THE CA1HOLIC RECORD.

BEN HUR: OR. THE DAYS OF THE MESSIAH

and touched its front face with her lips. "O thou noblest of thy kind!---that, because there is no suspicion in thy love." An instant, and she was gone.

CHAPTER V.

THE HERALD AND HIS KING.

BOOK SEVENTH.

CHAPTER IV. (Continued.) Your speech does not sound in the t like your father's. Are you Lot of his

faith ?" "I might have been"—and she laughed low—"I might have been had I seen what he has. I may be when I get old like him. My father's God is too awful for me. I failed to find him in the Grove of Daphne. He was never heard of as present in the atrl of Rome. But, son of Hur, I hears a "b"

"A wish ! Where is he who could say it

"I will try you."

2

"Tell it then." "It is very simple. I wish to help

She drew closer as she spoke. He laughed, and replied lightly, "O Egypt !—I came near saying dear Egypt ! does not the sphinx abide in your coun-

Vall ?"

"Well ?"
"Well ?"
"You are one of its riddles. Be merci-ful, and give me a little clue to help me understand you. In what do I need help! And how can you help me ?"
"She tock her hand from him, and, turn-ing to the camel, spoke to it endearingly, and patted its monstrous head as if it were a thing of beauty."
"O thou last and swiftest and statellest of the herds of Job! Sometimes thou, too, goes stumbling, because the way is rough and atted its monstrous head as if it were is it thou knowest the kind intent by a word, and always makest answer grate-fully, though the help offered is from a woman ? I will kis thee, thou royal brate !"-she stooped, and touched its broad forehead with harling, asying imme-distely, "because in thy intelligence there is no suspicion!" And Ben-Hur, restraining himself, said calmly, "The reproach has not failed its may it not be because I am under seal of honor, and by my silence cover the lives and fortunes of others ?" "May be !" she said quickly. "It is so."

"Most of them are going; a few are coming away." "What does he preach ?" "A new doctrine—one never before taught in Israel, as all say. He calls it repentance and baptism. The rabbis do not know what to make of him; nor do we. Some have asked him if he is the Christ, others if he is Eliss; but to them all he has the answer, 'I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord !"" At this point the man was called away by his friends; as he was going Balthasar spoke. "Good stranger !" he said tremulously, "tell us if we shall find the preacher at

He shrank a step, and asked, his voice sharp with amszement, "What knowest thou?"

thou?" She answered, after a laugh. "Why do men deny that the senses of women are sharper than theirs ! Your face has been under my eyes all day. I had but to look at it to see you bore some weight in mind ; and to find the weight, what had I to do more than recall your debates with my father ? Son of Hur !"--she lowered her voice with singular dexter-ity-"son of Hur ! He whom thou art going to find is to be King of the Jews, is He not ?" Ha heart beat fast and hard.

He not?" His heart beat fast and hard. "A King of the Jews like Herod, only greater," she continued. He looked away—into the night, up to the stars; then his eyes met hers and lin-gered there; he wordered how much she knew of his schemes. "Since morning," she said further, "we have been having visions. Now if I tell you mine, will you serve me as well? What I silent still?" She turned away, as if to go; but he

ing of body, and separated them from the second them is the associately as if they had not been born like them—and notwithstanding he had been notified on the way to look for a preacher whose simple description of himself was a Voice from the Wilderness—still Ben Hur's dream of the King who was to be so great and do so much had colored all his thought of Him, so that he never doubted to find in the forerunner some sign or token of the godliness and royalty he was announcing. Gazing at the savage figure before him, forcing a comparison. Shocked, hamed, bewildered, he could only answer: "It is the Baptist."
With Balthaser it was very different. The ways of God, he knew, were not as seen would have them. He had seen the solvour a child in the Divine response. So he keep his teach, his hand crossed upon his breast, his lips moving in connection with the Divine response. So he keep his the set, his hand seen this time of such interest to the service, in a course to take him across the prime of one stones to the keep his case, and was prepared by his faith, for the rude and simple in connection with the Divine response. So he keep his the set, his hand seen the set of a sche in the there the mark of the service, in a course to take him across the had been hearing. Now, however, he arose, and walked slowly up from the should be an alked slowly up from the should be an alked slowly up from the stranger—kept on until they came, the former within twenty yards of the anit in ege, looked at the stranger, three this eyes, looked at the stranger, three this eyes, looked at the stranger. When the had up as a signal to all the people in sight; and they also stopped each in the pose of a listener; and when the hum we perfect, alowly the steff in the Baptist's and they also stopped each in the pose of a listener; and when the hum we perfect, alowly the steff in the baptist's and they also stopped each in the pose of a listener; and when the hum we perfect, alowly the steff in the baptist's and they also stopped each in entirely released from the divine relations to which it had been formerly admitted, or as the fitting reward of a life in that

