

In quick succession the four chambers of my revolver failed me, and I had barely time to drop the pistol and seize my bowie, before the bandits were upon me.

One blow of my keen blade brought one down. Seeking my Derringer with my left hand, I at the same time let the second villain have its contents, but with a rush and with howls, the balance of the gang were upon me, and I felt my death hour had come, when suddenly there came a cry, a sound of rushing feet, and half a dozen men, led by no other personage than Delita, mounted upon my horse, sprang to my rescue.

Hemmed in, and shot down, the bandits had but little chance, and the four who were not hurt at once surrendered.

Delita had roused the *hacienda*, and the owner and his servants had hastened, and hearing the report of my pistol, knew that I was at work, and like the wind the Mexican maiden led them on, and reached the ruin not a moment too soon, for the next instant I would have been slain.

The Mexican and his servants gazed in wonder at the result of my work, the former remarking:—

“It was your revolvers and bowie-knives that used to demoralize us during our late war with your country; but you have rendered this country a great service, for the whole band are here, and to-morrow these four fellows will be executed.” And executed they were.

I returned with Delita to the *hacienda*, and two days afterwards accompanied the brave girl to the home of her parents; the owner of the *hacienda*, Don Carlos, making her a present of a handsome horse, saddle and bridle for her services in aiding to free the country from the bandit scourge that for years had been so dreaded.

The joy of Delita's parents, at the return of their daughter, whom they believed forever lost to them, I cannot picture any more than I can the happiness of the young girl at her escape from the power of the bandits.

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## PARLIAMENTARY LAW, AS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MASONIC BODIES.

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BY ALBERT G. MACKAY, M. D.

### CHAPTER XXX.

#### OF THE APPOINTMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES.

For the purpose of expediting business, by dividing the numerous labors of a deliberative body among various classes of its members, or to obtain the investigation of a particular subject more conveniently by the inquiries of a few than could be secured by the whole body, it has always been usual to appoint a certain number of members to inquire into and to report to the main body on any particular proposition, and the members thus appointed are called a Committee, because the subject has been committed or intrusted to them for inquiry.

Committees are divided into two kinds, in reference to the subjects committed to them, and to the duration of their functions, and these two kinds are *standing* and *select*.

Standing Committees are those to whom all propositions relating to a particular subject, as they arise from time to time, are submitted. Thus to a Standing Committee of Finance would be referred all matters relating to the funds of the Lodge, as their investiture or expenditure,