

I made no answer, but followed him as he led the way down the darkest of the winding paths that run between the cedar trees, where it would have been easy for me to kill him if I wished, but I could not see how I should be advantaged by the deed; also, though I knew that Montezuma was my enemy, my heart shrank from the thought of murder. For awhile or more he walked on without speaking, now beneath the shadow of the trees, and now through open spaces of garden planted with lovely flowers, till at last we came to the gates of the place where the royal dead are said to rest. Now, in front of these gates was an open space of turf on which the moonlight shone brightly, and in the center of this space lay something white, shaped like a woman. Here Montezuma halted and looked at the gates, then

"These gates opened four days since for Papantzin, my sister. How long, I wonder, will pass before they open for me?" As he spoke the white shape upon the grass, which I had seen and he had not seen, stirred like an awaking sleeper. As the snow shape upon the mountain had stirred, so this shape stirred; as it had arisen, so this one arose; as it threw its arms upward, so this one threw up her arms. Now Montezuma saw and stood still trembling, and I trembled also.

Then the woman-for it was a woman -advanced slowly toward us, and as sho came we saw that she was draped in grave clothes. Presently she lifted her head, and the moonlight fell full upon her face. Now Montezuma groaned aloud, and I groaned, for we saw that the face was the pale, thin face of the Princess Papantzin -Papantzin, who had lain for four days in the grave. On she came toward us, gliding like one who walks in her sleep, till she stopped before the bush in the shadow of which we stood. Now Papantgin, or the ghost of Papantzin, looked at us with blind eyes-that is, with eyes that were open and yet did not seem to see. "Are you there, Montezuma, my brother?" she said in the voice of Papantzin. Surely I feel your presence, though I

cannot see you.' Now Montezuma stepped from the shadow and stood face to face with the dead. "Who are you," he said, "who wear the shape of one dead and are dressed in the garments of the dead?" "I am Papantzin," she answered, "and

am risen out of death to bring you a message, Montezuma, my brother."
"What message do you bring me?" he

asked hoarsely. "I bring you a message of doom, ray brother. Your empire shall fall, and soon you shall be accompanied to death by tens of thousands of your people. For four days I have lived among the dead, and there I have seen your false gods, which are devils. There also I have seen the priests which served them and many of those who worshiped them plunged into torment unutterable. Because of the worship of these demon gods the people of Anahuac is destined to destruction. "Have you no word of comfort for me, Papantzin, my sister?" he asked.

None," she answered. "Perchance if you abandon the worship of the false gods you may save your soul. Your life you cannot save, nor the lives of your people. Then she turned and passed away into the shadow of the trees. I heard her grave clothes sweep upon the grass. Now a fury seized Montezuma, and he

raved aloud, saying:
"Curses on you, Papantzin, my sister! Why then do you come back from the dead to bring me such evil tidings? Had you brought hope with you, had you shown s way of escape, then I would have wel-comed you. May you go back into darkness, and may the earth lie heavy on your heart forever! As for my gods, my father worshiped them, and I will worship them to the end. Aye, if they desert me, at least I will never desert them. The gods are angry because the sacrifices are few upon their altars; henceforth they shall be doubled. Aye, the priests of the gods shall themselves be sacrificed because they neglect their worship.'

Thus he raved on, after the fashion of a weak man maddened with terror, while his nobles and attendants, who had followed at a distance, clustered about him fearful and wondering. At length there came an end, for, tearing with his thin hands at his royal robes and at his hair and beard, Montezuma fell and writhed in a fit upon the ground. Then they carried him into the palace, and none saw him for three days and nights.

CHAPTER XV.

THE NAMING OF THE BRIDES. Now, some months passed between the date of my naming as the god Tezcat and the entry of the Spaniards into Mexico, and during all this space the city was in a ferment. Again and again Montezuma sent embassies to Cortes, bearing with them vast treasures of gold and gems as presents and at the same time praying him to withdraw, for this foolish prince did not understand that by displaying so much wealth he flew a lure which must surely bring the falcon on himself. To these embassadors Cortes returned courteons answers, together with presents of