THE HERALD AND HIS KING. The third day of the journey the parly halted by the river Jabbok, where there were a hundred or more men, mostly of Ferm, resting themeelves and their beasts. Hardly had they dismounted, before a man came to them with a pitcher of water and a bowl, and offered them drink; as they received the attention with much courtesy, he said, looking at the camel, "I am returning from the Jordan, where just now there are many people from dis-tant parts, travelling as you are, illustri-ous friend; but they had none of them the equal of your servant here. A very noble animal. May I ack of what breed he is sprung?" Balthear answered, and sought his rest; but Ben-Hur, more curious, took up the remark.

but Ben-Hur, more curious, tock up the remark. "At what place on the river are the people?" he asked. "At Bethabara." "It used to be a lonesome ford," said Ben Hur. "I cannot understand how it can have become of such interest." "I see," the stranger replied; "you, too, are from abroad, and have not heard the good tidings."

are from soroad, and have not heard the good tidings." "What tidings?" "Well, a man has appeared out of the wilderness...s very holy man...with his month full of strange words, which take hold of all who hear them. He calls him-self John the son of Zscherias, and says he is the messenger sent before the Messiah." Even Iras listened closely while the man continued:

Even iras listened closely while the man continued: "They say of this John that he has spent his life from chilthood in a cave down by Engedi, praying and living more strictly than the Essens. Crowds go to hear him preach. I went to hear him with the rest." All those who before were but listeners "Have all these, your friends, been

there?" "Most of them are going; a few are

All those who before were but listeners became watchers also. At the same instant, under the same impulse, Balthasar and Ben-Hur fixed their gaze upon the man pointed out, and both took the same impression, only in different degree. He was moving slowly towards them in a clear space a little to their front, a form slightly above the average in stature, and slender, even deli-cate. His action was calm and deliberate, like that habitual to men much given to serious thought upon grave antijects; and like that habitual to men much given to eerious thought upon grave subjects; and it well became his costume, which was an under-garment full sleeved and reaching to the ankles, and an outer robe called the talith; on his left arm he carried the usual handkerchief for the head, the red fillet swinging loces down his side. Except the fillet and a narrow border of blue at the lower edge of the talith, his attire was of linen yellowed with dust and road-stains. Possibly the exception should he er.

"Good stranger!" he said tremulously, "tell us if we shall find the preacher at the place you left him ?" "Yes, at Bethabara." "Who should this preacher be?" said Ben-Hur to Iras, "if not the herald of our Possibly the exception should be ex-tended to the tassels, which were blue and white, as prescribed by law for rab-bis. His sandals were of the simplest kind. He was without scrip or girdle or regard the daughter as more interested in the mysterious personage he was looking for than the aged father! Nevertheless

kind. He was without scrip or gruie or staff. These points of appearance, however, the three beholders observed briefly, and rather as accessories to the head and face of the man, which—especially the latter —were the real sources of the spell they caught in common with all who stood looking at him. The head was open to the cloudless light events as it was draped with hair

