

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK TWO.

CHAPTER V. (Continued.)

And she ran and embraced the old man, saying, "Patience! patience! In a little while we will have bread, and be rich. Yes," she continued, returning to the Chalcan, "they taught me in the *teocallis*, where they would have had me as a priestess. Yeteve; you should have stayed there."

"But I do so love the little hut by the caseway. And I loved the beggar, and they let him go." "And now you wish to sell yourself? I want slaves, but not such as you, Yeteve. I want those who can work—slaves whom the lash will hurt but not kill. Besides, you are worth more cocoa than I can spare. Keep back your tears. I will do better than buy you myself. I will sell you, and to-night, here in my house, you shall dance for the bidders. I know them all. He shall be brave and rich and clever who buys—clever and brave, and the owner of a palace, full of bread for the beggar and love for Yeteve."

"Capping his hands a slave appeared at the door. "Take you beggar, and give him to eat. Lead him, he is blind. Come, child, follow me." He summoned his servants, and bade them publish the sale in every apartment; then he led the girl to the hall used for the exhibition of his own dancing-girls. It was roomy and fine; the floor was of polished marble, a blue drop curtain extended across the northern end; in front of which were rows of stools, handsomely cushioned, for spectators. Music measured for the dance greeted the poor priestess, and had a magical upon her; her eyes brightened, a smile played about her mouth. Never was the chamber of the rich Chalcan graced by a creature fairer or more devoted.

"A priestess of the dance needs no teaching from me," said Xoli, patting her flushed cheek. "Beware of the marble, and when I clap my hands begin." She looked round the hall once; not a point escaped her. Springing to the great curtain, and throwing her robe away, she stood before it in her simple attire; and no studied effect of art could have been more beautiful; motionless and lovely, against the relief of the blue background, she seemed actually spiritual.

Upon the announcement of the auction, the patrons of the house hurried to the scene. Voluntary renunciation of freedom was common enough among the poorer classes in Teuchtitlan, but a transaction of the kind under the auspices of the rich broker was a novelty; so that curiosity and expectation ran high. The nobles, as they arrived, occupied the space in front of the curtain, or seated themselves, marveling at the expression of her countenance.

The music had not ceased; and the bidders being gathered Xoli, smiling with satisfaction, stepped forward to give the signal when an uproar of merriment announced the arrival of a party of the younger dignitaries of the court—among them Itzili, the Tezucan, and Maxtia, chief of the guard, the former showing signs of a quick recovery from his wounds, the latter superbly attired.

"Hold! What have we here?" cried the Tezucan, surveying the girl. "Has this son of Chalco been robbing the palace?" "The temples, my lord Itzili! He has robbed the temples! By all the gods it is the priestess Yeteve!" answered Maxtia amazed. "Say, Chalcan, what does a priestess of the Blessed Lady in such unhalloved den?" The broker explained.

"Good, good!" shouted the new comers. "Begin Xoli! A thousand cocoa for the priestess—millions of bread for the beggar!" This from Maxtia. "Only a thousand?" said Itzili scornfully. "Only a thousand? Five thousand to begin with, more after she dances."

Xoli gave the signal, and the soul of the Chalcan girl broke forth in motion. Dancing had been her role in the religious rites of the temple; many a time the pabas around the altar, allured by her matchless grace, had turned from the bleeding heart indifferent to its auguration. And she had always danced moved by no warmer impulse than duty; so that the prompting of the spirit in the presence of a strange auditory, free to express itself, like that she now faced, came to her for the first time. The dance chosen was one of the wild, quick, pulsating figures wont to be given in thanksgiving for favorable tokens from the deity. The steps were irregular and difficult; a great variety of posturing was required; the head, arms and feet had each their parts, all to be rendered in harmony. At the commencement she was frightened by the ecstasy that possessed her; suddenly the crowd vanished, and she saw only the beggar, and him wanting bread. Then her form became divinely graceful; and bounded as if winged; advanced and retreated, a moment swaying like a reed, the next whirling like a leaf in a circling wind. The expression of her countenance throughout was so full of soul, so intense, rapt and beautiful, that the lords were spell-bound. When the figure was ended, there was an outburst of voices, some bidding, others applauding; though most of the spectators were silent from pity and admiration.

Of the competitors, the loudest was Itzili. In his excitement, he would have sacrificed his province to become the owner of the girl. Maxtia opposed him. "Five thousand cocoa! Hear, Chalcan!" shouted the Tezucan. "A thousand better!" answered Maxtia, laughing at the cacique's rage. "By all the gods, I will have her! Put me down a thousand quills of gold!" "A thousand quills about him! Not bread, but riches for the beggar!" replied Maxtia, half in decision. "Two thousand—only two thousand quills! More, noble lords! She is worth a palace!" sang Xoli, trembling with excitement; for in such large bids he saw an extraordinary loan. Just then, under the parted curtain of the principal doorway, he beheld one dear to every lover of Teuchtitlan; he stopped. All eyes turned in that direction, and a general exclamation followed.—"The 'tzin! the 'tzin!"

