

better-furnished room than the one in the Rue Candilejo, and you will see if I am not still your Carmencita.'

"I did not reply, and was already in the street when the Englishman called out: 'Bring some maquila to-morrow,' and I heard Carmen's peals of laughter.

"I left the house, not knowing what I should do; I hardly slept, and in the morning found myself so angry with the traitress that I resolved to leave Gibraltar without seeing her again; but at the first roll of the drum all my courage forsook me, I seized my straw mat of oranges and ran to Carmen. Her Venetian blind was half open and I saw her large, black eyes watching for me. The powdered servant at once conducted me to her, she sent him off to execute some commission, and as soon as we were alone she threw herself into my arms. I had never seen her so beautiful. Adorned like a madonna, perfumed, furniture of silk, embroidered curtains—Ah—and I looking like a robber, as I was.

"Monchorro!" said Carmen, 'I have a mind to break everything here, to set fire to the house, and to fly to the Sierra.'

"And then were tender caresses!—bursts of crocodile laughter. She danced, she tore up her furbelows; never did a monkey perform such antics, never a woman such *diableries*. When she again became serious:

"Listen," she said: 'Egypt's interests are at stake. I intend him to conduct me to Ronda, where I have a sister who is a nun—'[here fresh peals of laughter]. 'We will pass through a place of which I will notify you. You will attack him: *pille rasibus*! 'Do you know what must be done?' she added, with a diabolical smile that she had at certain moments, and which no one had any desire to imitate. 'Let Garcia be the first to appear; keep yourself a little in the rear, for the Lobster is brave and dexterous: he has good pistols. Do you understand?' She interrupted herself by a laugh that made me shudder.

"No," I replied; 'I hate Garcia, but he is my comrade. One day, perhaps, I may disembarrass you of him, but we will settle our score after the manner of my country. I am a gypsy only by chance, and in certain things I shall always remain a true Navarrese.'

"You are a simpleton, a real *payllo*. You are a dwarf who thinks himself tall when he spits far.* You do not love me. Go!"

"When she said, Go! I could not leave her. But I promised to return to my comrades and to wait for the Englishman, while she, on her part, swore to feign illness up to the moment of leaving Gibraltar. I remained there two days longer, and she had the audacity to come disguised to see me at my tavern. I also had a project. I returned to our rendezvous knowing the place and hour at which the Englishman and Carmen were to appear. I found Dancaire and Garcia awaiting me. We passed the night in a wood by a fire of fir cones that made a marvellous blaze. I proposed to Garcia to play cards; he acceded, and at the second game I told him that he cheated. He began to laugh and I threw the cards in his face. He stretched out his hand for his carbine, but I put my foot on it, saying: 'It is said that you can handle a knife as well as the best knave in Malaga; will you try your strength against me?'

"The Dancaire wished to separate us. I struck Garcia several blows with my fist; anger made him brave, he drew his knife, I unsheathed mine. We both told Dancaire to allow us a free field and fair play, and, seeing that there was no possibility of stopping us, he stood aside. Garcia was already bent double, like a cat ready to spring at a mouse. He held his hat in his left hand to parry, his knife in front, which is the Andalusian guard. I stood in Navarrese fashion, full in front of him: the left arm raised, the left leg advanced, the knife along the right thigh. I felt stronger than a giant. He darted at me like an arrow; I turned on my left foot, and he found nothing in front of him; but on the instant I plunged my knife into his throat, and it entered so far that my hand was beneath his chin. I turned the blade with such force that it broke. All was over. The knife came out of the wound with a gush of blood as thick as an arm. He fell with his face to the earth, stiff as a log.

"What have you done?" said Dancaire.

"Listen! We could not live together. I love Carmen, and I will share with no one. Besides, Garcia was a scoundrel, and I remember poor Remendado's fate. There are now but two of us, but we are good fellows. Come, will you have me for a friend, in life and death?"

"Dancaire offered me his hand. He was fifty years old.

"Out upon these love affairs!" he exclaimed. 'Had you asked him for Carmen he would have sold her to you for a piastre. How shall we two manage alone to-morrow?'

"Let me act singly in this matter. Now I can laugh at all the world.'

"We buried Garcia, and removed our camp two hundred paces further. The next day, Carmen and her Englishman appeared with two muleteers and a servant. I said to Dancaire:

"I take charge of the Englishman. Do you frighten the others; they are not armed.'

"The Englishman was brave; if Carmen had not pushed his arm he would have killed me. In short, I regained Carmen that day, and my first word was to tell her that she was a widow. When she knew how it had all occurred, she said:

"You will always be a fool. Garcia ought to have killed you. Your Navarrese guard is all nonsense! He had overcome many good fellows more skilful than you. But his time had come. Yours, too, will come.'

"Yours also, if you are not a faithful *romi* to me," I replied.

"Well and good!" she rejoined; 'I have more than once seen in the coffee-grounds that we are to die together. Bah! As we sow we reap,' and she began to click her castanets, as she always did when wishing to drive away some troublesome thought.

"We forget ourselves when speaking of our own affairs. All these details weary you, no doubt, Monsieur, but I shall have soon finished.

