

finishing, that they had passed beyond him, and he was left alone in the midst of the awful solitude of that wild spot, with mountains frowning on one side, and vast forests on the other. In vain he called; the solemn echoes of his own voice awoke the stillness of the scene, and the chattering of monkeys, and the cry of parrots, were the only answers he obtained.

He set forward in the direction which he supposed his comrades had taken, but no trace of them could he see. After wandering some time in vain, he arrived on the banks of a fine stream, and then fatigue compelled him to rest for the night. The next day he examined the banks of the river, and was much surprised to see lumps of pure gold mingled with the soil, and in the sand he picked up several large pieces superior to any yet found. This discovery rendered him doubly anxious to rejoin his party. He fired off several shots, hoping to hear from them; but the painful conviction that they had carelessly deserted him, and left him to die in the wild forest, forced itself upon his mind. Hope, however, buoyed him up. He searched the sands farther, and gathered more specimens to show Columbus, in case he was ever so fortunate as to return. He was very successful, but could not cumber himself with many, as it was quite uncertain whether he ever regained the fort. He did, however, reach the colony, after enduring almost incredible hardships. After wandering twenty days, he arrived at a spot which he recognized as one which the party occupied when they went out. From that point he easily retraced his steps, until he came in sight of the settlement, and presented himself to Columbus as one restored almost from the dead. * * *

At last the wanderer returned to his native shore, the self-banished pressed his native soil, and breathed his native air. Henri honorably released from foreign service, hastened to Spain. Fortune had been propitious, he returned with wealth and distinction. His reception at Court was flattering, the world was decked in roseate tints to his excited fancy, and everything conspired to rejoice his heart.

His first care was to hasten to Valencia, to ascertain the state of his affairs, and order some repairs in the fine old mansion, where he hoped to bring his beloved Irene. He compelled himself to look over accounts, and listen to his tenants and ser-