## CHAPTER XXV.

### SAINT THERESA OF THE HONEYSUCKLES.

MYSTIC that she was, Roxy was ever looking for some celestial communication. To such a nature, heaven is all about. There are no accidents ; the angels minister in whatever befalls. So when Mark came, he found her with the old gladness shining from her face, singing with irrepressible spontaneity and the delicious melody of a Virginia wood-robin. Nothing could be more inspiriting than the martial enthusiasm and fire of fine sincerity with which she rendered Charles Wesley's hymn, beginning :

> "Jesus, the name high over all
> In hell, or earth, or sky,
> Angels and men before him fall
> And devils fear and fly."

Mark came into hearing as she concluded the singing of this first verse, and he paused involuntarily to hear the rest. Roxy omitted the next stanza, and struck into the third, which exactly fitted her mood :

> "Oh, that the world might taste and see
> The riches of his grace,
> The arms of love that compass me
> Would all mankind embrace."

The rich voice gave a new meaning to the words, and Bonamy could see in her face, framed in the honeysuckle that grew over the window, the reflex of all she sang, as she plied her needle and rocked slowly to and fro. Again she skipped—she was thinking of the dangers of life in Texas, perhaps, but she dropped now to the last verse of the hymn, and Charles Wesley himself would have found new meaning in his own words, could he have heard her sing, in a tone now soft and low, but full of pathetic exultation still :

> "Happy, if with my latest breath,
> I may but gasp his name,
> Preach him to all, and cry in death,
> Behold, behold the Lamb !"

While she sang these words, Bonamy came softly into the yard and walked up to the window, pulling aside the honeysuckles. Roxy was not startled. Mark had been so present in her imaginings that it seemed to the rapt girl the most natural thing in the world to see him standing there looking at her, with his face suffused with emotion.

"A body could suffer and die, with you to strengthen," he said.