

# THE CRAFTSMAN;

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### AN ADVENTURE IN A MEXICAN RUIN.

Riding leisurely along a delightful highway of Mexico, one warm afternoon some few years ago, I saw in the distance the crumbling walls of an old ruin, a relic of the days of Montezuma.

As a roving disposition had carried me to Mexico, I was in no hurry to continue on my way, having plenty of leisure, and therefore turned my horse across the hills to see the spot.

Wooded by the refreshing shade, the luxuriant carpet of velvety grass, and the silent hushed repose that seemed to rest here, I dismounted, and giving my horse his freedom to feed about the ruin, I threw myself in the shadow of the wall, and soon sunk to rest.

Fatigued and overcome with the heat, I did not wake for hours, and then was startled to see that a storm was brewing, and night was almost upon me.

Well knowing that it was miles to the nearest habitation, I determined to make a virtue of necessity and seek shelter in the ruin for the night, for I was prepared with blankets and had a substantial lunch in my saddle-roll.

Near by, my horse was still feeding upon the rich grass, so I went in search of some portion of the ruin where I could find "shelter for man and beast" from the storm, which was rapidly coming up.

Soon I came upon a low archway that led into a vaulted chamber, which at one time must have been used as a tomb, but it was dry, had a dirt flooring and a rucky couch, that had evidently served as the resting-place after death, of some priest, for the ruin had been an old monastery or convent, I judged.

Returning, I lassoed my horse out in the inclosure, and taking from him the saddle and bridle returned to my impromptu shelter, and at once spread my blankets upon the long rock, and sat down to eat my supper and watch the storm.

At length it broke in fury, and I withdrew my horse within the rock-bound chamber, and fastening him securely, laid down to sleep, for night had enveloped the ruin in darkness.

The wild raging of the storm without gave me an air of comfort within my vaulted room, and soon I was dreaming the hours away.