His heart beat fast and hard. "A King of the Jews like Herod, only the mysterious personage he was looking "The booked away-into the night, up to the stare; the bis eyes met here and lime the stare; the his yes met here and lime the stare; the his being trilled. They was the hast a mate intere as accessories to the head and face inter as accessories to the head and face the stare; the bis yes met here and lime the stare; the bis yes met here and lime being trilled. They was title conversation between the three at the stopping place for the night west of Ramoth Gilesd. "Shoe morning," ahe said eagetly, "Siay-atsy and speak !" The king cannot be far being the said for than the sige carly and we not there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the three of the man. "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the there." "The king cannot be far being the said for dual the said said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said the said the said said being the said the said said the said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said the said said the said the said the said said th

Now it should not be inferred from it this explanation that Ben-Hur had pub-licity assumed ownership of the property. In his opinion, the hour for that was not yet come. Neither had he yet taken his proper name. Passing the time in the labours of preparation in Galilee, he waited patiently the action of the Nszar-ene, who became daily more and more a mystery to him, and by prodigies done, often before his eyes, kept him in a state of anxious doubt both as to his character and mission. Occasionally he came up to the Holy City, stopping at the paternal house; always, however, as a stranger and a guest. These visits of Ben Hur, it should also be observed, were for more than mere

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on. Simonides held the package a moment while he also inspected the seal. Break-ing it open, he gave her the roll it con-tained.

"Read," he said. "Read," he said. His eyes were upon her as he spoke, and instantly a troubled expression fell upon his own face. "You know who it is from, I see, Esther." "Yes-from-our master."

"Yes-from-our master." Though the manner was halting, she met his gaze with modest sincerity. Slowly his chin sank into the roll of flesh puffed out under it like a cushion. "You love him, Esther," he said quietly. "Yes," he answered.

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Is the family, but the refurnishment was in a style richer than before. At every point, indeed, a visitor was met by evidence of the higher tastes acquired by the young proprietor during his years of residence in the villa by Misenum and in the Roman capital.
To Now it should not be inferred from this explanation that Ben-Hur had publicly assumed ownership of the property. In his opinion, the hour for that was not yet come. Neither had be yet taken his is opinion, the hour for that was not so are the solution of the Nexar ene, who became daily more and more a mystery to him, and by prodigies done, of anxious doubt both as to his character at mission. Occasionally he came untaken to for share when I go out to them. No, by the patriarcha, Esther, I would rather aguest.
These wites of Ben Hur, it should also be observed, were for more than mere that burned Esther's whole face.

lay us both with your mother to sleep as she sleeps!?" A blush burned Esther's whole face. "I did not mean you to tell him so, father. I was concerned for him alone--for his happiness, not mine. Because I have dared love him, I shall keep myself worthy his respect; so only can I excuse my folly. Let me read his letter now." "Yes, read it." She began at once, in haste to conclude the distasteful subject. "Nisan, 8th day. "On the road from Galilee to Jerusa-lem."

"On the road from Galilee to Jerusa-lem. "The Mazarene is on the way also. With Him, though without His knowl-edge, I am bringing a full legion of mine. A second legion follows. The Passover will excuse the multitude. He said upon setting out, 'We will go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning me shall be accom-plished."

"Our waiting draws to an end. "In haste. "Peace to thee, Simonides.

BEN.HUR."

"Fraze to thee, Si monides. BEN-HUR." Esther returned the letter to her father, while a choking sensation gathered in her throat. There was not a word in the mis-sive for her--not even in the salutation had she a share--and it would have been so easy to have written, "and to thine peace." For the first time in her life she felt the smart of a jealous sting. "The eighth day," said Simonides, "the eighth day ; and this, Esther, this is the--" "The ninth," she replied. "Ab, then, they may be in Bethany now."

now." "And possibly we may see him to-night," she added, pleased into momen-

inght, "she added, pleased into momen-tary forgetfulness. "It may be, it may be ! To-morrow is the Feast of Unleaven Bread, and he may wish to celebrate it; so may the Nezarene; and we may see him—we may see both of

and we may see him—we may see both of them, Eather." At this point the servant appeared with the wine and water. Esther helped her father, and in the midst of the service, Iras came upon the roof. To the Jewess the Egyptian never appeared so very, very beautiful as at that ma ment. Her gauzy garments flattered about her like a little cloud of mist; her forehead, neck, and arms glittered with the massive jewelry so affected by her people. Her countenance was suffaced the massive jewelry so affected by her people. Her countenance was suffued with bleasure. She moved with buoyant steps, and self conscious, though without affectation. Esther at the sight shrank within herself, and n.stled closer to her father.

