

in no ways sur-
turn, but we have
our shares in the
en, very sorry, for
t let us talk about
und; and though
or a time, I have
doing ever since;
and sound?"
ry; but before I
p and its venture
ns penniless; and
xpended upon the
come round with
hom I would fain
ou don't say you

er own country;
of women, and all
ut to speak when

nt. The thought
shocking to you.
seen her. But as
e her on with us;
lcome my wife."
d been when they
meaning glance at
me a wife.

thy—our parting
it when I said it,
erwards. It was
e back again that
a you have heard
d how much I owe
n't blame me."

he said, frankly.
d for each other;
then, and when

I grew up and you did not come home, and it seemed that you never would come home, as you say, I fell in love with some one else. And now I will put on my hood, and come round and see your wife. What is her name?"

"Her name is Amenche," Roger said; "and Amenche I mean to call her. When she was christened—for of course she had to be christened before we were married—Father Olmedo said she must have a Christian name, and christened her Caterina; but for all that her name is Amenche, and we mean to stick to it. But come along; she has been an hour alone in this strange place already, and must begin to think that I have run away from her."

Dorothy and Agnes were at once won by the soft beauty of the dark-skinned princess; and when that evening Roger told the story of all that had taken place in Mexico, Dame Mercy's last prejudice vanished, and she took Amenche in her arms and kissed her tenderly.

"My dear," she said, "Roger has always been as a son to me, and henceforth you will be as one of my daughters."

As to Diggory, his delight and satisfaction were almost too great for words. He was overjoyed that Roger had returned, vastly gratified that the money he expended on the *Swan* was to be repaid, and greatly captivated by Amenche. The princess could speak but a few words of English, for Roger had been afraid to commence her tuition in that language until they were safely in England: but she was greatly pleased with the welcome she received, and began for the first time to feel that some day she might come to regard this strange country as home.

There was a long talk between Roger and his uncle as to the steps that should be taken. It was agreed that now Spain and England were so closely allied, it would be imprudent in the extreme to allow it to become known that the *Swan* had sailed for the Western Indies, or that Roger had obtained wealth there; for if it came to the ears of the Court—and such strange news would travel fast—it might well be that a ruinous fine might be imposed upon all concerned in the matter.

Therefore it was arranged that nothing whatever should be said about it, but that it should be given out that the *Swan* had been wrecked in foreign parts; and that Roger, who had been sole survivor of the wreck, had settled abroad and made money there, and had married a foreign lady. More than that it