small value, and that was all. Then the advance began, and the emperor learned with dismay of the conquest of the warlike-tribe of the Tlascalans, who, though they were Montezuma's bitter and hereditary foes, yet made a stand against the white man. Next came the tidings that from enemies the conquered Tlascalans had become the allies and servants of the Spaniard, and that thousands of their fiercest warriors were advancing with him upon the sacred city of Cholula. Awhile passed, and it was known that Cholula also had been given to massacre, and that the holy, or rather the unholy, gods had been torn from their shrines. Marvelous tales were told of the Spaniards, of their courage and their might, of the armor that they were, the thunder that their weapons made in battle, and the fierce beasts which they bestrode. Once two heads of white men taken in a skirmish were sent to Montezuma-fierce looking heads, great and hairy, and with them the head of a horse. When Montezuma saw these ghastly relics, he almost fainted with fear. Still he caused them to be set up on pinnacles of the great temple and proclamation to be made that this fate await-

ed every invader of the land. Meanwhile all-was confusion in his policies. Day by day councils were held of the nobles, of high priests and of neighboring and friendly kings. Some advised with a bitter laugh. "Am I to be deone thing, some another, and the end of it
frauded of the fourth?" "There is a was hesitation and folly. Ah, had Montezuma listened to the voice of that great man Guatemoc, Anahuac would not have been a Spanish fief today! For Guatemoc been a Spanish fief today! For Guatemoe er titles than this you give her." Now prayed him again and yet again to put I looked at her questioningly, and she away his fears and declare open war upon the Teules before it was too late-to cease from making gifts and sending embassies, to gather his countless armies and smite the foe in the mountain passes. But Montezuma would answer: "To what end, nephew? How can I struggle against these men when the gods themselves have declared for them? Surely the gods can take their own parts if they wish it, and, if they will not, for myself and my own fate I do not care, but alas for my people, alas for the women and the children, the aged and the

Then he would cover his face and moan and weep like a child, and Guatemoc would pass from his presence dumb with fury at the folly of so great a king, but helpless to remedy it, for, like myself, Gautemoc believed that Montezuma had been smitten with a madness sent from

heaven to bring the land to ruin. The people were distraught with fear of the future, but not the less on that account, or perhaps because of it, they plunged with fervor into pleasures, alternating them with religious ceremonies. In those days no feast was neglected, and

that quickens its now as it draws near the precipice over which it must fall, so the people of Mexico, foreseeing ruin, awoke, as it were, and lived as they had never lived before. All day long the cries of victims came from a hundred temple tops, and all night the sounds of revelry were heard "Let us eat and among the streets. drink," they said, "for the gods of the sea are upon us, and tomorrow we dia." Now women who had been held virtuous proved themselves wantons, and men whose names were honest showed themselves knaves, and none cried fie upon them. Aye, even children were seen drunken in the

streets, which is an abomination among the Aztecs. The emperor had moved his household palace was a town in itself, for every night more than 1,000 human beings slept be-neath its roof, not to speak of the dwarfs and monsters and the hundreds of wild birds and beasts in cages. Here every day I feasted with whom I would, and when I was weary of feasting it was my custom to sally out into the streets playing on the lute, for by now I had in some degree mastered that hateful instrument, dressed in shining apparel and attended by a crowd of nobles and royal pages. Then the nobles would rush from the houses shouting and doing me reverence, the children pelted me with flowers, and the maidens danced before me, kissing my hands and feet, till at length. I was attended by a mob 1,000 strong. And I also danced and shou'ed like any village fool, for I think that a kind of mad humor, or perhaps it was the drunkenness of worship, entered into me in those days; also I sought to forget my griefs; I desired to forget that I was doomed to the sacrifice, and that every day brought me nearer to the red knife of the priest.

In those days, had it not been for the

tender kindness of Otomie, I think that my heart would have broken or I should have slain myself. But this great and beauteous lady werever at hand to cheer me in a thousand ways, and now and again she would let fall some vague words of hope that set my pulses bounding. I talked much with Otomic, instructing her in the matters of my faith and many other things, as I had done by Marina, who, we now heard, was the mistress and interpreter of Cortes, the Spanish leader. She, for her part, listened gravely, watching me the while with her tender eyes, but no more, for of all women Otomie was the most modest, as she was the proudest and most beautiful. So matters went on until the Spaniards had left Cholula on their road to Mexico. It was then that I chanced one morning to be sitting in the gardens, my lute in hand, and having my attendant nobles and tutors gathered at a respectful distance behind me. From where I sat I could see the entrance to the court in which the emperor met his coun cil daily, and I noted that when the princes had gone the priests began to come, and after them a number of very lovely girls,

