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HER WORD OF HONOUR

(Continued from page 54)

he went on. "Cursed be those who sent me from my kith and kin; who sent me into the great world and showed me that there are better things than those of the desert through which my life-path lies. With you by my side, I could have endured it, for I love you. I love you as no man ever loved a woman. I would give my life and all I possess to gain your love, but it cannot be. The best I can give you is to send you from me. Ah, would to Allah we had never met!" He covered his face with his hands for a moment; then in a calm, cold voice said:

"You will meet a man at the foot of the hill who will guide you to your people. He can be trusted, but do not speak to him unless it is necessary. Tell your General that Ali Ibn Sud will never fight against him again, and that the Bedouin Chief and his army have gone home to their flocks and their herds. Some day"—and Ali's eyes glistened—"perhaps he and I may fight side by side against a common foe, and that day would be the proudest in my life." Then he took a beautiful brown and white cloth cloak from his arm and put it around Heather.

"This is a souvenir of Ali Ibn Sud," he said, with an attempt at lightness. "He gives it to you, though it was woven in the Bedouin tents—for his wife; and you shall take this black horse to your home," he continued, patting the animal's neck; "he is very sure-footed on the mountains."

Heather struggled to speak, and the tears came into her eyes. But he went on calmly:

"Once again I will ask you for your word of honour. Promise me never to reveal to any one, not even your husband, what you did and saw in the Mosque at Kerbela."

"I promise," Heather answered solemnly.

"You will leave the country as soon as you can, and never come back to the desert again, for remember that no infidel can enter the Kerbela Mosque and live. And if it were known—"

"I promise," sobbed Heather.
For a moment they waited in silence; then a wild desire swept over her to reward this man who had sacrificed so much for her, who had curbed and bent his wild savage nature for her sake. She looked over the purple desert with its changing lights and shades, and away beyond to the golden glory of the setting sun. She thought of the delightful unconventional life she had lived in the tents of the Bedouins, and the call of the desert was strong upon her. She looked at the tall, lithe, strong man with his straight, handsome features, his clear, brown skin, and his dark, intelligent eyes. Then slowly those dark eyes of the East were raised until they met the deep, blue eyes of the West and held each other in a long, intent gaze.

BUT Ali put his hand on the horse's mane and in a low, soft voice said in Arabic, "The desert is calling, but you must not listen. Go! And the blessing of Allah go with you!"

Heather bent down and kissed him gently on the forehead, a long, tender kiss. Then she straightened in her saddle, and without a word or a look, she rode away down the hill.

And Ali Ibn Sud, the great Bedouin Chief, before whom thousands trembled and whose word was law, sat watching the girlish figure on the beautiful thoroughbred horse. He saw his trusty guide join her at the bottom of the hill, and he watched them ride away together across the sandy waste, riding and riding, and ever growing smaller and less distinct against the orange sky, till they vanished altogether over the dark horizon.

"Great Lord, and Mighty Chief!" A man bowed before him. "News has come that the infidel dogs are already within a day's march of our ancient city of Bagdad, and the army waits but your orders to destroy them utterly."

"We go back at once to our flocks, and our herds—and our women," came the stern reply.

"Not fight the infidel dogs?" queried the man in surprise.

"No!" thundered Ali Ibn Sud.

MY VEGETABLE GARDEN THIS YEAR

(Continued from preceding page)

Spinach.—Since I prefer the Swiss Chard to spinach, I now grow very little of the latter, though I think it is slightly earlier, and I find that it may be sown in the fall like winter wheat, carried through the winter, and be available in the spring ahead of any other vegetable. The value of greens as a domestic economy, as a blood tonic, and as a diuretic, is very important. There would be less need for doctors and their medicine if we were to eat more greens like spinach.

Squash.—Well known, not only as a vegetable, but also as a basis for pie, for which it is claimed to be quite as good as pumpkin. The squash bug is its great enemy, so plant enough extra squash to allow a few to be spared for the bugs.

Tomato.—One could hardly get too many tomatoes. I prefer to buy the plants of the varieties I want and set them out about the 7th of June, after all danger from frost is over. They may be set in spaces from which early peas, lettuce, and radish have been gathered.

Turnips.—Easily looked after, both the garden varieties and the Swede or Field turnips. Of the various herbs, I always plant a little caraway and summer savory, these being annuals, and I make sure that I have the following perennials in good healthy producing condition—horseradish, sage and winter savory.

Surely I do not need to urge any one to plant her garden this spring. It is always a great privilege, and this year it is a patriotic duty.

So good luck to our 1917 gardens! May the weight of our united efforts be felt all over Canada this year in better health, saner meals, and the accomplishment of Real Thrift!

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