The Ransom of Luisa.

On the morning of a March Sunday Dona Luisa, adorable seventeen, had left the hacienda, seated on a pillion behind Manuel Pilar, her father's stoutest and most trusted servant. She was bound first to high mass at the mission church, then to dinner and a small tertulia at the home of her affianced, Don Carlos Del Valle. With his family she was to spend the night, returning, under Manuel's protection on the following morning; for the valley was unsafe to cross at night, even with an armed guard, while Cuchillo and his outlaw band lay hidden in the mountains.

On the evening of this same Sunday.

On the evening of this same Sunday, Don Esteban, fond father of the pretty Luisa, enjoyed in peace his sunset meal of frijoles and chili con carne, and then sitting on the broad veranda, smoked endless cigaritos, dozing between whiles. endless cigaritos, dozing between whiles. The broad valley, radiant in spring freshness and showing blue-green billows where the wind swept the young barley, lay before him, and Don Esteban, in intervals of conscionsness amused himself by estimating the harvest. He watched lazily the red light flush the west and flood the valley, striking on the rugged mountain faces in sheets of purple and bronze. After this light had faded, an ethereal radiance still lingered over the distant hills, dissolving all hues and shapes as in a golden wine; and when this magical twilight had merged swiftly into night, Don Esteban heaved a gentle sigh and thought of supper, which Marta must even now be preparing, to tle sigh and thought of supper, which Marta must even now be preparing, to judge from the delicious odor of stewing artichokes just perceptible. Those artichokes, though they were Don Esteban's favorite dish, were never eaten.

The sounds of galloping hoofs, rose the grown mass, then came the from the grassy mesa; then came the headlong scramble of a horse urged at full speed up the little hill; then a black. sinewy centaur-shape flashed between Don Esteban and the dying light, shattering his peaceful somnolence.

A well known voice rang out his

"Mother of God!" ejaculated the ranchero, lifting his huge bulk and wad-dling unwieldily forward. "Carlos! What Yes, Luisa! Is she here? Has she

The young man flung himself from his panting horse and seized Don Esteban's

"Luisa—why, she left this moraing—"
with—Manuel—to go to church—"
She was not at the church. She has not been at our house. Where is she?"
"Mother of God!" repeated Don Este"Mother of God!" repeated Don Este-"Mother of God," repeated Don Este-ban feebly, "how do I know? Where can she be,"

"And Manuel?"
"He has not come back."

The two men stared at one another, and their swarthy faces grew dully pale. "Cuchillo?" They knew not which had spoken; it was the thought of both.

"You should not have let her ride unprotected!" cried Carlos, stung as by a lash.

"Nonsense!" muttered Don Esteban dazedly. "In broad daylight! She has ridden so a hundred times—and Manuel

was armed—"

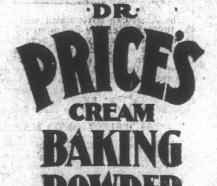
He averted his face, that Del Valle
might not read it. In his slow mind
the dread which never left him, but which in the intervals of Cuchillo's assaults semed to be dormant, sprang to life again. Don Esteban possessed the easy going tmper typical of his race. If the feud with the outlaw chief, which dated back more years than the younger generation could count, disturbed him but Cuchillo's hatred and vow of ven-grance were matters of tradition, the memory of which was kent alive by perpetual raids upon Don Esteban's property. To be sure, the lafter did not suffer alone; the track of Cuchillo's mounted band invariably cut a deep mounted band invariably cut a deep swath through the valley, from whatever direction they chanced to come, leaving a trail of dead cattle, ruined fields and looted houses behind them. But the ob-jective point of these raids was always the same. One month Don Esteban's the same. One month Don Esteban's corral was broken into, despite its guard. and his stock of blooded horses driven off; the next the storehouses were robbed and the barns burned; then the wheat, ripe for harvesting, was trampled and fired. The ranchero's reprisals were for the most part ineffectual. In his younger days he had led many a sally against Cuchillo; but once involved in the fastneses of the mountains not all the skill of his guides could suffice to give him so much as a glimpse of his enemy, though the banditu's bullets might be singing about him. Of late years Don Esteban, despite the conyears Don Esteban, despite the constant menace to his peace, had grown fat and indisposed to move, He had contenfed himself with firing upon Cuchillo on the occasion of the latter's bold apearance in the midst of a village festival. His bullet had missed; Cuchillo and the content of the latter's bold apearance in the midst of a village festival. lo's plowed a furrow in his rheumatic lder, but a month later was repaid interest. Defending his house with interest. Defending his house against a midnight attack, Don Esteban had severely wounded the bandit, who was indeed at first reported killed, but later proved to have got off with the loss of an eye. This had happened nearthree months ago, and since that y Don Esteban's household had been left in peace. He had grown careless and now had to reproach himself with having relaxed his precautions instead of doubling them, as knowledge of Cu-chillo should have taught him to do. He might well have assured himself that the inevitable next blow would be a deadly one. His pallor, his shaking limbs, the visible terror which seemed to have par-