attended by women of middle age. ently Guatemoc, the prince, who now smiled but rarely, came up to me smiling and asked me if I knew what was doing yonder. I replied that I knew nothing and cared less, but I supposed that Montezuma was gathering a peculiar treasure to send to his masters, the Spaniards. "Beware how you speak, Teule," answered the prince haughtily. "Your words may be true, and yet, did I not love you, you should rue them even though you hold the spirit of Tezcat. Alas," he added, stamping on the ground, "alas, that my uncle's madness should make it possible that such words can be spoken! Oh, were I the em peror of Anahuac, in a single week the head of every Teule in Cholula should

deck a pinnacle of yonder temple!" "Beware how you speak, prince," I anwered, mocking him, "for there are those who, did they hear, might cause you to rue your words. Still one day you may be emperor, and then we shall see how you will deal with the Teules—at least others will see, though I shall not. But what is it now? Does Montezuma choose new

"He chooses wives, but not for himself You know, Teule, that your time grows short. Montezuma and the priests name those who must be given to you to wife." "Given me to wife!" I said, starting to

my feet. "To me whose bride is death! What have I to do with love or marriage-I who in some few short weeks must grace an altar? Ah, Guatemoc, you say you love me, and once I saved you. Did you love me, surely you would save me now as you swore to do."

"I swore that I would give my life for yours, Teule, if it lay in my power, and that oath I would keep, for all do not set so high a store on life as you, my friend. But I cannot help you. You are dedicated to the gods, and did I die a hundred times t would not save you from your fate. Nothing can save you except the hand of heaven if it wills. Therefore, Teule, make merry while you may and die bravely when you must. Your case is no worse than mine and that of many others, for death awaits us all. Farewell."

When he had gone, I rose, and leaving the gardens I passed into the chamber where it was my custom to give audience to those who wished to look upon the god Tezcat, as they called me. Here I sat upon my golden couch, inhaling the fumes of tobacco, and as it chanced I was alone, for none dared to enter that room unless I gave them leave. Presently the chief of my pages announced that one would speak with me, and I bent my head, signifying that the person should enter, for I was weary of my thoughts. The page withdrew, and presently a veiled woman stood before me. I looked at her wondering and bade her draw her veil and speak. She obeyed, and I saw that my visitor was the Princess Otomie. Now I rose amazed, for it as not usual that she should visit me thus alone. I guessed, therefore, that she

had tidings or was following some custom of which I was ignorant. "I pray you be seated," she said confusedly. "It is not fitting that you should stand before me." "Why not, princess?" I answered. "If I had no respect for rank, surely beauty must claim it." "A truce to words," she replied, with a wave of her slim hand. "I come here, O Tezcat, according to the ancient custom, because I am charged with a message to you. Those whom you shall wed are chosen. I am the bearer of their names." "Speak on, princess of the Otomic." "They are"and she named three ladies whom I knew to be among the leveliest in the land. "I thought that there were four," I said, fourth," she answered and was silent. "Give me her name," I cried. "One ha been found, O Tezcat, who has borne othspoke again in a low voice. "I, Otomie, princess of the Otomie, Montezuma's daughter, am the fourth and the first. "You!" I said, sinking back upon my

cushions. "You!" "Yes, I. Listen. I was chosen by the priests as the most love ly in the land, however unworthily. My father, the emperor, was angry and said that whatever befell I should never be the wife of a captive who must die upon the altar of sacrifice. But the priests answered that this was no time for him to claim exception for his blood, now when the gods were wroth. Was the first lady in the land to be withheld from the god? they asked. Then my father sighed and said that it should be as I willed. And I said with the priests that now, in our sore distress, the proud must humble themselves to the dust, even to the marrying of a cap tive slave who is named a god and doome

to sacrifice. "So I, princess of the Otomie, have consented to become your wife, O Tezcat, though perchance had I known all that I read in your eyes this hour I should not have consented. It may happen that in this shame I hoped to find love if only for no altar lacked its victim. Like a river one short hour, and that I purposed to

ete my marriage by the side of the victim on the altar, as, if I will, I have the right to do. But I see well that I am not welcome, and though it is too late to go back upon my word have no fear. There are others, and I shall not trouble you. I have given my message. Is it your pleasure that I should go? The solemn ceremony of wedlock will be on the twelfth day from now, O Tezeat." Now I rose from my seat and took her

hand, saying:

