

(Continued from first page.)

The earth, obeying the same laws and moves with it; whereas it is no part of the ship, of which consequently its motion is independent. The solution was admitted by some, but opposed by others, and the controversy went on with spirit; nor was it till one hundred years after the death of Copernicus that the experiment being tried, it was ascertained that the stone thus dropped from the head of the mast dove to it at the foot of it.—Archbishop Whately

TANTALUS.

This wealthy Lydian, who resided near Mount Sipylus, was a man of pre-eminent happiness, above the lot of humanity. The gods received him at their banquets, and accepted hospitably in return. Intoxicated with such prosperity, Tantalus became grossly wicked. He stole nectar and ambrosia from the table of the gods, and divulged their secrets to mankind. Tantalus expiated his guilt by exemplary punishment: he was placed in the under-world with fruit and water seemingly close to him, yet eluding his touch as often as he tried to grasp them, and leaving his hunger and thirst incessant and unquenched; (hence to tantalise). Pindar, however, describes his punishment to have been a vast stone perpetually impending over his head, and threatening to fall.—Grote's History of Greece.

T. H. H.

Dec. 31, 1888.

THE FAIR GOD.

BOOK THREE.

CHAPTER I.

(Continued.)

The impatience of the Tezucan permitted but few preliminaries. "The gods of Mexlan require no prayers, stand out!" he said. "Strike!" answered Huapalpa. Up rose the glossy blades of the Tezucan, flashing in the light; quick and strong the blow, yet it clove but the empty air. "For the 'tzin!' shouted the hunter, striking back before the other was half recovered. The shield was dashed aside; a groan acknowledged a wound in the breast, and Iztli staggered; another blow stretched him on the pavement. A scream of blood, black in the night, stole slowly out over the flags. The fight was over. The victim dropped the bladed end of his weapon, and surveyed his foe with astonishment, then pity. "Your friend is hurt; help him!" he said, turning to the count; but he was alone—the craven had run. For one fresh from the hills, this was indeed a dilemma. A duel and a death in sight of the royal palace. A chilling thought struck his veins. He thought rapidly of the alarm, the king's wrath, and himself given to glut the monsters in the menagerie. Up rose, also, the many fastnesses amid the red cedars of Tihuano. Could he but reach them. The slaves of Montezuma, to please a whim, might pursue and capture a quail or an eagle; but there he could laugh at pursuit, while in Tenochtitlan he was nowhere safe.

Sight of the flowing blood brought him out of the panic. He raised the Tezucan's arm, and tore the rich vestments from his breast. The wound was a glancing one, it might not be fatal after all; to save him were worth the trial. Taking off his own mactlatl, he wound it tightly round the body and over the cut. Across the street there was a small, open house; lifting the man gently as possible, he carried him thither, and laid him in a darkened passage. Where else to convey him he knew not; that was all he could do. Now for flight—for Tihuano. Tireless and swift of foot shall they be who catch him on the way!

He started for the lake, intending to cross in a canoe rather than by the causeway; already a square was put behind, when it occurred to him that the Tezucan might have slaves and a palanquin waiting before the palace door. He began, also, to reproach himself for the baseness of the desertion. How would the 'tzin have acted? When the same Tezucan lay with the dead in the arena, who nursed him back to life? If Huapalpa wished his patron's presence at the beginning of the combat, now, lying from imaginary dangers—lying like a starling toward, from his very victory—much did he thank the gods that he was alone and unseen. In a kind of alcove or resting-place for weary workers, with which, by the way, the thoroughfares of Tenochtitlan were well provided, he sat down, recalled his wounded courage and determined on a course more manly, whatever the risk.

He retraced his steps and went boldly to the portal of the palace, where he found the Tezucan's palanquin. The slaves in charge followed him without objection. "Take your master to his own palace. Be quick!" he said to them, when the wounded man was transferred to the carriage. "It is in Yucuba," said one of them. "It is Yucuba, then."

He, however, accompanied the slaves. Along the street, across the causeway, which never seemed of such weary length, they proceeded. On the road the Tezucan revived. He said little and was passive in his enemy's hands. From Yucuba the latter had been back to Tenochtitlan, and reached the portico of Xoli, the Chalcan, just as day broke over the valley.

And such was the hunter's first emprise as a warrior.

CHAPTER II.

THE SECOND COMBAT.

It is hardly worth while to detail the details between Huapalpa and Xoli; enough to know that the latter, anticipating the pursuit, hid the son of his friend in a closet attached to his restaurant. First day, and many others, the police went up and down, ferreting for the assassin of the noble Iztli. Few preliminaries escaped their search. The Chalcan, amongst others, was examined, but without discovery. Thus safely concealed, the hunter thrived on the cuisine and for the loss of liberty was consoled by the gossip and worldly wisdom of his accessory, and, by what was better, the gratitude of Gustanozin. In such manner two weeks passed away. The long-stay and most wearisome of his existence. How sick at heart he grew in his luxurious imprisonment; how he pined for the old hills and woodlands. How he longed once more to go down the shaded ways free-footed and fearless, stalking deer or following his covelet. Ah, what is ambition gratified to freedom lost!

Unused to the confinement, it became irksome to him, and at length intolerable. "When," he asked himself, "is this to end? Will the king ever withdraw his huntsmen? Through whom am I to look or hope for pardon?" He sighed, paced the narrow closet, and determined that night to walk out and

see if his old friends, the stars, were still in their places, and take a draught of the fresh air, to his remembrance sweeter than the night beverage of the Chalcan. And when the night came he was true to his resolution. Pass we his impatience while waiting an opportunity to leave the house unobserved; his attempts unsuccessfully repeated; his vexation at the "noble patrons" who lounged in the apartments and talked so long over their goblets. At a late hour he made good his exit. In the *lingues*, which was the first to receive him, booths and porticos were closed for the night; lights were everywhere extinguished, except on the towers of the temples. As morning would end his furlough and drive him back to the hated captivity, he resolved to make the most of the night; he would visit the lake, he would stroll through the streets. By the gods! he would play freeman to the full.

(To be continued.)

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