

THE
STUDENTS' MONTHLY.

WHICH OF THE TWO ?

CHAPTER X.

A REVELATION.

When Gomez de Manchez again revived, he was lying on his couch, and his gypsy servant Vaillandano was standing beside him. There was a troubled expression on his dark visage, but as Don Gomez opened his eyes it quickly disappeared, and he asked in a soft voice :

" Ah, my master, I feared you would not revive; it has now been two hours since I found you fainting from loss of blood. The villains are all gone. You have no one to fear now, so tell me how you feel."

The gypsy was assured that his master was reviving; that he had only fainted from loss of blood; that he was sure he should soon be well again. But he was very anxious to know by what almost miraculous power he was saved from death and his protégé from captivity.

" Oha, that matter is easily explained. It was I and my friend Coaduoz whom you may have seen coming. I managed to get into the good graces of Don Nunez de Castanello—now do not get excited over the name, for that person is here, and it is with him we have been dealing during this day, but I fancy he will get fatigued with the present course of experimenting. Well, he trusted me with the command of men that he sent out, and as I had a little sport with him at the Posada, on the night before, he even trusted me to herald a reward for my own apprehension. So you will perceive, I came to the mountains with the followers of the Carlist, and though I was enraged when I saw the Sese (*Spaniard*) falling from the demon's way with the wise Caloré, I kept myself very calm, until I descended into the opening. I intended to have gone down into the cave first, and have dispersed them by an experiment I had used twice before, but this was hindered by various causes. First, I did not think the rope was strong enough, next, I did not believe the men were strong enough. I descended, at last, and pulled the rope after me. This I did by allowing the rope to slacken, when I had loosed it from my body, and when the *beng* (*demon*) commenced drawing it up, I gave it a violent pull which brought the man from the top. I dropped the rope, which fell, as I heard the rock coming down the way, and we had just time to step aside from the lowest part of the passage when it fell, causing the