

FATHER DAMIEN.

DIED APRIL 10, 1889. Has the world lost love and faith? Is religion effete and dead? Has the loving Christ of Nazareth No one in his steps to tread? Are the saints who walk in white But myths of a bygone age? Has chivalry thought of its deeds as white On this nineteenth century's page? In the struggle for wealth and place In a world gone mad with greed, One man has looked on the Master's face And learned and loved his creed.

Where the Hawaiian Islands lift Their peaks in the golden light, And palm trees shadow each fertile rift Above the coast-line white— With this beauty the poison of death is bent; Here men, through its ghastly leaven, Are herded like beasts in shambles pent, Deserted by earth and heaven. Life festers, hideous with loathsome taint, They darken the fair, sweet scene; Nor surcease found in the wailing plaint Of the leper's cry, "O Under the blackness of the canopy of heaven, No Christ like the Christ on Capernaum's hill To bring to the tortured soul The tender answer of love: 'I will, Be clean—I have made thee whole!'"

One whose heart was filled with the loving wine That gladden'd the Master's feast, In its tender pity, almost divine, A brave youth, a Belgian priest Went out from the sweetness of love and life To this loathsome lepers' den, Where sin and sorrow in deadly strife Made brutes of living men. Only the Cross on his valiant breast, In its strength to suffer and die— The isles of Hawaii have told the rest On the scroll of Eternity; How his ceaseless pity fell like dew On the blackened soil of sin, And Christ, through His servant, in mercy drew The weary outcasts in. How the blinded eyes received their sight; Of the broken hearts made whole;— He was the window through which the light Shone into each darkened soul. He lifted them up from the sin and shame Of life's darkest and worst despair, Until God was no longer an idle name, But a Father revealed in prayer. Flint stones and thorns on his way of pain, Eyes blinded by homesick tears; The fame of heart and the fevered brain, Through an exile of sixteen years. Yet the chivalrous soul its devotion wrought For the men he had come to save, As day by day he was slowly brought To a leper's lonely grave. The world looked on as this hero-soul Passed on from beyond its ken— A martyr, attaining the well-earned goal— A man who had died for men. And the coward soul shrank back in shame, And the faithless took heart of grace At the light on Father Damien's name Reflected from God's own grace. One unselfish heart in this hard, gross age, One white-souled saint, whose faith Has touched with glory earth's soiled page, And hallowed both life and death. M. J. K. L. Halifax, May, 1889.

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK SEVEN. CHAPTER XVIII. LA NOCHE TRISTE.

The movement of the fugitive army was necessarily slow. Stretched out in the street, it formed a column of irregular front and great depth. A considerable portion was of non-combatants, such as the sick and wounded, the servants, women and infants, to whom might be added the Indians carrying the baggage and ammunition, and laboriously dragging the guns. The darkness and the rain beaten into the faces of the sufferers by the wind, made the keeping order impossible; at each step the intervals between individuals and between the divisions grew wider and wider. After crossing two or three of the bridges, a general confusion began to prevail; the officers, in dread of the enemy, failed to call out, and the soldiers, bending low to protect their faces, and hugging their arms or their treasure, marched in dogged silence, indifferent to all but themselves. Soon what was at first a fair column in close order, became an irregular procession; here a crowd of all the arms mixed; there a thin line of stragglers. It is a simple thing, I know, yet nothing has so much to do with what we habitually call our spirits as the condition in which we are at the time. Under an open sky, with the breath of a glowing morning in our nostrils, we sing, laugh and are brave; but let the cloud hide the blue expanse and cover our walk with shadow, and we shrink within ourselves; or worse, let the walk be in the night, through a strange place, with rain and cold added, and straightway the fine thing we call courage merges itself into a sense of duty or sinks into humbler concerns for comfort and safety. So, not a man in all the column—not a cavalier, not a slave—but felt himself oppressed by the circumstances of the situation; those who, only that afternoon, had charged like lions along that very street now yielded to the indefinite effect, add were weak of heart even to timidity. The imagination took hold of most of them, especially of the humbler class, and, lining the way with terrors all its own, reduced them to the state when panic rushes in to complete what fear begins. They started at the sighing of the wind; drew to strike each other; cursed the rattle of their arms, the hoof-beats of the horses, the rumble of the carriage-wheels; on the houses, vaguely defined against the sky, they saw sentinels ready to give the alarm, and down the intersecting streets heard the infernal legions rushing upon them; very frequently they stumbled over corpses yet cumbering the way after the day's fight, and then they whispered the names of saints, and crossed themselves; the dead, always suggestive of death, were never so much so to them. And so, for many squares, across canals, past palaces and temples, they marched, and nothing to indicate an enemy; the city seemed deserted. "Hist, Senor!" said Ducro, speaking with bated breath. "Hist thou, not heard of the army of unbelievers that, in the night, while resting in their camp, were by a breath put to final sleep? Verily, the same good angel of the Lord hath been here also."

