repeated to her. "That's easy said ! He's played his last tune on the south voranda, I wager you."

But when at suppor-time of this same eventful day the Senora was hoard, as she passed the Senorita's door, to say in her ordinary voice, "Are you ready for supper, Ramona ?" and Ramona was seen to come out and walk by the Senora's side to the dining. room, ailent, to be sure-but then that was no strange thing, the Senorita always was more silent in the Senora's presence-when, Marda, standing in the courtyard, feigning to be feeding her chickens, but keeping a close eye on the passage-ways, saw this, she was relieved, and thought: "It's only a dispute there has been. There will be disputes in families sometimes. It is none of our affair. All is settled now."

And Margarita, standing in the dining room, when she saw them all coming in as usual- -the Senora, Felipe, Ramona-no change, even to her scrutinizing oye, in anybody's face, was more surprised than she had been for many a day; and began to think again, as she had more than once since this tragedy began, that she must have dreamed much that she remembered.

But surfaces are deceitful, and eyes see little. Considering its complexity. the fineness and delicacy of its mechanism, the results attainable by the human eye are far from adequate to the expenditure put upon it. We have flattered ourselves by inventing proverbs of comparison in matter of blindness-"blind as a bat," for instance. It would be safe to say that there cannot be found in the animal kingdom a bat, or any other creature, so blind in its own range of circumstance and connection as the greater majority of human beings are in the bosoms of their families. Tempers strain and recover, hearts break and heal, strength falters, fails, and comes ncar to giving way altogether, every day, without being noted by the closest lookers-on.

Before night of this second day since the trouble had burst like a stormcloud on the peaceful Moreno household, everything had so resumed the ordinary expression and routine, that a shrewder observer and reasoner than Margarita might well be excused fordoubting if any serious disaster could have occurred to any one. Senor Felipe sauntered about in his usual fushion, smoking his cigarettes, or lay on his bed in the verands, dozing. The Senora went her usual rounds of inspection, fed her birds, spoke to every one in her usual tone, sat in her carved chair with her hands folded, gazing out on the southern sky. Ramona busied herself with her usual duties, dusted the chapel, put fresh flowers before all the Madonnas, and then sat down at her embroidery. Ramona had been for a long time at work on a beautiful altar-cloth for the chapel. It was to have been a prosent to the Senora. It was nearly done. As she held up the frame in which it was stretched, and looked at the deliate tracery of the pattern, she sighed. It had been with a mingled feeling of interest and hopelessness that she had for months been at work on it, often saying to herself, "She won't care much for it, beautiful as it is, just because I did it; but Father Salvierderra will be pleased when he sees it.

Now, as she wove the fine threads in and out, she thought : "She will never let it be used on the altar. I roader if I could any way get it to er Salvierderra at Santa Barbara. Like to give it to him. I will I prdro. Tm sure the Senora ask • tase it, and it would be a woun there. I shall take it shau she thought these with unruffled. A things, settled on Rastrange ; only four mona. days; I c ge for four days !" thes Eng and going in her n SODGS

which haunt one's memory and will not be still. She saw that Felipe looked anxiously at her, but she answered his inquiring looks always with a gentle smile. It was evident that the Senora did not intend that she and Folipe should have any private conversation; but that did not so much matter. After all, there was not so much to be said. Felipe knew all. She could tell him nothing; Folipe had acted for the Lest, as he thought, in sending Alessandro away till the heat of the Senora's anger should have spent itself.