not have struck nearer his heart.

For conviction had followed swift on the heels of his faltering denial. Cuchillo's hand in this latest attack was unmistakeable, So also it appeared to Del Valle, He stood motionless for Awarded Highest Honors-World's Fair.

Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair.

alvzed him, were evidence that it could



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some moments; then, every muscle and faculty tense for action, he stepped forward and laid a firm hand on the old man's shoulder.

"Courage!" he said; "it is not yet proved. I will gather my friends to scour the valley for her. If it is Cuchille, he will hold her for a ransom, and we shall hear from her to-night or tomorrow. Do you remain here; if she is not found, I will come back at dawn."

"No, no I will go with you—how can wringing his hands in despair.

But Del Valle was already in the saddle. With a sharp word of farewell he put spurs to his horse and plunged off down the hill. The brilliant southern stars gave light enough to follow him some distance along the white streak.

"Cuchillo."

aid of a woman's craft. Cuchillo is cuning, but we will outwit him!"

Her low, even tones held a curious menace. Presently she asked:

"You yourself had a private quarrel with this man?"

"I had. Years ago I settled with him," said Don Esteban grimly. "I made the mistake of sparing his life, instead of creshing him like the reptile he is. As long as he lives he will sting."

"But you do not hate him?"

"All I ask of him is to give back Lusis and to leave me in peace.

Again the woman was silent. At last she said:

"L too, inew him once."

"Cuchillo."

She nodded.

"You yourself had a private quarrel with this man?"

"I had. Years ago I settled with him," said Don Esteban grimly. "I made the mistake of sparing his life, instead of creshing him like the reptile he is.

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"But you do not hate him?"

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Again the woman was silent. At last she means are give light enough to follow him some distance along the white streak."

"Cuchillo?"

She nodded.

"No one every got any good of him."

"I will not," said Cuch'llo, recevering his

morrow. Do you remain here; if she is not found, I will come back at dawn."
"No, no I will go with you how can I sit idde here?" cried Don Esteban, wringing his hands in despair.

But Del Valle was already in the saddle. With a sharp word of farewell he put spurs to his horse and plunged off down the hill. The brilliant southern stars gave light enough to follow him some distance along the white streak of the road. Then the darkness swallowed him up; the rattle of his horse's hoofs died on the still air; and Don Esteban sank down again into his cushioned seat. Here Marta, the house-

jests on the part of a man famed for such diabolical devices. It became terribly evident to Don Esteban that Cuchillo had not the intention of accept-

chillo had not the intention of accepting ransom for his prisoner.

Exhausted by weeping, Don Esteban finally, a little before dawn, fell into a troubled sleep, from which he was 10used by the arrival of Del Vadle. The young mans face became set like a mask as he read the letter.

"He knows it is impossible," groaned Don Esteban.

Del Valle was silent, rap'dly weighing the chances. Pursuit of the bandits had often been proved useless, and in this case even the show of resistance would surely be fatal to the hostage they held. Compliance with Cuchillo's demand seemed equally hopeless.

"It must be tried," he said, at last, slowly. "We must sell and borrow what we can. When Luisa is safe." The span of the juw said the rest.

seemed equally hopeless.

2 "If must be treed," he mide at least as earned equally hopeless.

3 "He must be treed," he mide at least as the control of the same and make as the quarter of an eyeld and a seemed equally hopeless.

4 "If must be treed," he mide at least as the control of the same and the read, and the control of the same and the control of the same and the control of the

"Star you do not hatch him?"

It six to he very?" cried Done Leaves the star was all the give bad by the give

PART II.