"I thank you, Otomie for your nobleness of mind. Had it not been for the comfort and friendship which you and Guatemoc, your cousin, have given me I think that ere now I should be dead. So you desire to comfort me to the last. It seems that you even purposed to die with me. How am I to interpret this, Otomie? In our land a woman would need to love a man after no common fashion before she consented to share such a bed as awaits me on yonder pyramid. And yet I may scarcely think that you, whom kings have

sued for, can place your heart so low. How am I to read the writing of your words, princess of the Otomie?" "Read it with your heart," she whis pered low, and I felt her hand tremble in

I looked at her beauty. It was great. thought of her devotion, a devotion that did not shrink from the most horrible of deaths, and a wind of feeling which was akin to love swept through my soul. But even as I looked and thought I rememberfrom Chapoltepee to the palace in the ed the English garden and the English great square facing the temple, and this maid from whom I had parted beneath the beech at Ditchingham and the words that we had spoken then. Doubtless she still lived and was true to me. While I lived should I not keep true at heart to her? If I must wed these Indian girls, I must wed them, but if once I told Otomie I loved her then I broke my troth, and with nothing less would she be satisfied. And yet, though I was deeply moved and the temptation was great, I had not come "Be seated, Otomie," I said, "and listen to me. You see this golden token?" And I drew Lily's posy ring from my hand. 'And you see the writing within it." She bent her head, but did not speak, and I saw that there was fear in her eyes.

"I will read you the words, Otomie," And I translated into the Aztec tongue the quaint couplet:

Heart to heart, Though far apart. Then at last she spoke, "What does the

writing mean?" she said. "I can only ead in pictures, Teule. "It means, Otomie, that in the far land whence I come there is a woman who loves me and who is my love.

"Is she your wife then?" "She is not my wife, Otomia, but she s vowed to me in marriage."

"She is vowed to you in marriage," she answered bitterly. "Why, then, we are equal, for so am I, Teule. But there is this difference between us-you love her, and me you do not love. That is what you would make clear to me. Spare me more words. I understand it all. Still it seems to me that if I have lost she is also in the path of loss. Great seas roll between you and this love of yours, Teuleseas of water, and the altar of sacrifice, and the nothingness of death. Now let me go. Your wife I must be, for there is no escape, but I shall not trouble you over much, and it will soon be done with. Then you may seek your desire in the houses of the stars whither you must wander, and it is my prayer that you shall win it.
"All these months I have been planning

to find hope for you, and I thought that I had found it. But it was built upon a false belief, and it is ended. Had you been able to say from your heart that you loved me it might have been well for both of us. Should you be able to say it before the end it may still be well. But I do not ask you to say it, and beware how you tell me a lie. I leave you, Teule, but before I go I will say that I honor you more in this hour than I have honored you before, because you have dared to speak the truth to me, Montezuma's daughter, when a lie had been so easy and so safe. That woman beyond the seas should be grateful to you, but though I bear her no ill will between me and her there is a struggle to the death. We are strangers to each other, and strangers we shall remain, but she has touched hs together and are our bond of enmity. Farewell, my husband that is to be."

Then, rising, Otomie cast her veil about her face and passed slowly from the chamber, leaving me much disturbed. It was a bold deed to have rejected the proffered love of this queen among women, and now that I had done so I was not altogether glad. Would Lily, I wondered, have offered to descend from such state to cast off the purple of her royal rank that she might lie at my side on the red stone of sacrifice? Perhaps not, for this flerce fidelity is only to be found in women of another breed. These daughters of the sun love wholly when they love at all, and as they love they hate. They ask no priest to con-secrate their vows, nor if these become hateful will they be bound by them for duty's sake. Their own desire is their law, but while it rules them they follow it unflinchingly, and if need be they seek its consummation in the gates of death, or, failing that, forgetfulness.

CHAPTER XVI

THE FOUR GODDESSES. Some weary time went by, and at last came the day of the entry into Mexico of Cortes and his conquerors. Now, of all the doings of the Spaniards after they occupied the city I do not propose to speak at length, for these are matters of history, and I have my own story to tell. So I shall only write of those of them with which I was concerned myself. I did not Cortes, though I saw the emperor set out to it clad like Solomon in his glory and surrounded by his nobles. But I am sure of this—that no slave led to the sacrifice carried a heavier heart in his breast that that of Montezuma on this unlucky day, for now his folly had ruined him, and I think he knew that he was going to his