"We continued to lead the same life for some time. Several comrades more trustworthy than our late associates joined our band, and we occupied ourselves in smuggling, and also, at times, it must be confessed, we stopped travellers on the highway, but only in the last extremity and when we could not do otherwise. Moreover, we did not maltreat our victims, and limited ourselves to take their money. Several months passed by, and I was content

with Carmen; she continued to be useful in our expeditions, putting us in the way of many successful ventures. She stopped at Malaga, Cordova or Granada, but at a word from me she left everything and came to meet me at an isolated inn, or even in camp. Once only—it was at Malaga—she gave me some uneasiness. I knew that she had made choice of a rich merchant, with whom she probably proposed to renew the pleasures of Gibraltar. Despite all that Dancaire could say to stop me, I set off for Malaga, entering it in broad day. I sought for Carmen, carried her off at once, and we had a sharp explanation. 'Do you know,' she said, 'that since you have been my *rom* for good and all, I love you less than when you were my *minchorro*? I will not be formented, nor above all commanded. What I wish, is to be free and to do as I please. Beware of driving me out of patience! If you weary me, I will find some good fellow who will repay your ill-turn to Garcia in the same coin.'

"Our captain reconciled us, but we had spoken words to each other that remained on our heart, and we were no longer the same as before. Soon afterwards disaster befell us. We were surprised by a troop of dragoons; Dancaire was killed, as well as two of our comrades, while two others were made prisoners. I was grievously wounded, and but for my good horse I should have fallen into the soldiers' hands.

"With my only remaining companion I escaped to the wood, but worn out with fatigue, with a ball in my body, I fainted on alighting from my horse, and thought that I was about to die in the brushwood like a hare that is shot. My comrade carried me to a grotto known to us, and then went in search of Carmen. She was at Granada, and immediately hastened to me. During a fortnight she never left me for a moment; she did not close her eyes; she nursed me with a skill and devotion such as never woman before showed for the best loved of men.

"As soon as I was able to stand, she secretly conveyed me to Granada. The gypsies find safe asylums everywhere, and I passed six weeks in a house within two doors of the corregidor who was seeking me. More than once, looking through a window-shutter, I saw him pass by.

"At last I was restored to health, but I had reflected very seriously while on my sick-bed, and I contemplated a change in my mode of life. I spoke to Carmen of leaving Spain, and trying to live honestly in the New World. She laughed at me. 'We are not made for planting cabbages,' she said; 'our destiny is to live at the expense of the *payllos*. Listen: I have made every arrangement with Nathan ben-Joseph, who has some bales of cotton cloth that only await your assistance to be smuggled through. He knows that you are living, and relies on you. What would our correspondents at Gibraltar say, if you failed in your word? I allowed myself to be persuaded, and I resumed my villainous career.

"While I was concealed at Granada, some bull-fights took place at Cordova, at which Carmen was present. On her return she very frequently spoke of a very adroit *picador* named Escamillo; she knew the name of his horse, and how much his embroidered jacket cost. I paid no attention to it, but Juanito, the only comrade remaining with me, told me a few days afterwards that he had seen Carmen with Escamillo, at the house of a merchant of the Zacatin. This began to alarm me. I questioned Carmen as to when and why she had made the acquaintance of this *picador*. 'He is a lad with whom one can do a stroke of business,' she said; 'a noisy river has either water or pebbles. He has won twelve hundred *reals* in the arena, and of two things one is to be chosen: either we must have his money, or else, as he is a good horseman and strong, courageous fellow, he can be enrolled in our band. Such and such a one are dead, you need to replace them. Take him with you.'

"I wish neither his money nor himself," I replied, hotly; and I forbid you to speak to him.'

"Take care," she rejoined: 'when I am defied to do a thing, it is soon done!'

"Fortunately the *picador* took his departure for Malaga, and I set myself to the duty of smuggling the Jew's cotton bales. I was exceedingly occupied during that expedition, Carmen also, and I forgot Escamillo: perhaps she also forgot him, at least for the moment. It was about that time, Monsieur, that I met you, first near Montilla, then afterwards at Cordova. I will not speak of our last interview; you perhaps know more about it than I do. Carmen stole your watch, she also wanted your money, and especially the ring that I see on your finger, and which she declared to be a magic ring that it was very important for her to possess.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters should be brief, and written on one side of the paper only. Those intended for insertion should be addressed to the Editor, 162 St. James Street, Montreal; those on matters of business to the Manager, at the same address.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—I would take leave to remind our artistic contributor, "T. D. King," in reference to the staff of wood engravers to be employed on the forthcoming work, intended to do justice to Canadian scenery, that it would be simply impossible to supply Canadian artists in this line, because we do not possess them. We have a few—a very few—skilful hands in wood engraving in Canada, but they are almost never employed on the finest work, and there is, indeed, generally no employment for them of this nature. But the Americans are fast becoming wood engravers, with whom it will have become almost impossible to compete, and I think the work in "Scribner," "Harper" and the "Aldine," will bear me out in this view. They have for some time been noted for their fineness of execution and delicacy in details—while their designs were always spirited—but there was a certain lack of freedom in the general treatment, what connoisseurs call stiffness, which they are now gloriously overcoming. Honour where it is due! Some day we may find ourselves in as good a position as regards this branch, but it will, by present appearances, be a considerable time first.

Art.

*A gypsy proverb.