

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK SEVEN.

CHAPTER IV.

(Continued.)

"I knew the children of the Aztec, crushed now, will live, and more, after ages of wrong suffered by them, they will rise up, and take their place—a place of splendor—amongst the deathless nations of the earth. What I saw was revelation. Cherish the words, O Tula; repeat them often; make them an utterance of the people, a sacred tradition; let them go down with the generations, one of which will, at last, rightly interpret the meaning of the words Freedom and God, now dark to my understanding; and then, not till then, will be the new birth and new career. And so shall my name become of the land a part, suggested by all things—by the sun mildly tempering its winds; by the rivers singing in its valleys; by the stars seen from its mountain tops; by its cities, and their palaces and halls; and so shall the red races of whatever blood learn to call me father, and in their glory, as well as misery, pray for and bless me."

In the progress of this speech his voice grew stronger, and insensibly his manner ennobled; at the conclusion his appearance was majestic. Tula regarded him with awe, and accepted his utterances, not as the song habitual to the Aztec warrior at the approach of death, nor as the rhapsody of pride soothing itself; she accepted them as prophecy, and as a holy trust—a promise to be passed down through time, to a generation of her race, the first to understand truly the simple words—Freedom and God. And they were silent a long time. At length there was a warning at the door; the little bells filled the room with music strangely inharmonious. The king looked that way frowning. The intruder entered without notice; as he drew near the monarch's seat his steps became slower, and his head drooped over his breast.

"Cuitlahua my brother!" said Montezuma, surprised.

"Brother and king!" answered the cacique, as he knelt and placed both palms upon the floor.

"You bring me a message. Arise and speak."

"No," said Cuitlahua, rising. "I have come to receive your signet and orders. I am free. The guard is at the door to pass me through the gate. Malinche would have me go and send the people home and open the markets; he said such were your orders. But from him I take nothing except liberty. But you, O king, what will you—peace or war?"

Tula looked anxiously at the monarch; would the old vacillation return? He replied firmly and gravely:

"I have given my last order as king. Tula will go with you from the palace, and deliver it to you."

He arose while speaking, and gave the cacique a ring; then for a moment he regarded the two with suffused eyes, and said, "I divide my love between you and my people. For their sake, I say, go hence quickly lest Malinche change his mind. You, O my brother, and you, my child, take my blessing and that of the gods! Farewell."

He embraced them both. To Tula he clung long and passionately. More than his ambassador to the 'tzin, she bore his prophecy to the generations of the future. His last kiss was dewy with his tears. With their faces to him, they moved to the door; as they passed out, each gave a last look, and caught his image then—the image of a man breaking because he happened to be in God's way.

CHAPTER V. HOW TO YIELD A CROWN.

As the guard passed the old lord and the princess out of the gate opposite the *teocalli* the latter looked up at the *azoteas* of the sacred pile, and saw the 'tzin standing near the verge; taking of the white scarf that covered her head, and fell from her shoulders, after passing once around her neck, she gave him the signal. He waved his hand in reply, and disappeared.

The Lord Cuitlahua, just released from imprisonment and ignorant of the situation, scarcely knowing whither to turn yet impatient to set his revenge in motion, accepted the suggestion of Tula, and accompanied her to the temple. The ascent was laborious, especially to him; at the top, however, they were received by Io' and Huapa, and with every show of respect conducted to the 'tzin. He saluted them gravely, yet affectionately. Cuitlahua told him the circumstances of his release from imprisonment.

"No," said the 'tzin. "Malinche expects you to open the market, and forbid the war; but the king—what of him?"

"To Tula he gave his will; hear her."

And she repeated the message of her father. At the end of the calm of the 'tzin's temper was much disturbed. At his instance she again and again recited the prophecy. The words "Freedom and God" were as dark to him as to the king and he wondered at them. But that was not all. Clearly, Montezuma approved the war; that he intended its continuance was equally certain; unhappily there was no designation of a commander. And in thought of the omission, the young chief hesitated; never did ambition appeal to him more strongly; but he brushed the allurement away, and said to Cuitlahua:

"The king has been pleased to be silent as to which of us should govern in his absence; but we are both of one mind; the right is yours naturally, and your coming at this time, good uncle, looks as if the gods sent you. Take the government, therefore, and give me your orders. Malinche is stronger than ever." He turned thoughtfully to the place below, over which the flag of Spain and that of Cortes were now displayed.

"He will require of us days of toil and fighting and many assaults. In conquering him there will be great glory, which I pray you will let me divide with you."

The Lord Cuitlahua heard the patriotic speech with glistering eyes. Undoubtedly he appreciated the self-denial that made it beautiful; for he said with emotion, "I accept the government, and, as its cares demand, will take my brother's place in the palace; do you take what else would be my place under him in the field. And may the gods help us each to do his duty."

He held out his hand, which the 'tzin kissed in token of fealty, and so yielded the crown; and as if the great act were already out of mind, he said:

"Come, now, good uncle—and you, also, Tula—come both of you, and I will show what use I made of the kingly power."

He led them closer to the verge of the *azoteas*, so close that they saw below them the whole western side of the city, and beyond that the lake and its shore, clear to the sierra bounding the valley in that direction.

(To be continued.)

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For further particulars apply to Edward J. Hodgson, Solicitor, Charlottetown or Summerside.

Dated 24th April, 1889. JOHN BRECKEN, EDWARD J. HODGSON, Trustees of R. W. Brecken, Assignees of Mortgagee. ap21—w m & wky tl st

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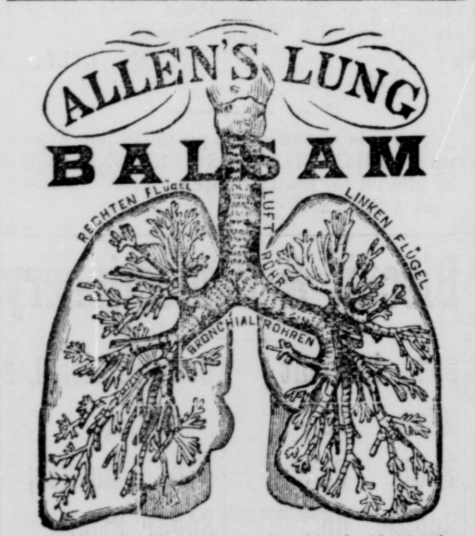
A SECOND CALL of 30 per cent. (\$30 a share), upon the subscribed Stock of the above Association, payable on or before 15th June next, has been ordered by the Directors. Shareholders will oblige by paying the same to me at the office of Warburton & Smallwood, Cameron Block.

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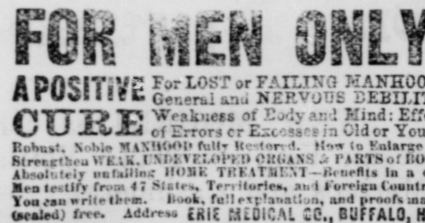
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