

of the Water and Drainage Company. It needed, however, many assurances of his safety and of the positive duties before him, on Standen's part, to reconcile Lois to the parting, and it was a tearful maiden who took her place in the boat beside her father and her aunt.

Da Piera told Standen and Burch once more that they might be quite certain of the King's gratitude and of absolute fairness in the division of the treasure, and after a somewhat sad farewell on all sides, the two men saw the bushes close in again behind the boat, and returned to the Quinta de los Mangos to try and get something iike order out of the chaos the black raiders had left behind them. In this work they were soon helped by Oliver and his wife and daughter, who reappeared on the scene on the following morning.

Standen found that the company's offices had been thoroughly gutted by the rioters, and it was some days before Wetherell and the staff got back from the fort, and some time before things were got into their normal state. Under the new *régime*, however, the work soon began to go on quietly and regularly, and the souls of the staff were no longer vexed by a horde of venal and grasping fiscals, so that when, in course of time, Standen resigned his post, and returned to England, Wetherell, who succeeded