"Peace to you, Simonides, and to the "Peace to you, Simonides, and to the pretty Esther peace," said iras, inclining her head to the latter. "You remind me, good master—if I may say it without offence—you remind me of the priests of Persia who climb their temples at the decline of day to send prayers after the departing sun. Is there anything in the worship you do not know, let me call my father. He is Magian-bred." "Fair Egyp.ian," the merchant replied, nodding with grave politeness, "your father is a good man who would not be

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iropped several notes lower_"the Nazar-me will be here to morrow, and Ben-Hur

The will be need to informer, and the first to night." Eather struggled to maintain her com-posure, but failed ; her eyes fell, the tell-tale blood surged to her check and fore-head, and she was saved sight of the triumphant smile that passed, like a gleam, over the face of the Egyptian." "See here is his promise." And from her girdle she took a roll, saving :

eaying : "Rejoice with me, O my friend ! He will be here to night ! On the Tiber there is a house, a royal property, which he has pledged to me; and to be its mistress is to be-"

pledged to me; and to be its mistress is to be-" A sound of some one walking swiftly a'ong the street below interrupted the speech, and abs leaned over the parapet to see. Then abe drew back, and cried, with bands clasped above her head, "Now blessed be Fris? "Tis he-Ben-Hun himself i That he should appear while I had such thought of him ! There are no gode if it be not a good omen. Put your arms about me, Eather-and a kiss!" The Jewess looked up. Upon each check there was a glow; her eyes sparkled with a light more nearly of anger than ever her nature emitted before. Her geniteness had been too roughly overridden. It was not enough for her to be forbidden more than fugitive dreams of the man abe loved; a boastful rival must tell her in confidence of her better success, and of the brilliant promises which were its rewards. Of her, the servant of a servant, there had been no hint of remembrance; this other could show his letter, leaving her to imag-ine all it breathed. So she said : "Dost thou love him so much, then, or Rome so much better ?" The Equyptian drew back a step; then she bean ther haughty head quite near her questioner.

"What is he to thee, daughter of Sim

onides ?" Esther, all thrilling, began, "He is my"-

A thought blasting as lightning stayed the words : she paled, trembled, recovered, and answered : "He is my father's friend."

"He is my father's friend." Her tongue had refused to admit her servile condition. Iras laughed more lightly than before. "Not more than that i" she said. "Ah, by the lover gods of Egypt, thou mayst keep thy kisses-keep them. Thou hast taught me but now that there are others vasily more estimable waiting me here in Judea; and"-she turned away, looking back over her shoulder.-"I will go get them. Feace to thee."

them. Peace to thee." Esther saw her disappear down the Eather saw her disappear down the steps, when, putting her hands over her face, she burst into teare; they ran scald-ing through her fingers—tears of shame and choking passion. And to deepen the paroxyam so strange to her even temper, up with a new meaning of withering force rose her father's wordz—"Thy love might not have been vainly given had I kept fast hold of all I had, as I might have done."

And all the stars were out, burning low And all the stars were out, burning low above the city and the dark wall of moun-tains about it, before she recovered enough to go back to the summer-house, and in silence take her accustomed place at her father's side, humbly waiting his pleasure. To such duty it seemed her youth, if not the side, now that the pang was spent, she went not unwillingly back to the duty. TO BE CONTINUED.

TO BE CONTINUED.

The Church In Mexico.

