

The Idyl of Monterey.

By ELIZABETH G. ROWE



WILL you send me away like this, Dona Modeste?"

There was an impatient ring in the young man's voice. Had he not pleaded his cause long and earnestly? Was not this his last day?

And the Carrillos were never known for their patience.

"Oh, no, Don Bernardo, I would not think of sending you away."

The fringe of dark lashes lifted, and she gave him a mirthful glance.

"But you know I leave at sunrise," he persisted. "I have sold all the horses except the ones we return on, and I

"Don Antonio is a very gallant gentleman," she thoughtfully answered. "His father and mine are very old friends."

Don Bernardo picked up his fine new sombrero and put it on.

"I must be going," he said in a melancholy voice. "I may not come up again to Monterey this year."

"But he did not start. Her eyes lifted from her work and rested on the sparkling blue water of the bay spread out before them. They were soft and melting now.

"The sun is getting low," she observed.

His hopes sank again. He followed her glance from under the shade of his broad brim and repeated:



"Tell me, do you care for that hollow-faced bantam?"

have arranged with the agent on the Catalina about the hides and tallow for my uncle. I should have gone three days ago but that I wait your answer." "Yesterday was a saint's day," she said musingly, as he paused. "Doubtless Don Bernardo was loath to take part in the sports. The foreigners, I hear knew not which to praise the more for horsemanship, Don Bernardo Carrillo or Don Antonio Feliz." She caught a disdainful look on the listener's gloomy face and smiled; but she went on, innocently enough: "Don Bernardo, it is extravagance to spoil such a beautiful new sombrero. You will twist it out of shape."

He flung it on the floor of the corridor.

"Tell me," he fiercely demanded, "do you care for that hollow-faced bantam?"

Dona Modeste pulled a thread in the linen she held before answering.

"Yes, it is getting late. I must be going."

Still he did not rise. Dona Modeste snipped her fine threads carefully. He sat moodily silent. A crimson rose gleamed in her dark hair, and he watched the delicate glow in her cheeks deepen and darken under his scrutiny, as if absorbing all the color in the petals above. She put the shining scissors down. It would not do to make mistakes in cutting the threads.

"Dona Modeste," he murmured softly. She hastily moved her chair away from the plastered wall of the house, and near to the edge of the corridor, where the light was better. Her fingers trembled slightly as she picked up her work.

"You must miss the water when you are at home," she remarked sententiously. "I think I should not like to live where I could not see the ocean."

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