"Nay, compadre mio," replied Cortes, bending in his saddle, "I cannot so persuade myself. If the infernals meant to let us go, the going would not be so peaceful. From some house-top we should have had their barbarous farewell—a stone, a lance, an arrow, at least a curse. By many signs, for that matter, by the rain which, driven through the visor bars, is finding its way down the doublet under my breastplate—by many signs I know we are in the midst of a storm. Good Mother

fortend, lest, bad as it is, it presage something worse." At that moment a watcher on the azoteas of a temple near by chanted the hour of midnight. "Didst hear?" asked Cortes. "They are not asleep. Omedo! father, where art thou?" "What wouldst thou, my son?" "That thou shouldst not get lost in this Tophet; more especially, that thou shouldst keep to thy prayers." And about that time Sandoval, at the head of his advanced guard, rode from the street on the open causeway. Farther on, but at no great distance, he came to the first canal. While there, waiting for the bridge to be brought forward, he heard from the lake to his right the peal long and loud of a conch-shell. His heart, in battle steadfast as a rock, throbb'd faster; and with raised shield and close-grived sword, he listened, as did all with him, while other shells took up and carried the blast back to the city, and far out over the lake.

In the long array none failed to interpret the sound aright; all recognized a signal of attack, and halted, the slave by his prolong, the knight on his horse, each one as the moment found him. They said not a word, but listened; and as they heard the peal multiply countless in every direction—now close by, now far off—surprise, the first emotion, turned to dismay. Flight—darkness—storm—and now the infernals! "May God have mercy on us!" murmured the brave, making ready to fight. "May God have mercy on us!" echoed the timid, ready to fly. The play of the wind upon the lake seemed somewhat neutralised by the density of the rain; still the waves splashed lustily against the grass-grown sides of the causeway; and while Sandoval was wondering if there were many, who, in frail canoes, would venture upon the waste at such a time, another sound, heard, as it were, under that of the conch, yet too strong to be confounded with wind or surging water, challenged his attention; then he was assured. "Now, gentlemen," he said, "get ye ready; they are coming. Pass the word, and ride on to Magarino—speed to him, speed him here! His bridge laid now were worth a hundred lives!" (To be continued.)

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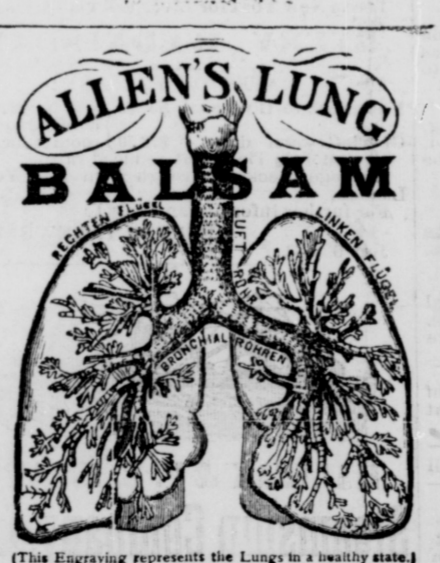
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