Afterward, toward evening, I saw the emperor come back in his golden litter and pass over to the palace built by Axa, his father, that stood opposite to and some 500 paces from his own, facing the western gate of the temple. Presently I heard the sound of a multitude shouting, and amid it the tramp of horses and armed soldiers, and from a seat in my chamber I saw the Spaniards advance down the great street, and my heart beat at the sight of Christian men. In front, clad in rich armor, rode their leader, Cortes, a man of middle size, but noble bearing, with thoughtful eyes that noted everything, and after him some few on horseback, but the most of them on foot, marching his little army of conquerors, staring about them with bold, wondering eyes and jesting to each other in Castilian. They were but a handful, bronzed by the sun and scarred by battle, some of them ill armed and almost in rags, and looking on them I could not but mar vel at the indomitable courage that had enabled them to pierce their way through hostile thousands, sickness and war, even to the home of Montezuma's power.

By the side of Cortes, holding his stir rup in her hand, walked a beautiful In-



By the side of Cortes walked a beautiful crowned with flowers. As she passed the palace she turned her face. I knew her at Now the altar, the victim and the priests once. It was my friend Marina, who had

now attained the greatness which she desired, and who, notwithstanding all the evil that she had brought upon her country, looked most happy in it and in her As the Spaniards went by I searched their faces one by one, with the vague hope of hate, for, though it might well chance

that death had put us out of each other's reach, I half thought to see De Garcia my hand, saying: among the number of the conquerors. Such a quest as theirs, with its promise of blood and gold and to his evil heart should it be in his power to join it, and a strange nstinct told me that he was not dead I worship you. But neither dead nor living was he among hose men who entered Mexico that day.

would take her place.

That night I saw Guatemoc and asked him how things went. "Well for the kite that roosts in tho dove's nest," he answered, with a bitter

laugh, "but very ill for the dove. Montezuma, my uncle, has been cooing yonder, and he pointed to the palace of Axa, "and the captain of the Teules has cooed in answer, but though he tried to hide it I could hear the hawk's shrick in his pigeon's note. Ere long there will be merry loings in Tenoctitlan. He was right. Within a week Montezu

ma was treacherously seized by the Spanards and kept a prisoner in their quarters, watched day and night by their soldiers. Then came event upon event. Cer tain lords on the coast lands, having killed some Spaniards, were summoned to Mexico by the instigation of Cortes. They came and were burned alive in the courtard of the palace. Nor was this all, for Montezuma, their monarch, was forced to witness the execution with fetters on his ankles. So low had the emperor of the Aztecs fallen that he must bear chains like a common felon. After this insult he swore allegiance to the King of Spain and even contrived to capture Cacama, the lord of Tezcuco, by treachery and to deliver him into the hands of the Spaniards on whom he would have made war. To them also he gave up all the hoarded gold and treasure of the empire to the value of hundreds of thousands of English pounds. All this the nation bore, for it was stupefied and still obeyed the commands of its captive king. But when he suffered the Spaniards to worship the true God in one of the sanctuaries of the great temple a murmur of discontent and sullen fury rose among the thousands of the Aztecs. It filled the air, it could be heard wherever men were gathered, and its sound was like that of a distant angry sea. The hour of

the breaking of the tempest was at hand. Now, all this while my life went on as before, save that I was not allowd to go outside the walls of the palace, for it was feared lest I should find some means of intercourse with the Spaniards, who did not know that a man of white blood was confined there and doomed to sacrifice; also in these days I saw little of the princess Otomie, the chief of my destined brides, who since our strange love scene had avoided me, and when we met at feasts or in the gardens spoke to me only on indifferent matters or of the affairs of state. At length came the day of my marriage. It was, I remember, the night before the massacre of the 600 Aztec nobles on the occasion of the festival of Huitzel. On this my wedding day I was treated with great circumstance and worshiped like a god by the highest in the city, who came in to do me reverence and burned incense before me till I was weary of the smell of it, for though such serrow was on the land the priests would abate no jot of their ceremonies or crucities, and great hopes were held that I, being of the race of Tenles, my sacrifice would avert the anger of the gods. At sunset I was entertained with a splendid feast that lasted two hours or more, and at its end all the company

rose and shouted as with one voice: "Glory to thee, O Tezcat! Happy art thou here on earth, happy mayst thou be in the houses of the sun. When thou comest hither, remember that we dealt well by thee, giving thee of our best and intercede for us that our sins may be forgiven. Glory to thee, O Tezcat!"