From the Boston Pilot. From time to time, since President usrez began his war on the Church in Juarez began his war on the Church in Mexico, sundry non Catholic religious organizations make fervent appeals for their Mexican missions, and give vague, but enthusiastic accounts of the conver-sions they are effecting among the be-nighted Catholics of that land. They give no figures, however, but figures of exceeds. and have always some apecious

Constanting of arms and run of an of a state, so at Constant and Pompey were come sgain, and Octavius and Antony. A cloud of dust and ashes arose and covered the world, and Rome was not any more; all domin-ion returned to the East; out of the cloud of and Rome was not any more; all domin-ion returned to the East; out of the cloud issued another race of herces; and there were vaster satrapies and brighter crown. And, son of Hur, while the vision was passing, and after it was gone, I keyt who served the King earliest and best?" Again Ben-Hur recoiled. The quee-tion was the very question which had been with him all day. Presently he fancied be had the clus he wanted. "So," he said, "I have you now. The satrapies and crowns are the things to which you would help me. I see, I see, And there never was such queen as you mover! But, alssi dear Egypt! by the vision as you show it me the prizes are all Iris did kiss you on the heart. And crowns are starry gifts beyond your power of help. unlear, indeed, you have a way to help. unlear, indeed, you have a way the satapies of the savage. Over a thin, gaunt to could be a way and your power of help. unlear, indeed, you have a way to help. unlear, indeed, you have a way to help. unlear, indeed, you have a way to help. unlear, indeed you have a way to the savage. Other savage. Over a thin, gaunt

of war, and you are but a woman, though Irid did kiss you on the heart. And crowns are starry gifts beyond your power of help, unless, indeed, you have a way to them more certain than that of the sword. If so, O Egypt, Egypt! show it me, and I will walk in it, if only for your sake," "You will find the King," she said, placing her hand careesingly upon his head. "You will go on and in dthe King head. "You will go on and in dthe King soldier will be my hero." He turned his face, and saw hers close above. In all the sky there was that moment nothing so bright to him as her sently he sat up and kissed her, saying, "O Egypt, Egypt! If the King has crowns in gift, one shall be mine; and I will bring it and put it here over the place my lips have marked. You shall be a queen-my queen-no one more beautiful And we will be ever, ever so happy!" "And you will tell me everything, and let me help you in all?" he said. The question chilled his ferrour.

let me help you in all?" she said. The question chilled his fervour. "Is it not enough that I love you?" he

"Perfect love means perfect faith," she replied. "But never mind—you will know me better." She took her hand from him and arose.

mercirui-mercirui, 1 pray." The entreaty passed apparently un-heard. Looking up, she said slowly, "the stretching off to the hill country of Judea. Ben-Hur's blood ran quickly, for he knew the ford was close at hand. "Content you, good Balhasar," he said; "we are almost there." "Content you, good Baithasar," he said; "we are almost there." The driver quickened the camel's pace. Soon they caught sight of booths and tents and tethered animals; and then of the river, end a multitude collected down close by the bank, and yet another multi-tude on the western shore. Knowing that the preacher was preaching they made greater haste; yet, as they were drawing near, suddenly there was a com-motion in the mass, and it began to break up and disperse. They were too late ! "Let us stay here," said Ben.Hur to Baithasar, who was wringing his hands. "The prophet may come this way." The people were too intent upon what they had heard, and too busy in discussion, to notice the new comers. When some hundreds were gone by, and it seemed that

King ?" In so short a time he had come to

Ot such angular appearance they logot all else. Outwardly the man was rude and uncouth even savage. Over a thin, gaunt visage of the bue of brown parchment, over his shoulders and down his back below the middle, in witch like locks, fell

on his horse near by. "Is that the herald of thy King ?" "It is the Baptist," he replied without

"It is the Baptist," he replied without booking up. In truth, he was himself more than looking up. In truth, he was himself more than looking up. In truth, he was himself more than disappointed. Despite his familiarity with the accetic colonists in Engedi—their dress, their indifference to all worldly opinion, their constancy to vows which gave them over to every imaginable suffer-

