

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK SEVEN.

CHAPTER XIV.

(Continued.)

"O, ho!" shouted the outlaws on the neighboring houses, "O, ho, accursed stranger! Think no more of conquest—not even of escape; think only of death by sacrifice. If you are indeed a leader, the night, though deepened by the smoke of our burning houses, cannot hinder you from seeing the children of Anahuac coming in answer to the call of Huiztil." If you are men, open wide your ears that you may hear their passions on the lake and their tramp on the causeway. O, villain! one day more, then—the sacrifice. O, even the Christians, leaning on their lances and listening, felt the heaviness of heart which is all of fear the brave can know, and crossed themselves, and repeated such pater noster as they could recollect.

And so it was. The reserve armies which had been reposing in the vales behind Chalchitpec all marched to the city; and the noise of their shouting, drumming and trumpeting, when they arrived and began to occupy its thoroughfares and strong places, was like the roar of the sea.

To the garrison, under arms meantime, and suffering from the influence of all they heard, the dawn was a long time coming; but at last the sun came, and poured its full light over the leaguered palace and courtly precincts.

But the foemen stood idly looking at each other; for in the night, Cortes, on his side, had made preparations for peace. Two caiques went from him to the king Cuhtlahua, proposing a parley; and the king replied that he would come in the morning and hear what he had to say. So there was truce as well as sunshine.

"Tell me truly, Don Pedro—as thou art a gentleman, tell me—didst thou ever see a sight like this?"

Whereupon Alvarado, who with others was leaning against the parapet which formed part of the battlements of the eastern gate of the palace, looked again, and critically, over that portion of the square visible from his position, and replied—"I will answer truly and lovingly as if thou wert my little princess yonder in the patio. Sirs like this I never saw, and"—he added, with a quizzical smile—"never care to see again."

Orteguilla persisted—"Nay, didst thou ever see anything that surpassed it?"

Once more Alvarado surveyed the scene—of men a myriad, in the streets rank upon rank; so on the houses and temple—everywhere the glinting of arms, and the brown faces of warriors glistening above their glistening shields; everywhere escarpments of flaming red and banners everywhere the ineffable beauty and splendor of royal war. The good captain withdrew his enamored gaze slowly.

"No, never!" he said. Even he, the prince of gibes and strange oaths, forgot his tricks in presence of the pageant.

While the foemen looked at each other so idly, up the beautiful street came heralds announcing Cuhtlahua. Soon his palanquin, attended by a great retinue of nobles, was brought and set down in front of the eastern gate of the palace. Upon its appearance the people knelt, and touched the ground with their palms. Then there was a blare of Christian trumpets; and Cortes, with Omedo and Marina, came upon the turret.

The heralds waved their silver wands; the hush became absolute; then the curtains of the palanquin were rolled away, and the king turned his head away languidly, and looked up to Cortes, who raised his visor and looked down on him; and in the style of a conqueror demanded peace and quick return to obedience.

"If thou dost not," he said, "I will make thy city a ruin."

The shrill voice of Marina, interpreting, flew wide over the space, so peopled, yet so still; at the last word there was a mighty stir, but the heralds waved their wands, and the hush came back.

On Cuhtlahua's face the pallor of sickness gave place to a flush of anger; he sat up and signed to Guatamozin, and upon his shoulder laid his hand trustingly, saying: "My son, lend me your voice, answer."

The 'tzin, unmindful that the breath he drew upon his cheek was the breath of the plague, put his arm round the king, and said so as to be heard to the temple's top: "The king Cuhtlahua answers for himself and his people. Give ear, O Malinche! You have desolated our temples, and broken the images of our gods; the smoke of our city offends the sky; your swords are terrible—many have fallen before them, and many more will fall; yet we are content to exchange in death a thousand of ours for one of yours. Behold how many of us are left; then count your losses, and know that you cannot escape. Two suns shall not pass, until, amidst our plenty, we shall laugh to see you sick from hunger. For further answer, O Malinche, as becomes the king of his people, Cuhtlahua give you the war-cry of his father."

The 'tzin withdrew his arm, and snatching the green panache from the palanquin, whirled it overhead, crying, "Up, up, Hiatelocotl up Hiatelocotl!"

At sight of the long feathers streaming over the group, like a banner, the multitude sprang to foot, and with horrible clamor and a tempest of missiles drove the Christians from the turret.

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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: ROCKY POINT. Steamer leaves Ferry Wharf, Charlot-town.— 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. SUNDAY—4.30 p. m. STEAMER LEAVES FERRY WHARF ON WEEK DAYS, commencing at 6 a. m. and continues until 10 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 Charlot-town, 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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