Then two of the chief nobles came for ward, and taking torches led me to a magnificent chamber that I had never seen be fore. Here they changed my apparel, investing me in robes which were still more splendid than any that I had worn hither to, being made of the finest embroidered cotton and of the glittering feathers of the humming bird. On my wreaths of flowers, and about my neck and wrists emeralds of vast size and value and a sorry popinjay I looked in this attire beauty than to me.

When I was arrayed, suddenly the torches were extinguished, and for awhile there was silence. Then in the distance I heard women's voices singing a bridai song that was beautiful enough after its fashion, though I forbear to write it down. The singing ceased, and there came a sound of rustling robes and of low whispering. Then a man's voice spoke, saying: "Are ye there, ye chosen of heaven?"

And a woman's voice-I thought it was that of Otomie—answered:

"We are here." "O maidens of Anahuac," said the man, speaking from the darkness, "and you, O Tezcat, god among the gods, listen to my words. Maidens, a great honor has been done to you, for by the very choice of heaven you have been endowed with the names, the loveliness and the virtues of the four great goddesses and chosen to abide awhile at the side of this god, your maker and your master, who has been pleased to visit us for a space before he seeks his home in the habitations of th sun. See that you show yourselves wor thy of this honor. Comfort him and cheryour kindness, and when he returns to his own place may take with him grateful memories and a good report of your peosee the meeting between Montezuma and ple. You have but a little while to live Cortes, though I saw the emperor set out at his side in this life, for already, like those of a caged bird, the wings of his spirit beat against the bars of the flesh, and soon he will shake himself free from us and you. Yet if you will it is allowed to one of you to accompany him to his home, sharing his flight to the houses of the sun. But to all of you, whether you go also or whether you stay to mourn him during your life days, I say love and cherish him, be tender and gentle toward him, for otherwise ruin shall overtake you here and hereafter, and you and all of us will be ill spoken of in heaven. And you, O Tezcat, we pray of you to accept these maidens, who bear the names and wear the charms of your celestial consorts for there are none more beautiful or better born in the realms of Anahuae, and among them is numbered the daughter of our king. They are not perfect indeed, for perfection is known to you in the heaven-ly kingdoms only, since these ladies are but shadows and symbols of the divine goddesses, your true wives, and here there are no perfect women. Alas, we have none better to offer you, and it is our hope that when it pleases you to pass hence you will think kindly of the women of this land and from on high bless them with your blessing, because your memory of thes who were called your wives on earth is

> The voice paused, then spoke again: "Women, in your own divine names of Xochi, Xilo, Atla and Clixto, and in the name of all the gods, I wed you to Tezcat, the creator, to sojourn with him during his stay on earth. The god incarnate takes you in marriage whom he himself created, that the symbol may be perfect and the mystery fulfilled. Yet, lest your joy should be too full, look now on that which shall

> As the voice spoke these words many torches sprang into flame at the far end of the great chamber, revealing a dreadful sight, for there, stretched upon a stone of sacrifice, was the body of a man, but whether the man lived or was modeled in wax I do not know to this hour, though unless he was painted I think that he must have been fashioned in wax, since his skin shope white like mine. At the least, his limbs and head were held by five priests, and a sixth stood over him clasping a knife of obsidian in his two hands. It flashed on high, and as it gleamed the torches were extinguished. Then came the dull echo of a blow and a sound of groans, and all was still till once more the orides broke out into their marriage song -a strange chant, and a wild and sweet, though after what I had seen and heard i had little power to move me. They sang on in the darkness ever more

loudly till presently a single torch was lit at the end of the chamber, then another and another, though I could not see who were all gone. There was, no one left in

brides. They were tall and lovely women, all of them clad in white bridal robes starred over with gems and flowers and wearing on their brows the emblems of the four goddesses, but Otomie was the stateliest and most beautiful of the four and seemed in truth a goddess. One by one they drew near to me, smiling and sighing, and kneeling before me kissed

"I have been chosen to be your wife for a space, Tezcat, happy maid that I am. May the gods grant that I become pleasing to your sight, so that you may love me as

Then she who had spoken would draw back again out of earshot, and the next

Last of all came Otomie. She knelt and said the words, then added in a low voice: "Having spoken to you as the bride and goddess to the husband and the god Tezcat. now. O Teule, I speak as the woman to the man. You do not love me, Teule; therefore, if it is your will, let us be divorced of our own act who were wed by the command of others, for so I shall t spared some shame. These are friends to me and will not betray us." And she nodded toward her companion brides. "As you will, Otomie," I answere