After her first dismay at suddenly learning that Alessandro had gone had passed, she had reflected that it was just as well. He would come back prepared to take her with him. How, or where, she did not know; but she would go with no question. Perhaps she would not even bid the Senora good-bye; she wondered how that would arrange itself, and how far Alessandro would have to take her to find a priest to marry them. It was a terrible thing to have to do, to go out of a home in such a way; no wedding -no wedding clothes-no friends-to go unmarried, and journey to a priest's house to have the ceremony performed ; " but it is not my fault," said Ramona to herself; "it is hers. She drives me to do it. If it is wrong the blame will be hers. Father Salvierderra would gladly come here and marry us if she would send for him. I wish we could go to him, Alessandro and I; perhaps we can. I would not be afraid to ride so far; we could do it in two days." The more Ramona thought of this the more it appeared to her the natural thing for them to do. "He will be on our side, I know he will," she thought. "He always liked Alessandro, and he loves me.

It was strange how little bitterness toward the Senora was in the girl's mind; how comparatively little she thought of her. Her heart was too full of Alessandro and of their future; and it had never been Ramona's habit to dwell on the Senora in her thoughts. As from her childbood up she had accepted the fact of the Senora's coldness toward her, so now she accepted her injustice and opposition as part of the nature of things, and not to be altered.

During all these hours, during the coming and going of these crowds of fears, sorrows, memories, anticipations in Ramona's heart, all that there was to be seen to the eye was simply a calm, quist girl, sitting on the veranda, diligently working at her lace-frame. Even Felipe was deceived by her calmness, and wondered what it meant, -if it could be that she was undergo ing the change that his mother had thought possible, and designated as coming "to her senses." Even Felipe did not know the stead-fast fibre of the girl's nature; neither did he realise what a bond had grown between her and Alessandro. In fact, he sometimes wondered of what this bond had been made. He had himself seen the greater part of their intercourse with each other; nothing could have been farther removed from anything like love-making. There had been no crists of incident, or marked moments of experience such as in Felipe's imaginations of love were essential to the fulness of This is a common mistake rowth. on the part of those who have never felt love's true bonds. Once in those chains, one perceives that they are not of the sort full forged in a day. They are made as the great iron cables are made, on which bridges are swung across the widest water-channels,-not of single huge rods, or bars, which would be stronger, perhaps, to look at; but of myriads of the finest wires, each one by itself so fine, so frail, it would barely hold a child's kite in the wind : by hundreds, hundreds of thousands of such, twisted, re-twisted together, are made the mighty cables, which do not any more swerve from their place in

the air, under the weight and jar of the coaseless traffic and tread of two vities, than the solid earth swerves under the same ceaseless weight and jar. Such cables do not break.

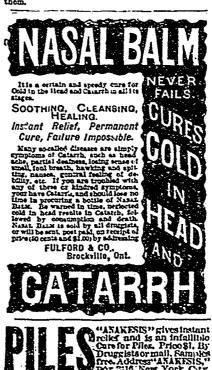
Even Ramona Lerself would have found it hard to tell why she thus loved Alessandro; how it began, or by what it grew. It had not been a sudden adoration, like his passion for her; it was, in the beginning, simply a response; but now it was as strong a love as his,—as strong, and as un-changeable. The Senora's barsh words had been like a forcing-house air to it, and the sudden knowledge of the fact of her own Indian descentseemed to her like a revelatin, pointing out the path in which destiny called her to walk. She thrilled with pleasure at the thought of the joy with which Alessandro would hear this,-the joy and the surprise. She imagined to herself, in hundreds of ways, the time, place, and phrase in which she would tell him. She could not satisfy herself as to the best, as to which would give keenest pleasure to him and to her. She would tell him as soon as she saw him; it should be her first word of greeting. No! There would be too much of trouble and embarrassment then. She would wait till they were far away, till they were alone, in the wilderness; and then she would turn to him and say, "Alessandro, my people are your people !" Or she would wait, and keep her sacret until she had reached Temecula, and they had begun their life there, and Alessandro had been astonished to see how readily and kindly she took to all the ways of the Indian village; and then, when he expressed some such emotion, she would quietly say, But I too am an Indian. Alessandro !'

Strange, sad bride's dreams these; but they made Ramona's heart beat with happiness as she dreamed them. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

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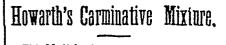
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