An intense instant interest shone upon the good man's face, as if a last wish had been gratified, and he answered : "He_the Redeemer_the Son of God, and when it was taken into account with the gentleness of the eyes, the pal-lor of the complexion, the fine texture of the hair, and the softness of the beard, which fell in waves over his throat to whom I have seen again." "Believest thou so ?" Iras asked in a low his breast, never a soldier but would have laughed at him in encounter, never a women who would not have confided voice of Ben. Hur. "The time is full of wonders; let us in him at sight, never a child that would not, with quick instinct, have given him its hand and whole artless trust; nor might any one have said he was not beautiful. The features, it should be further said, The features, it should be further said, were ruled by a certain expression which, as the viewer chose, might with equal correctness have been called the effect of intelligence, love, pity or sorrow; though, in better speech, it was a blend-ing of them all—a look easy to fancy as the mark of a sinless soul doomed to the sight and understanding of the utter the sight and understanding of the utter sinfulness of those among whom it was passing; yet withal no one could have observed the face with a thought of weakness in the man; so, at least, would not they who know that the qualities mentioned—love, sorrow, pity, —are the results of a consciousness of

-are the results of a consciousness of strength to bear suffering of chear than strength to do: such has been the might of martyrs and devotees and the myriads written down in saintly calendars. And such, indeed, was the air of this One. Slowly He drew near-nearer the these

Slowly He drew near-nearer the three. Now Ben-Hur, mounled and spear in hand, was an object to claim the glance of a king; yet the eyes of the man approaching were all the time raised above him-and not to Iras, whose lovli-ness has been so often remarked, but to Balthasar, the old and unserviceable. The hush was profound. Presently the Baptist, still pointing with his staff, oried in a loud voice: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" of a king; yet the eyes of the man approaching were all the time raised above him—and not to Iras, whose lovii-ness has been so otten remarked, but to Balthasar, the old and unserviceable. The hush was profound. Presently the Baptiat, still pointing with his staff, cried in a loud voice: "Babold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" The many standing still, arres'ed by the action of the speaker, and listening for what might follow, were struck with awe by words so strange and past their understanding; upon Balthasar they

"The time is thin of wonders; let us wait," was all he said. And next day, while the three were listening to him, the Baptist broke off in mid speech, saying reverently, "Behold the Lamb of God !" Looking to where he pointed, they be-hold the stranger again As Ban Huheld the stranger again. As Ben Hun surveyed the elender figure, and holy beautiful countenance compassionate to sadness, a new idea broke upon him. "Balthasar is right—so is Simonides May not the R deemer be a King also ?" And he asked one at his side, "Who i the man walking yonder ?" The other laughed mockingly, and

replied : "He is the son of a carpenter over is Nazareth."

BOOK EIGHTH.

"Grave, where is thy victory? And where, O death, thy boasted sting?" MATTHIESON.

CHAPTER 1.

ANTICIPATION. "Esther—E ther! Speak to the ser-vant below that he may bring me a cup of water." "Would you not rather have wine,

awe by words so strange and past their understanding; upon Balthasar they were overpowering. He was there they see once more the Redeemer of men. The faith which had brought him the singular privileges of the time long gone abode yet in his heart and if now it gave him a power of vision above that of his fellows—a power to see and know Him for whom he was looking—better than calling the power a mirsale, let it be thought of as the faculty of a soul not yet

"Yes," she answered. "Have you thought well of what you to ?" "I have tried not to think of him, father, "I have tried not to think of him, father, housing wish grave pointering of the shew I to dy ou his Persian lore is the least part of his wishom." do ?" "I have tried not to think of him, father, except as the master to whom I am duti-fully bound. The effort has not helped me to strength." "A good girl, a good girl, even as thy "A good girl, he said, dropping into re-verie, from which she roused him by un-

"The Lord forgive me, but-but thy "The Lord forgive me, but-but thy love might not have been vainly given had I kept fast hold of all I had, as I might have done-such power is there in sternly. "Pure wisdom always directs itself towards God; the purest wisdom is knowl-edge of God; and no man of my acquaint-ance has in it higher degree, or makes it more manifest in speech or act, than the good Balteans?

money !" "It would have been worse for me had you done so, father; for then I had been unworthy a look from him, and without pride in you. Shall I not read now ?" "In a moment," he said. "Let me, for your sake, my child, show you the worst. Seeing it with me may make it less ter-rible to you. His love, Eather, is all bestowed." good Balthasar." To end the parlay, he raised the cup and drank.