"I thank you for your kindness, Toule," she said, smiling sadly, and withdrew making obelsance, looking so stately and so sweet as she went that again my heart was shaken as though with love. Now, from that night till the dreadful hour or sacrifice no kiss or tender word passed between me and the princess of the Otomia. And yet our friendship and affection grew daily, for we talked much together, a sought to turn her heart to the true king of heaven. But this was not easy, for, like her father Montezuma, Otomie clung to the gods of her people, though she hated the priests, and, save where the victims were the foes of her country, shrank from the rites of human sacrifice, which she said were instituted by the pabas, since in the early days there were no men offer ed on the altars of the gods, but flowers only. Daily it grew and ripened till, although I scarcely knew it, at length in my heart, after Lily, I loved her than any one on earth. As for the other women, though they were gentle and beautiful, I soon learned to hate them. Still i feasted and reveled with them, partly since I must, or bring them to a miserable death because they falled to please me, and partly that I might drown my terrors in drink and pleasure, for let it be remembered that the days left me on earth were few, and

the awful end drew near. The day following the celebration of my marriage was that of the shameless massacre of 100 of the Azteo nobles by the order of the hidalgo Alvarado, whom Cortes had left in command of the Spaniards, for at this time Cortes was absent on the coast lands, whither he had gone to make war on Narvaez, who had been sent to subdue him by his enemy, Volasquez, the governor of Cuba.

On this day was celebrated the feast of Huitzer, that was held with sacrifice, songs and dances in the great court of the tem ple, that court which was surrounded by wall carved over with the writhing shapes of snakes. It chanced that on this morning before he went to join in the festival Guatemoc, the prince, came to see me on a visit of ceremony. TO BE CONTINUED.

The Old Hickory Wagons, incomparable forever, still take the lead everywhere. Ramsey & Bland C. M. DEMPSEY, Manager can supply you and send you home

HUMPHREYS' Dr. Humphreys' Specifics are scientifically and carefully prepared Remedies, used for years in private practice and for over thirty years by the people with entire success. Every eingle Specific a special cure for the disease named.

They cure without drugging, purging or reducing the system and are in fact and deed the Sovereign Remedies of the World.

L-Fevers, Congestions, Inflammations. .25

T-Fevers, Congestions, Inflammations. 25
2-Worms, Worm Fever, Worm Colic. 25
3-Teething; Colle, Cyring, Wakefulness 25
4-Diarrhen, of Children or Adults. 25
7-Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis. 25
8-Neuralgia, Toothache, Faccache. 25
9-Headaches, Sick Headache, Vertigo. 25
10-Dyspepsin, Billiousness, Constitution. 25
11-Suppressed or Painful Periods. 25
12-Whites, Too Profuse Periods. 25
12-Whites, Too Profuse Periods. 25
13-Croup, Laryngitis, Hoarseness. 25
14-Salt Rheum, Eryspelas, Eruptions. 25
15-Rheumatism, Rheumatic Pains. 25
15-Rheumatism, Rheumatic Pains. 25
19-Catarrh, Influenza, Cold in the Head. 25
20-Whooping Cough. 25
27-Kidney Discases. 25
28-Nervous Debility. 1.00
30-Urinary Weakness, Wetting Bed. 25
HUMPHREYS' WITCH HAZEL OIL,

HUMPHREYS' WITCH HAZEL OIL, "The Pile Ointment."-Trial Size, 25 Cts. Sold by Druggists, or sent post-paid on receipt of price. Dr. HUMPHREYS' MANUAL (144 pages,) MAILED FREE. UMPHREYS' MED. CO., 111 & 112 WIllam St., NEW YORK.

SPECIFICS.

DOUCLAS \$3 SHOE IS THE BEST. \$5. CORDOYAN, FRENCH& ENAMELLED CALF.
\$4.\$3.50 FINE CALF& KANGAROL \$ 3.50 POLICE, 3 SOLES. \$250\$2. WORKINGMENS EXTRA FINE. \$2.\$1.75 BOYS'SCHOOLSHOES. \$3.250 \$2.51.75 BEST DONGOLA

SEND FOR CATALOGUE
W-L-DOUGLAS, BROCKTON, MASS. BROCKTON, MASS.
You can save money by purchasing W. L.
Douglas Shoes,
Because, we are the largest manufacturers of
advertised shoes in the world, and guarantee
the value by stamping the name and price on
the bottom, which protects you against high
prices and the middleman's profits. Our shoes
equal custom work in style, easy fitting and
wearing qualities. We have them sold everywhere at lower prices for the value given than
any other make. Take no substitute. If your
dealer cannot supply you, we can. Sold by

J. M. COBB. EDGEFIELD, S. C.

It Cures

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA TOOTHACHE, GRIP, AND COLD IN ALL ITS FORMS. CUTS, SORES, BRUISES, 500 SPRAINS, LAMENESS.