Just at dark the Spnalard rode up to the hacienda alone and mounted upon his famous black horse Diablo. The day had been intensely hot, and horse and rider had syldently come fast and far. The animal's heaving flanks were streaked with foam and the blood showed in his nostriks and in the whites of his wicked eyes. Cucallos face was covered with sweat and dust, which he carefully wiped off with a gay handkerchief before he swaggered into the house, his silver spurs clinking at. his beels.

An Ind'an 'girl motioned him into the sale, sparsely lit by a row of wax tapers. Here, behind a table bearing a heap of little buckskin bags, sat Don Esteban, erect and calm, fronting his enemy without so much as the quiver of an eyelid. Inside the door, which led into an adjoining darkened room, crouched two listeners, in visible and hushing their breath that they might not be heard. For a moment or two Cuchillo stood silent, his small frame in its trilliant dress tense as that of an animal about to spring, his one eye glowing l'ke a roal in his sailow face. Then he bowed ironically and advanced towards Don Esteban.

"I see you are ready for me, senor," he

have in my head. I must first see—And, in fact, it may not be needed. But let Don Carlos gather in these two days all the gold, he can—that will be of use in any case. If it is in bars and ingots so much the better, and do you, senor, cease worrying. The senorita will be rescued, but her safety may depend upon your courage."

"My courage?"

"My courage?"

"You will need it all, senor. But you are right—courage alone is of no use against this snake, and so I promise the latter at last in a word barely audible. Cuchillo's lips opened in a snarl.

"Then I am wasting my time," he said, and got to his feet.

With a hand which he tried to steady, health.

diseases become seated and sooner or later in so many instances end fatally. Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills cure all Kidney froubles. Sold by all dealers, price 25 cents per box.





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is just now the direction of our st we are never taken unawares. It the experience, the capital and to use it, so we are prepared to callers. We keep up to the tin close to the people.

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denly changed, stiffened. He stood a mo-ment, already dead, then fell, striking heavily against the corner of the table. "You have killed him," cried Don Esteban.
"I have saved your daughter," murmured
Marta, faintly. "The safe-conduct-quick!"
NEITH BOXCE.

FRANCE IS VERY FRIENDLY. The Recent Hard Feeling Against Unit- narrow gauge or light line railway, for the ed States Disappears.

New York, Aug. 16.—Colonel Blum, from, at or pear Victoria, Esquimati who has been in Paris for some time trict, Vancouver Island, via Sooke, Sa looking out for American interests at the Juan, in the said district, and Alberni, b looking out for American interests at the Paris international exposition of 1900, returned yesterday on Ls Normandie. Colonel Blum will soon confer with Ferdinand W. Peck, the United States commissioner general, and the two men will take charge of the American exhibits. "The exhibit of the United States will be the largest of any country in regard to the floor space with the exception of the said district, and Alberni, by the most direct and feasible route along the west coast of Vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, in the said district, and Alberni, by the most direct and feasible route along the west coast of Vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, in the most direct and feasible route along the west coast of Vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, to a point on the extreme north end of said vancouver Island, in the vicinity of Harly or Nahwitti bays, or thereabouts. to the floor space with the exception of France. At the last exposition we had docks and coal bunkers; and with power 119,000 square feet of space, and this to build, own, equip, operate and maintain \$650,000 by congress a beautiful building operate and maintain telegraph and to

"My special mission in Paris at this way and branches, and to carry on a gen time was to ascertain the feeling bearing way and branches, and to build an eral express business, and to build an eral express business, and to build an eral express business. will be erected. time was to ascertain the reening tween the French and the Americans, and I am sure what little hard feeling there was has entirely disappeared. I there was has entirely disappeared. I kind of motive power; and with power went to hotels, cafes, business houses, and in all I was treated not only courteously, but as a friend. Through General
Horace Porter I entered official society, and the same good feeling was apparent."

A supplying fight, heat, electricity or any supplying fight, heat, electri

ent."

Mr. Blum has succeeded in obtaining the establishment of an important annex for railways, tramways, automobiles and velocipedes at the Bois de Vinniones and the addition of 327 square metres of space for the United States exhibit. He has also concluded arrangements with has also concluded arrangements with has also concluded arrangements with has also concluded arrangements. several leading architects, engineers, way; and with all other usual, builders and decorators for the most or incidental rights, powers or complete and artistic installation of Am- as may be necessary or incidental erican exhibits.