The Egyptian turned to Esther a little testily. "A man who has millions in store, and

"A man who has millions in store, and fleets of ships at sea, cannot discern in what simple women like us find amusement. Lot us leave him. By the wall yonder we can talk." estowed. "I know it." she said calmly,

"The Egyptian has him in her net," he ontinued. "She has the cunning of her "The Egyptian has the cunning of her continued. "She has the cunning of her race, with beauty to help her-much beauty, great cunning; but, like her race again, no heart. The daughter who de-spises her father will bring her husband to grief." "Does she that ?" Simonides went on: They went to the parapet then, stopping at the place where, years before, Ben-Hur loosed the broken tile upon the head of

Gratus. "You have not been to Rome ?" Iras "No," said Esther demurely. "No," said Esther demurely.

"Ah, how little there has been in your life !" The sigh that succeeded the exclamation

The sigh that succeeded the exclamation could not have been more piteously expressive had the loss been the Egypt-tian's own. Next moment her laugh might have been heard in the street below; and she said, "Oh, oh, my pretty simple-ton! The half fledged birds nestled in the ear of the great bust out on the Memphian sands know nearly as much as you." Then, seeing Esther's confusion, she changed her manner, and said in a confid-ing tone, "You must not take offence. Oh, no ! I was playing. Let me kiss the hurt, and tell you what I would not to any other—not if Simbel himself asked it of me, offering a lotus oup of the spray of the Nile !" Another laugh, masking excellently the

"Does she that ?" "Does she that ?" Simonides went on: "Bathasar is a wise man who has been wonderfully favoured for a Gentile, and his faith becomes him; yet she makes a jest of it. I heard her say, speaking of him yesterday, "The folies of youth are excussible; nothing is admirable in the aged except wisdom, and when that goes from them, they should die." A cruel speech, fit for a Roman. I applied it to myself, knowing a feebleness like her father's will come to me also-may, it is not far cff. But you, Esther, will never easy of me-no, never-'It were better he were dead." No, your mother was a daughter of Judah." With half-formed tears, she kissed him, and said, "I am my mother's child."

and said, "I am my mother's child." "Yes, and my daughter—my daughter, who is to me all the Temple was to Solothe Nile !" Another laugh, masking excellently the look she turned sharply upon the Jewees, and she said, "The King is coming." Esther gazed at her in innocent sur-

prise. "The Nazarene," Iras continued..."He whom out fathers have been talking about so much, whom Ben Hur has been serving and toiling for so long"...her voice

lore is the least part of his Wisdom." Iras's lip curled slightly. "To speak like a philosopher as you invite me," sheeaid, "the least part always implies a greater. Let me ask what you esteem the greater part of the rare q ual-ity you are pleased to attribute to him." Simonides turned upon her some what sternly.

speech: and have always explanation of the fact that they are so slow too root in Mexican soil.

"They have but scratched the surface of "They have but scratched the surface of the ground," writes "F. R. G.," Mexican correspondent of the Boston Herald, and himself a Protestant. And he further says: "This nation of ten million souls, says: "This nation of ten million souls, largely Indian, are no more to be won to the cold ideals of Protestant denomina-tionalism, than they are to become Theo-sophists." The people are nothing if not Catholic. Without the taith, the Indians will return to their Aztec idols and human sacrifices; the educated men will become iniidels pure and simple." The tendency in both cases is already strong enough to frighten the State which inds now that the blow struck at the Church is rebounding upon itself. Juase BBYB:

finds now that the blow struck at the Church is rebounding upon itself. June: thought he had crushed the Church when he deprived it of its temporalities but as "F. R. G." candidly ack nowledges he only crushed its external shell; he could not harm its inner self. "The Church temporal received a deadly blow the Church spiritual remained intact and pairmated by the seal of all parameters animated by the zeal of all persecuted bodies of men.

bodies of men." Patriotic Mexicans are questioning "Has it been good policy to alienate th mightiest force in Mexican society from the cause of the civil government?" Th State and not the Church suffers. Th State wants the Church back as the con servator of public order, and is willing t meet it more than half-way in a polic of reconciliation.

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