the stairways. What say'st thou?"

Olmedo answered solemnly:

"What ye have in mind now, Senores—the disgrace of the false gods who abide in this temple of abominations—is what hath led us here. And now that the end is at hand the least circumstances is to be noted; for the wise hear God as often in the small voice as in the thunder. Doubt not, doubt not; the promoting of the good captain is from Him. Be this lower duty to the unassolized Tlascalans; go we as the love of Christ calleth. Verily, he who doeth this work well, though his sins be many as the sands of the sea, yet shall he become as purity itself, and be blessed for ever. Take thy measures quickly, Senor, and let us be gone."

"Amen, amen!" said the cavaliers; and Cortes, crossing himself, hastened in person to make dispositions for the further emprise.

The Tlascalans he set to hold the *coatapantli* from attack without. To the arquebuiers and cross-bowmen he gave orders to cover him with their fire while he climbed the stairways and was driving the enemy around the terraces. When the *azoteas* was gained, they were to ascend, and take part in the crowning struggle for the sanctuaries. The cavalry, already dismounted, were to go with him in the assault. To the latter, upon rejoining them, he said:

"In my judgment, gentlemen, the fighting we go to now is of the kind wherein the sword is better than axe or lance; therefore, put away all else."

He took place at the head, with Alvarado and Sandoval next him in the column.

"And thou, father?" he asked.

Olmedo raised his crucifix, and, looking up, said:

"Hagase tu voluntad en la tierra asi como en el vielo." Then to Cortez, "I will follow these, my children."

"Forward, then! Christ with us, and all the saints!" cried Cortez. "Adelanto! Christo y Santiago!"

In a moment they were swiftly climbing the lower stairway of the temple.

Meantime Io', from the *azoteas*, kept watch on the combats below. Two figures charmed his gaze—that of Cortez and that of the 'tzin—both, in their separate ways, moved forward slowly but certainly. Before he thought of descending, the Christians were in the precinct of the coatapantli, and after them streamed the Tlascalans.

As we have seen, the prince had been in battles, and more than once felt the joyous frenzy nowhere else to be found; but now a dread fell upon him. Did Malinche's dream of conquest reach the gods? Again and again he turned to the sanctuaries, but the divine wrath came not forth—only the sonorous throbs of the drum. Once he went into the presence chamber, which was full of kneeling *pabas*. The *teotuctli* stood before the altar praying. Io' joined in the invocation; but miracles there was not, neither was there help; for when he came out all the yard around the temple was Malinche's.

Then Io' comprehended that this attack, unlike Escobar's, was of method; for the ways of succour, which were also those of retreat, were all closed. The supreme trial has come early in his career. His spirit arose; he saw himself the stay of the religion of his fathers; the gods leaned upon him. On the roof and terraces were some two thousand warriors, the fighting children of the valley; Tezcucans, with countless glorious memories to sustain their native pride; Cholulans, eager to avenge the sack of their city and the massacre of their countrymen; Aztecs, full of the superiority of race, and the inspiration of ages of empire. They would fight to the last man. He could trust them, as the 'tzin had trusted him. The struggle, moreover, besides being of special interest on account of its religious character, would be in mid-air, with the strangers and all the tribes and companies as witnesses. So with his caciques, he went down to the landing at the top of the lowest stairway.

A yell saluted Cortes when, at the head of the cavaliers, he appeared on the steps, and sword in hand and shield overhead, commenced the perilous ascent. At the same time javelins and spears began to rain upon the party from the first terrace. Up they hurried. Half the height was gained and not a man hurt—not a foot delayed. Then, slowly at first, but with longer leaps and increasing force, a block of stone was started down the stairs. Fortunately, the steps were broad, having been built for the accommodation of processionists. Down sped a warning cry; down as quickly plunged the danger. Olmedo saw three figures of men in iron follow it headlong to the bottom; fast they fell, but not too fast for his words of absolution; before the victims touched the pavement, their sins were forgiven, and their souls at rest in Paradise.

The stones and timbers placed on the landing by the 'tzin's order were now laid hold of and rolled to the steps and hurled down. Thus ten Christians more were slain. Even Cortes, deeming escape impossible, turned his battle-cry into a prayer, and not in vain. From below the arquebusiers and cross-bowmen suddenly opened fire, which they kept so close that, on the landing, the dead and wounded speedily outnumbered the living.

"The saints are with us. Forward, swords of the Church!" cried Cortes.

Before the infidels recovered from their panic he passed the last step and stood upon the terrace. And there, first in front of him, first to meet him, was Io', whom pride and zeal would not permit to retire.

The meeting—combat it can hardly be called—was very brief. The blades of Io's *maquahuitl* broke at the first blow. Cortes replied with a thrust of the sword—quick, but true, riving both the shield and the arm. A cacique dragged the hapless boy out of reach of the second thrust, and took his place before the conqueror.

(To be continued.)

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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:

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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, 4 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.

FROMEN 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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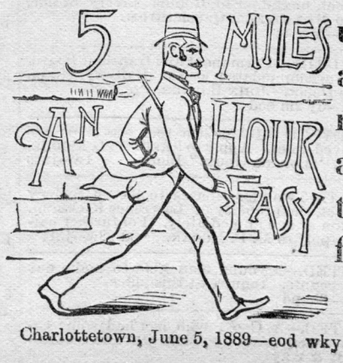

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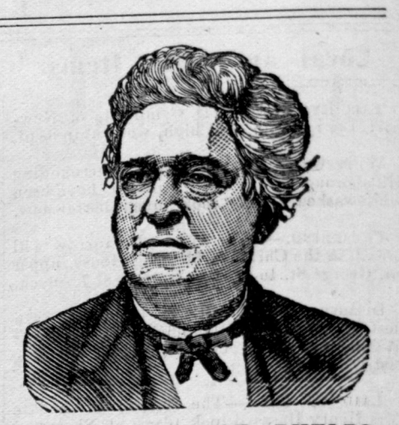

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