THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK TWO.

CHAPTER X.

(Continued.)

It happened that Maxtla was quite as anxious to get the monarch's ear for the benefit of his friend, the Chalcan—in fact, for the introduction of the latter's newly invented drink. Experience taught the chief when the felicitous moment arrived. He had then but to say the word, a page was sent, the liquor brought. Montezuma sipped, smiled, quaffed deeper, and was delighted.

"There is nothing like it!" he said. "Bring goblets for my friends and fill up again!"

All the lordly personages about him had then to follow his example—to drink and approve. At the end Xoli was summoned.

Nenetzin saw the chance, and said, "O Tula, such a song as we have heard! It was sweeter than that of the bird that wakes us in the morning, sweeter than all the flutes in the hall."

"And the singer—who was he?"

Neither Nenetzin nor Yeteve could tell his name.

"He charmed us so," said the former, "that we thought only of taking you to hear him. Come, go with us. There never was such music or musician."

And the three came down from the platform unobserved by the king. When the minstrel's message was delivered, then was shown how well the Tezcucan had spoken when he said of the royal children, "They are all beautiful, but only one is fitted to be a warrior's wife."

"Let us see the man," said Tula. "How may we know him, Nenetzin?"

And they went about eagerly looking for the singer with the gray locks and the vine-wreathed harp. They found him at last about midway the hall, leaning on his staff, a solitary amidst the throng. No one thought of asking him for a song; he was too old, too like one come from a tomb with unfashionable stories.

"Father," said Tula, "we claim your service. You look weary, yet you must know the ancient chants, which, though I would not like to say it everywhere, please me best. Will you sing?"

He raised his head and looked at her; she started. Something she saw in his eyes that had escaped her friends.

"A song from me," he replied, as if astonished. "No, it cannot be. I have known some gentle hearts, and studied them to remember; but long since they went to dust. You do not know me. Imagining you discerned of what I was thinking, you were moved; you only pitied me, here so desolate."

As he talked, she recovered her composure.

"Will you sing for me?" she again asked.

"Oh, willingly! My memory is not so good as it used to be; yet one song, at least, I will give you from the numberless ills that crowd it."

He looked slowly and tremulously around at the guests who had followed her, or stopped, as they were passing, to hear the conversation.

"As you say," he then continued, "I am old and feeble, and it is wearisome to stand here; besides, my theme will be sad, and such as should be heard in quiet. Time was when my harp had honor—to me it seems but yesterday; but now—enough. Here it were not well that my voice should be heard."

She caught his meaning, and her whole face kindled; but Nenetzin spoke first.

"O yes; let us to the garden!"

The minstrel bowed reverently. As they started, a woman, who had been listening, said, "Surely the noble Tula is not going! The man is a dotard; he cannot sing; he is palsied."

But they proceeded, and through the crowd and out of the hall guided the trembling minstrel. Coming to a passage that seemed to be deserted, they turned into it, and Nenetzin, at Tula's request, went back to the king. Then a change came over the good man; his stooping left him, his step became firm, and, placing himself in front, he said, in a deep, strong voice:

"It is mine to lead now. I remember these halls. Once again, O Tula, let me lead you here, as I have a thousand times in childhood."

And to a chamber overlooking the garden, by the hand he led her, followed by Yeteve, sobbing like a child. A dim light from the lamps without disclosed the walls hung with trophies captured in wars with the surrounding tribes and nations. Where the rays were strongest he stopped and removed the hood, and said earnestly:

"Against the king's command, and loving you better than life, O Tula, Guatamozin has come to say farewell."

There was a great silence; each heard the beating of the other's heart.

"You have passed from me," he continued, "and I send my grief after you. I look into your face, and see fade our youth, our hopes and our love, and all the past that bore it relation. The days of pleasantness are ended; the spring that fed the running brook is dry. O Tula, dear one, the bird that made us such sweet music is songless for ever!"

Her anguish was too deep for the comfort of words or tears. Closer he clasped her hand.

"O, that power should be so faithless! Here are banners that I have taken. Yonder is the shield of a king of Michuaca whom I slew. I well remember the day. Montezuma led the army; the fight was hard, the peril great, and after I struck the blow he said I had saved his life, and vowed me boundless love and a splendid reward. What a passion the field of fighting men was! And yet there was another always greater. I had dwelt in the palace, and learned that in the smile of the noble Tula thers was to my life what the sunshine is to the flower."

He faltered, then continued brokenly:

"He had honors, palaces, provinces and crowns to bestow; but witness, O gods, whose sacred duties is to punish ingrotitude—witness that I cared more to call Tula wife than for all the multitude of his princliest gifts!"

(To be continued.)

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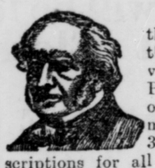

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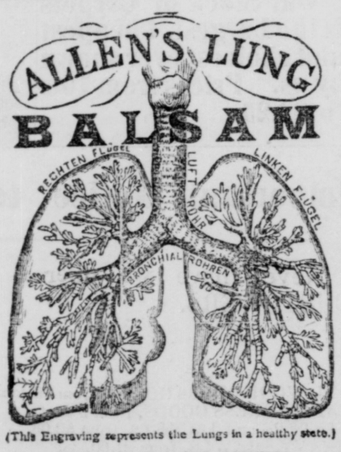

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In the Court of Chancery.

In the matter of the application of Annie Laura Patterson, Charles Wallace Patterson and Robert Bence Patterson, infant children of the late Duncan Patterson, of West River, in Queen's County, Farmer, deceased.

PURSUANT to and by virtue of a decree of His Honor the Vice-Chancellor made in the above matter, bearing date the twenty-sixth day of November, A. D. 1888, I will sell by Public Auction, in the Law Library, in the Court House Building, in Charlottetown, in Queen's County, on THURSDAY, the Third day of January next, at the hour of Twelve o'clock, noon, the interest of the above-named infant children in and to all that tract, piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in Lot or Township Number Thirty-one, in Queen's County, in Prince Edward Island, bounded and described as follows:—Commencing at a point on the shore of the West River, at the south-eastern corner of land in the possession of Andrew Coady, and running north along the eastern boundary line of land of said Andrew Coady, and land in possession of Charles Fisher, till it meets the southern boundary line of land of John Duff McLean; thence east along the said southern boundary of land of John Duff McLean till it meets the western boundary line of land in the possession of Murdoch McLeod; thence south along the said western boundary line of land of Murdoch McLeod to the shore of said West River; thence following the courses of the said West River to the place of commencement, containing one hundred acres, more or less.

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