You will not know how much good Hood's Sarsaparilla will do you until try it. Buy a bottle to-day and begin to

MANILA INSURGENTS ACTIVE. Hongkong, Aug. 15.—Belated mail information from Manila is to the effect that there has been renewed activity on the part of the Spaniards of late, due to the belief among them that the insurements' resources have been exhausted and that McKinley is suing for peace. According to the same authority in-surgents throughout the island of Visayas are reported to have signified their intention of joining Aguinaldo.

IS IT A CASE OF PREJUDICE?

Washington, Aug. 15.—It is generally believed here that Shafter has the worst end of the controversy with Sternberg in regard to the poor medical equipment of the army in Cuba, but in an interview Secretary Alger places the responsibility on the medical department. The fact that the medical department. The fact that the secretary of was is invalidated in the secretary of was in invalidated in the secretary of t medical department. The fact that the secretary of war is prejudiced in favor of Shafter supports the report that Surgeon-General Sternberg will be removed from office, if he does not resign.

Dr. J. I. Terry, of Trible, Tenn. in

Dr. J. I. Terry, of Trible, Tenn., in speaking of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrohea Remedy, says: "It almost become a necessity in this vicinity." This is the best remedy in the world for colic, cholera morbus, dysentery and diarrohea, and is recognized as a recessity wherever its greet worth and a necessity wherever its great worth and merit become known. No other remedy is so prompt or effectual, or so pleasant to take.

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Is hereby given that application will made to the legislative assembly of province of British Columbia, at its session for an act to incorporate a pany with power to construct, equip operate, by any kind or kinds of motive power, and maintain either a standa purpose of conveying passengers freight, including all kinds of mercha 265,000 square feet are already as-Through the appropriation of and boats; and with power to build, equ bodles corporate; and to make traffic of

> objects, or any of them.
>
> Dated at the city of Victoria the 39th day of July A.D. 1898. S. PERRY MILLS.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that application wil Ganal, or from the internation line, northerly to Dalton's Post, ton Trail, and following the to Fort Selkirk; thence continuous feasible route, northerly meridian, at a point near F with powers to construct and graph and relections lines; to meridian, graph and teler hone lines: in mines: to crush, smell and minerals of all descrip

all necessary things in conn business of the company.

GEO. V Solicitor for the Applic Dated, Ottawa, 19 June, 1898.

NOTICE

is hereby given that 60 days is hereby given that 60 days intend to make application to the Chief Commissioner of Works for permission to acres of unsurveyed, unoccupierved crown lands, situate it trict, described as follows: at J. F. Fell's northwest statchains west; thence 40 chains Leeby's corner post; therce Leahy's corner post; thence to T. Tugwell's northwest orth 40 chains to place of Dated this 29th day

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VOL, 17.

What To Do Wi Spanish Posses D.plo

American Officers the Capitula Whole

London, Aug. 19.pondent to the Tin elopments of the watched here with cumstances appear tention of the island fact hat Senator padvocate of comple Secretary of State the Hawaiian policy missioners is regardent President Mc retention. He contions with such sideration that the been able graduall een able gradual population to the in e outcome of the were this reason absolute cession of not especially stated y no means be r that possibility or mation of the grow

American population partition of China i disposition.

"There is a susp neeting of the Paris was intentiable the preparation merica to sancti role in its full exten "An evening pape hat it is imposs hall ever again Spanish possessions how the archipelas divided is regarded ic problem. Other which it is seeing that it is it will be any division

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power, whose con strength is immer present victory. London, Aug. dessa correspon incontestable auth opened pour parle ession of a coali Paris, Aug. 18.— tion in the East tion. The Soleli se quadruple the vand Manila will longkong. The lave a preponder nese waters. The desire more eaget and though they by other powers, overtake their riv

their progress in coming break up the United State with the worst tage.
The Temps, France upon the nizes the fact the good thing to put nammer and the "The United State of intervention, a terests in compro ously with a cou for a more activitional affairs. count over much Washington, Aug eneral Merritt, g Manila's fall, and a ficant instructions juiring the insurge the territory occup dispatches were ab elopments of the eard from Genera

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as to the extent slands. Secretary heard nothing of the Philippine group. ecretary did not the press dispatch ulation had a farmore definite info

sume that Americ nila city, bay and cities as may be