It always relieves when properly applied. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

PRICE 25 CENTS.

Prepared by T. X. L. CO.

We are thoroughly and completely equipped for the execution of Job Work of all kinds, and we are mak-Special Grand Portfolio of Water-Colors, ing special rates on

Drop us a Postal, giving the number of Tickets you want, and the office for which you are a candidate, and we will have your tickets ready for you when you come to town. Address all orders to

THE ADVERTISER, Edgefield, S. C.

Important Announcement

TO THE READERS OF

ADVERTISER

To supply the consecutive weekly parts of this great serial at

10 CENTS and One Coupon Per

The publisher's price is 25 cents, but we are determined to give the readers of the ADVERTISER the same advantages that are offered by the large city dailies, and accordingly, at considerable sacrifice on our part, we have arranged to supply "OUR OWN COUNTRY," on

The First Coupon will be Published Next Week Lock out for it.

Now save your coupons and dimes, for we have just what you want: "OUR OWN COUNTRY," represented in more than Splendid and Wonderful Photographs and Descriptions.

The grandest and most wonderful thing you ever saw. Published in 20 consecutive numbers for only 10 cents each. First number ready

Every family in America wants and needs "OUR OWN COUN-TRY," and it is a splendid present to send to your friends across the

It is the Story of Our Country and Its People. It is America Photographed, Reflected, Pictured, and Described from Alaska to Florida and from Main to Texas. It is not all Scenery, nor all Houses and Streets, but it is America as you would see it Reflected in a Mirror.

Ever thing in America and America in Everything. History, Geography, Scenic Wonders, Famous Places, Glorious Landscapes; Everything About America, American Scenery, American Homes and Home Life, Celebrated Historical Localities, the Indians and their Surroundings, Wild Western Scenes, Character Sketches Photographed, Our Great Battlefields and their Monuments, Homes of Celebrated

People, Places where Great Events have Occurred in Our Country's History; Wonderfully and Gloriously Beauti-

No Other Work Like It! It Stands Alone! Grand, Superior, and Splendid!

Majestic Mountains, Roaring Cataracts, Waterfalls more Wondrously.

Beautiful than a Poet's Dream, Bewildering Canons, Charming
Valleys, Picturesque Lakes, Famous Caverns, Spouting Geysers, Grinding Glaciers, Expansive Prairies, Evergreen
Forests Scented with the Pineapple and the Orange;
Everything that is Necessary to Compose a
Complete and Splendid

PICTURESQUE AMERICA. At the end of the regular series of 20 numbers there will be a

representing such famous scenery as the great Natural Bridge of Virginia; the Falls near Warm Springs, Va; Niagara Falls; the Grand Canan of the Colorado in all its wonderful and glorious colorings; scenery in the Rocky Mountains, in the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains; characteristic Southern scenery, etc; all reproduced in the

₩ATER COLORS

by the new and beautiful Solar Printing Process. A sample of these elegant colored views will be enclosed with each copy of Portfolio No 4. Be sure to get this Number.

We spend hundreds and thousands of dollars in educating our children, but all the books that were ever written about American people do not reflect and reproduce them like these magnificent Portfolios of "OUR OWN COUNTRY." We can not all afford to travel and see the wonders and beauties of our native land, but for a few cents you can possess a perfect photographic reproduction of Every Part of America, accompanied by a continuous and splendidly written description, spiced with adventures, anecdotes, legends, stories of heroism, great historical events, and Nature's most marvelous wonders.

"0	ur Own	[ini	intrii	"	Cour	nn	Nn	8
		וויד ו	ים די מייונוני	1	MAC		IG.	ED.
N CUL	EDGE	on en	close it in	an enve	lope wi	Π I th 10 C	LO.	LIV.
SIL	NATIONAL direct to the COUNTRY'	ART	CO., Sect	rity Bi	ilding.	St. L	onis.	Mo.,
N								• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Postof	ffice	·····					• • • • • •	•••••
State.								