

would be unnecessary to tell. The gems could be sent over a few at a time to Amsterdam, and there sold to merchants who would care nothing whence they came; and the partners of Diggory Beggs in the venture of the *Swan* would be only too glad to receive their money back again, and to ask no questions as to how it had been obtained. And so matters were carried out.

For some months Roger remained in nominal partnership with his uncle, and then bought a large estate a few miles out of the town, where he set up as a country gentleman. He was for a time somewhat shyly looked upon by the magistrates of the county, who deemed it an unheard-of thing for a Plymouth merchant thus to settle among them; but in time he was accepted, especially after it became known that when he went up to Town he held his place among the highest there, and kept a state and expenditure equal to that of many of the nobles. His wife was remarkable not only for her beauty but for the richness of her jewels, many of which were fashioned in a way such as had never before been seen at the English Court. As time went on, and the relations between England and Spain grew cold, there was no longer any occasion for secrecy, and little by little it became known that the *Swan* had sailed to the Spanish main, that Roger had formed one of the conquering band of Cortez, and that Amenche was not a Spaniard but an Aztec Princess. This caused a great talk at the time, and added much to the consideration in which Roger was held. He took a leading position in the country, and many years after fitted out two ships at his own cost to fight against the Spanish Armada. Happily Amenche's health never suffered from the change to the comparatively cold climate of Devonshire. She bore Roger several children, and to this day many of the first families in Devonshire are proud that there runs in their veins the blood of the Aztec princess.

THE END.