

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK XIX. CHAPTER II. (Continued.)

"Now I bask in me, the poor wretch who hath suffered the death by means of one of the half-accursed sons of Tlascala. If we are a stronghold of enemies, as I have concluded from the wicked, Carib looks of these savages, Heaven and St. James defend us! We are a score with weapons; in the Mother's name, let us to the bloody sign!"

"The unarmed man into which, without further consideration, they plunged, was probably availed by the effrontery of the movement, for the leader had not once occasion to shorten his advancing step. Halted before the spectacle, they looked first at the horse, then at the head. Remembrance was faithful; in one, they recognized the remains of a comrade; in the other his property."

CHAPTER III.

HOW HIS STATE BECOMES HIS SOCIETY. By this time the prince had acquired somewhat of the importance of a man. Thanks to Arguella and his own industry he could harp a javelin, strike stoutly with a mace, and boast of skill with the bow. As well he might, he smiled at thought of the maternal care, and from his sisters demanded a treatment due to one of his accomplishments and dignity."

"Sit down, my brother," she said, when they were alone. You look vexed. What has happened? Going to a table close by he commenced despoiling a vase of flowers. She repeated the question. "I am glad," he answered, "to find one whom the coming of the stranger has not changed."

"What now?" "I have been again and again to see Nezetin, but she refuses me. Is she sick?" "Not that I know."

every hour in the day, still it would not be enough. Does he come often to the city?" "Never, except for the 'tala.'" "We must get them together. Let me see—ah, yes; the chinampa. We have not been there for a long time, and that will be an excuse for going there to-morrow. You can bring the Lord Huapla and I will take a trinetral, and have him sing and tell stories of love and love."

"I slept poorly," was the reply. "If you are sick, we will send to the temple. 'No, I hate the herb dealers.'" "What ails you, Nezetin?" asked Io, irritated. "Who would not be ailing, afflicted as I have been! One graceless fellow after another calling to me, until I am out of patience."

"I colored and turned away." "But what if they had news," said Tula; "something from the strangers?" Nezetin's face brightened. "What of them? Have they waited on our father?" "Have they, Io?" Tula asked. He made no answer; he was angry. (To be Continued.)

"I have been again and again to see Nezetin, but she refuses me. Is she sick?" "Not that I know."

"Yes. One day, tired of practising with my slings, we lay down in the shade of a cedar tree. We talked about what I should do when I became a man. I should be a warrior and command armies, and conquer Tlascala; he should be a warrior also, and in my command. That should not be I told him, as he would always be the most skillful. He laughed, but not as merrily as I have heard him. Then he said: 'There are many things you will have learned by that time; such as what rank is, and especially what it is to be of the king's blood.' I asked him why he spoke so. He said he would tell me some day, but not then. And I thought of the time we went to meet you at the chinampa, and of how he gave you a vase from the 'tala, and one to Nezetin from himself. Then I thought I understood him, but insisted on his telling. He put me off; at last he said he was a foolish fellow, and in his lonely haunts in Tlascalco had acquired an habit of dreaming, which was not broken as he would like. He had first seen Nezetin at the Quetzal combat, and thought her handsomer than any one he had ever met. The day on the lake he ventured to speak to her; she smiled and took his gift, and since that he had not been strong enough to quit thinking about her. It was great folly he said. 'Why so?' I asked him. He hid his face in the grass, and answered, 'I am the son of a merchant, she is of the king's blood, and would mock me.' 'But,' said I, 'you are now noble and owner of a palace.' He raised his head and looked at me; had she been there she would not have mocked him. 'Ah,' he said, 'if I could only get her to cease thinking of me as the trader's son! 'Now you are foolish, I told him. 'Did you not win your rank by fighting? Why not fight for Nezetin, I was about to say, but he sprang up and ran off, and it was long before I could get him to speak of her again. The other day, however, he consented to let me try and find out what she thought of him. To-morrow I rejoin him; and if he asks me about her what can I say?"

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