at the sunset, and listrning. Ramona had scid, "I will call you when 1 am rendy." But she did not do ne she said. She told DInrgarita to call.

- Run. Margarita," she said. "All is ready now : seo if Aleseandro is in sight. Call him to come and take the things.

So it was Margarita's voice, and not Ramonas's that called, "Alessandro Alossandro! the supper is ready."
But it was Ramona who, whon Alessandro reached the doorway, stood there holding in ber arma a huge moking plattor of the stew which had so roused poor Juan Can's longings and it was Ramona who said, as sho gave it into Alessandro's hands, "Take care, flessandro, it is very full. Tho gravy will run over if you aro not careful. You are not used to waiting on table;" and fas she said it, she miled full into Alescandro's eyes-a iittlo fitting, gentle, friendly smile, which went near to making him drop the platter, mutton gravy, and all, then and there, at her feet.
The men ate fast and greedily, and it was not, after all, much riore than an bour, when, full fed and happy, they ware mounting their horges to sut off. At the last moment Alessandro drew one of them aside. "Jose," he said. "whose horse is the faster, yours or Antonia's !
"Mitar," promptly replied Jose. "Mine by a great deal. I will run Antonio any day he likes."
Alessandro knew this as well before asking as after. But Alessandro was learning a great many things in these days-among other things a little diplomacy. Ee wanted a man to ride at the swiftest to Temecula and back. He know that Jose's pony could go like the wind. He knew also that there was a perpetual feud of rivalry between him and Antonio in matter of the fleetness of their respective ponies. So, having choson Jose for his messonger, be went thus to work to make surn that be wuld urge his horse to its utmost speed.
Whispering in jose's ear a fow words, he said, "Will you go i will pay you for the time, sll you could carn at the shearing.
"I will go," said Jose, elated. "You will see me back to morrow by sua. down."
"Not earlier q" asked Alessandro. $^{\text {a }}$ "I thought by noon.
"Well, by noon be it, then," said Jose. "Tho horse can do it,."
"Have great care!" said Alessandro.
"That will I," replied Jose ; and gicing his horse's sides a sharp punch with his knees, sot off at full gallop estward.
"I have sent Jose with a neersage to Temecula," said Alessandro, walking up to Fernando. "He will be back bere to-morrow noon, and join you at the Ortega's the next moraing.
" Back hers by noon to-morrow!" exclaimed Fernando. "Not unless he kills his horse !"
"Trat was what he said," replied Ales8andro nonchaleatly.
"Easy enough; too !" cried Antonio. riding up on his little dun mare. "I'd go in less time than that on this mare. Joso's is no match for her, and nover was. Why did you not send me, Alessandro ${ }^{\prime \prime}$
"Is your horse really faster than Jose's 9 " said Alessandro, "Then I wish I had sent you. I'll send you next time.'

CEAPTER VH.
It was atrango to see how quickiy and naturally Alessandro fitted into his place in the household. How tangles straightoned out, and rough places became smooth, as be quietly ools matters in band. Luckily, old Juan Can bad almaye liked him, and celt a great renso of relief at the neme of his staying on. Not a wholly unblfith relief, perhaps; for sinco bis accident Juan had not buen without feara that he might lose his place alto-
gether : there was a Mexican, he know, who had long boen soheming to got tho aituation, and bad once openly boasted at a fandango, whero he was dancing with Anita, that as soon as that superannuated old fool, Juan Canito, was out of the way, he meant to be the Sonora Moreno's head shepherd himsolf, To havo seen this man in authority on the place would have driven Juan out of his mind.
But thn gentlo Alessandro, only an Indian-and of courso the Senora would never think of putting an Indian permanuntly in so responaible a position on the estate-it was exactly as Juan would have withed; and ho fraternized with dlossandro heartily from the outset; kept him in his roon by the hour, giving him bundreds of long. winded directions and explanations nbout thinge which, if only he had known it, Alessandro underatood far better than be did.
Alessandro's father had managed the Mission fiocks nad herds at San Luis Rey for twenty years; fow were as skilful as he ; be himself owned nearly as many sheep as the Sinora Miforen0 ; hut this Juan did not know. Neither did he realize that Alessandro, as Chief Pablo's son, had a position of his own not without dignity and authority. To Juan, an Indian was an Indian, and that was the end of it. The gentle courteousness of Alessandro's manner, and his behavior were set down in Juan's mind to the score of the hoy's native amiauility and 3 meetness. If Juan had been told that the Senor Felipe himeelf had not been more carefully trained in all precepts of kindliness, honourable dealing. and polite usage, by the Sonora, his mother, than had Aleasandro by his father, he would have opened his eyes wide. The standards of the two parents were different, to be sure ; but the advantage could not bo shown to be entirely on the Senora's sido. There were many things that Folipn snew, of which Alessandro wis profoundly igncrant; but there wero others in which Alessandro could have taught Eelipe ; and when it came to the things of the soul, and of bonour, Alessandro's plane was the higher of the two. Felipe was a fair-minded, houourable man, as men go ; but circumstance and opportunity would have a hold on him they could never get on Alessandro. Alessandro would not lio. Felipe might. Alessandro was by nature full of veneration and the religious instinct; Felipe had been trained into being a good Catholic. But they were both singularly pureminded, open-haarted, genarons-souled young men, and destined, by the atrange chance which had thus brought them into familiar relations, to become strongly attached to each otber. After the day on which the madness of Feiipe's fever had been 50 miraculously soothed and controlled by Alessandro's singing be was never again wildly delirious. When he wased in tha night from that frst long sleep, be was, as Father Salvierderra bad pre. dicted, in his right mind; knew overy onc, and asked rational questions. But the overheated and excited hrain did not for some time resume normal action. At intervals he wandered, especially whon just arousing from sleep; and, strangely enougb, it was slways for Alessandro that he called at ibese times, and it seomed slmays to be music that he craved. He recollected Alessandro having sang to him that first night: "I was not so crazy as you all thought," he said. "I know a great many of the things I said, hut I couldn't help saying them; anio I heard Ramona ask Alessandro to sing; and when be began, I remember I thought the Virgin had reached down and pat her hand on my hoad and cooled it." (Io se continued.)
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