

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK SEVEN.

CHAPTER X. (Continued.)

At length the 'tzin became weary of the mode of attack, which, after all, was but a series of hand-to-hand combats along lengthened lines, that might last till night, or, indeed, as long as there were men to fill the places of the fallen. To the companies crowding the conquered space before the eastern front of the palace, he passed an order: a simultaneous forward movement from the ranks took place; the intervals between the ranks were closed up; a moment of fusion—a pressure; then a welding together of the whole mass followed. After that words may not convey the scene. The unfortunates who happened to be engaged were first pushed, then driven, and finally shot forward, like dead weights. Useless all skill, useless strength; the opposite lines met; blood flew as from a hundred fountains; men, impaled on opposing weapons, died naded together face to face. As the only chance for life, very many fell down and were smothered. The defenders broke in an instant. Back, back they went—back to the guns, which, for a time, served as breakwaters to the wave; then passed the guns, almost to the wall, forced there by the awful impetus of the rush. The truly great leaders of men are those who, invoking storms, stand out and brave them when they come. Such was Guatemozin. The surge I have so faintly described caught him foremost in the fighting line of his people, and flung him upon his antagonists. With his shield he broke the force of the collision; the cuirass saved him from their points; close wedged amongst them, they could not strike him. Tossed like so much drift, backward they went, forward he. Numbers of them fell and disappeared. When, at last, the impetus of the movement was high spent, he found himself close by the principal door of the palace. But one man stood before him—a warrior with *macuahuitl* lifted to strike. The 'tzin raised his shield, and caught the blow; then, upon his knees, he looked up, and saw the face, and heard the exulting yell of 'Itz'il, the Tezucan! Whirled the weapon again. The noble Aztec summoned all his spirit; death glared at him through the burning eyes of his hated rival; up, clear to vision, rose all dearest things—gods, country, glory, love. Suddenly the raised arm fell; down dropped the *macuahuitl*; and upon the shield down dropped 'Itz'il himself, carrying the 'tzin with him.

The Tezucan seemed dead. A friendly hand helped the 'tzin to his feet. He was conscious, as he rose, of a strange calm in the air; the clamor and furious stir of the combat were dying away; he stood in the midst of enemies, but they were still, and did not even look at him. A shield not his own covered his breast; he turned, and lo! the face of Hualpa! "Whence came you?" asked the 'tzin. "From the palace." "Thank—"

"Not now, not now," said Hualpa, in a low voice. "The gods who permitted me to save you, O 'tzin, have not been able to save themselves. Look, to the temple!"

His eyes followed Hualpa's directing finger, and the same astonishment that held his enemies motionless around him, the same horror that, in the full tide of successful battle, had so instantly stayed his countrymen, seized him also. He stood transfixed—a man turned to stone! The towers of the temple were in flames; and, yet more awful, the image of Huitzil, rolled to the verge of the *azoteas*, was tottering to its fall! A thousand hands were held up instinctively—a groan—a long cry—and down the stairway and terraces, grinding and crashing, thundered the idol. Tezcu followed after, and artificial stone; then the religion of the Aztecs was ended forever.

As if to assure the great fact, when next the spectators raised their eyes to the *azoteas*, lo! Olmedo and his crucifix! The faithful servant of Christ had performed his mission; he had burst the last gate, and gained the last mountain in the way; and now, with bared head, and face radiant with sublime emotion, he raised the symbol of salvation high up in view of all the tribes, and, in the name of his Master, and for his Master's Church, for ever, by that simple ceremony, took possession of the New World.

And marvellous to relate further, the tribes, awed if not conquered, bowed their heads in peace. Even the companies in the palace-yard marched out over their dead, and gave up the victory so nearly won. Guatemozin and Hualpa followed them, but with their faces to the foe. Necessity the defiance, as they went, not a word was spoken, not a hand lifted. For the time, all was peace.

CHAPTER XI.

BATTLE IN THE AIR.

As Cortes, at the head of the column, drew near the gate of the *coahuacpanitl*, he saw the enclosure and the terraces on that side of the temple occupied by warriors, and the edge of the *azoteas* above lined with *papas*, chanting in dismal harmony with the deep music of the great drum. Ensigns and symbols of unknown meaning, and rich regalia pranked the dull gray faces of the pile with holiday splendors. Little note, however, gave he to the beautiful effect. "God helping us," he said to his cavaliers—and with such gravity that they knew him unusually impressed with the task before them—"God helping us, gentlemen, we will do a deed now that hath no likeness in the wars of men. Commend we ourselves each, and all who follow us to the holy Father, who cometh yonder on the staff of Father Olmedo."

So saying, he reversed his sword, and carried the crossed sandle softly and reverently to the bars of his helmet, and all who heard him did likewise. In front of the gate, under a shower of arrows, he stopped to adjust the armlets of his shield, for his hand was yet sore; then, settling in his saddle again, he spurred his horse through the entrance into the enclosure. Right into the mass waiting to receive him he broke, and whom his sword left untouched the train stood bore down. After him charged the chieftain spirits of the conquest, animated with generous rivalry and the sublime idea that this time the fight was for God and His Church. And so, with every thrust of sword and every plunge of horse, out rang their cries. On, on, for love of Christ! Death to the infidels! Down with the false gods!

was won. The marble floor bore awful evidences of the prowess of one party and the desperation of the other.

(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: ROCKY POINT. Steamer leaves Ferry Wharf, Charlotte-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 and 4 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 Charlotte-town 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 Charlotte-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 1 p. m.; 1.5 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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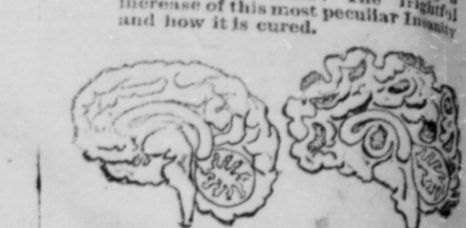
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