Guatamozin was in full military garb, and armed. As he lingered by the door to comprehend the scene, with his height, brassy helm and embossed shield, he looked like a Greek returned from Troy. "Yeteve, the priestess!" he said. "Im possible!" He strode to the front. "How?" he said, placing his hand on her head. "Has Yeteve down the temple to be a slave?" Up to this time, it would seem that, in the fixeness of her purpose, she had been blind to all but the beggar, and deaf to everything but the music. Now she knelt at the feet of the noble Aztec, sobbing broken-heartedly. The spectators were moved with sympathy—all save one.

Guatamozin confronted the speaker, his javelin drawn, and his shield in readiness. Naturally his countenance was womanly gentle; but the transition of feeling was mighty, and those looking upon him then shrank with dread; it was as if their calm blue lake had in an instant darkened with storm. Face to face he stood with the Tezucan, the latter unprepared for combat, but in nowise daunted. In their angry attitude a seer might have read the destiny of Anahuac.

One thrust of the javelin would have sent the traitor to Miclan; the Empire, as well as the wrongs of the lover, called for it; but before the veterans, recovering from their panic, could rush between the foemen, all the 'tzin's calmness returned. "Xoli," he said, "a priestess belongs to the temple, and cannot be sold; such is the law. The sale would have sent your heart, and that of her purchaser, to the Blessed Lady. Remove the girl, I will see that she is taken to a place of safety. Here is gold; give the beggar what he wants, and keep him until to-morrow. And my lords and brethren," he added, turning to the company, "I did not think to behave so unseemly. It is only against the enemies of our country that we should turn our arms. Blood is sacred, and accursed is his hand who sheds that of a countryman in a petty quarrel. I pray you, forget all that has passed." And with a low obeisance to them, he walked away, taking with him the possibility of further encounter. He had just arrived from his palace at Iztapalapan.

(To be continued.)

Local Notices.

The latest—the Cardigan Overshoes, (overalls with rubbers attached), are to be had at Goff Bros, in children's, misses' and ladies' sizes. dec6 tf

The best store in Prince Edward Island to buy Overcoats, Reefers and suits is at J. B. Macdonald's. nov29 dw tf

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McCAL'S BAZAR PATTERNS—a large stock selling at five cents each.—Harris & Stewart oct24 eod t.

We have quite a large stock of dinner sets, tea sets, chamber sets and glass table sets which must be sold.—W. P. Colwill nov9 dy vy 6w

D. A. MACKINNON, LL. B., Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, Commissioner of Deeds, Wills, &c., GEORGETOWN, - P. E. ISLAND. MONEY TO LOAN. nov13-3m dy law wky eod

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THE PRICE OF GAS. AT a meeting of the Directors of the Charcoal-burning Gas Light Co., held at their office this morning, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:— Resolved,—That the net price of Gas to consumers be reduced to Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per Thousand Feet, on and after the first day of December next, and that no discount be allowed thereafter on the payment of Gas accounts. DANIEL DAVIES, President. Ch'town, Nov. 17, 1888—pat her guar

Campbell's Cathartic Compound (Liquid.) Note.—This favorite medicine is put up in oval bottles holding three ounces each, with the name blown in the glass, and the name of the inventor, S. R. Campbell, in red ink across the face of the label. Beware of imitations, refuse all substitutes, and you will not be disappointed.

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Mortgage Sale. To be sold by Public Auction, on FRIDAY, the Fourteenth day of December, A. D. 1888, at the hour of Twelve o'clock, noon, in front of the Court House in Charlottetown, in Queen's County, Prince Edward Island:— A certain tract, piece or parcel of Land situated, lying and being part of Common Lot Number Twenty-four, in the Common of Charlottetown, bounded and described as follows, that is to say:—Commencing on the northern edge of Corbett Lane, at the distance of one hundred and twenty-three feet from the east edge or side of the said Lane; thence north westerly at right angles sixty-seven feet; thence at right angles eastwardly ninety feet; thence at right angles southwardly sixty-seven feet; thence at right angles westwardly ninety feet to the place of commencement, being marked as Plots Numbers Seven and Nine on the plan of part of said Common Lot sold by the Trustees of St. Juniper's College on the fifth day of April, A. D. 1872, registered in the office of Registrar of Deeds and Keeper of Plans in Charlottetown, together with all buildings thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

The above sale is made under and by virtue of a power of sale contained in an Indenture of Mortgage, bearing date the fourth day of September, A. D. 1887, and made between Anne Corbett, widow of Edward Corbett, of the one part, and Thomas Campbell, of Charlottetown, of the other part. For further particulars apply at the office of John S. MacDonald, Solicitor, Charlottetown. Dated this 7th day of November, A. D. 1888. THOMAS CAMPBELL, Mortgagee. nov7-5w law (wed)

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