above its chapel pointing heavenward. | you for undertaking the journey to ac At a turn of the road where he knew that the last glimpse was to be had he

paused and took off his hat, in final salntation to all that had been revealed to him there the boundless hospitality and charity, the kind and useful lives, the widely diffused circle of good, the simplicity, the gentleness and the happiness which formed a golden atmosphere about the spot.

The third day after this found him entering the City of Mexico again, and hardly able to believe the evidence of the beyond and said gayly: "Dear consin, calendar that it had been little more than a month since he had left it to seek the him." Buena Esperanza. Although by no means

sure how far Morell had been engaged in the business schemes of the redoubtable Fernandez, he had telegraphed him from Guadalajara requesting him to look at the hotels for Mrs. Derwent, and if she had arrived to keep her in the city. He was not very much surprised, therefore, to find Morell awaiting him at the station.

"Has my mother come?" was his first question.

"Yes; she arrived yesterday," Morell. answered, "and had only been here an hour or two when I received your disanxious about you and much relieved tc hear that you were on the way to meet her. But, my dear fellow, what can 1 say for myself? I hardly know how to express my regret that such an accident should have befallen you-something nc

one could possibly have foreseen." "Unless it was your friend, Senor Fer-

nandez," said Derwent dryly. "He not only foresaw, but planned the whole anything else to reach you. But Frank thing and had it executed." "Derwent!" Morell exclaimed. He stop

ped-for they were walking together down the long platform-and looked at sthe other as if doubtful whether he had heard him aright. "What do you mean?" he asked. "That is a very grave accusation."

"It is a plain statement of a fact," replied Derwent, "The assassin came to finish his work but was, fortunately. shot before he could do so. He lived long enough to tell the whole story however. And then he related it briefly.

There could be no doubt that Morel was deeply and terribly shocked. knew that he was slippery-very slippery

company my mother."-"I am more than rewarded," she an swered. "This is the most enchanting

"I played a very subordinate part in place I have ever wandered into. But dome! Cousin Margaret is expecting you, and afraid even yet that you may

be brought in on a litter." He laughed as he followed her toward the door of one of the charming apartments surrounding the gallery, and

paused in the sitting room while she opened the door of the spacious chamber here is your truant. Come and scold

The next instant Derwent saw th slender, black clad form and pale, lovely face of his mother, with a wistful look in the deep blue eyes, as she said, "M boy! is it really you at last!"

> After the first eager questions ha been answered and Mrs. Derwent's and iety somewhat reassured, Derwent foun another surprise in store for him.

"You had no trouble in the journey, hope?" he said. "It was too bad you having had to take it without a mascu

line attendant; for that is something you at least are not accustomed to mamma. Sibyl, now, belongs to the new patch and looked her up. She was very order of independent young ladies-she would start out with a maid to g around the world-but you are of the ancien regime, and I fear that it wa

very disagreeable to you." "Oh, has Sibyl not told you?" sa Mrs. Derwent. "We did not con alone. I confess I should have dislike that very much; though of course, my dearest boy, I would have done that dr

Halbert came with us. It was very kind of him." "Frank Halbert!" repeated Derwent in surprise. Then he threw back his head

and laughed uncontrollably. "Why: you organized a regular relief expedition!" he said. "What a picture you would have made coming to storm Miraflores!"

"You are very ungrateful, Geoffrey." said Miss Lenox. "It may be a laughing and the marvelous charm of the climate, matter to you now, but it was not a laugh- notwithstanding her perennial surprise ing matter when we thought we might at the highly civilized aspect of most find you dying or dead. What could two things around her "Why, this is like women in a strange country have done || Paris!" she exclaimed in her amazement, in that case? One had to think of these when she first saw the Paseo at the things. So it was exceedingly kind of fashionable hour-the roadway thronged

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more in you than I ever imagined for fate to have selected you as the central figure of such a story."

it, Sibyl," said Derwent, "My role was subjective altogether. All the honors belong to Dona Zarifa."

CHAPTER XVL



am in terrible trouble about Sibyl's fortaine

The next few days were full of varied pleasure for the relief expedition, as Derwent still laughingly called the party that had come so far to seek him. Though he had spoken lightly, he was in reality very grateful to Halbert, as well as to Sibyl Lenox, and he was determined to spare no effort to reward them for their kindness. Consequently he worked energetically in arranging expeditions of sight seeing, in organizing all the details which make such expeditions pleasant, and in providing them with many glowing memories of the beautiful Mexican capital to carry away with them. Even Mrs. Derwent enjoyed the novel

and brilliant sights, the picturesque life

of. He knew not what a strain it had about those circumstances. It hardly been to bear his burden alone, and he seems fair to keep you in ignorance. said to himself that, nelped by such friendship, his strength would be "as the Sybil insists that it makes no difference, strength of ten" to redeem his father's but I am not sure"-----"Sibyll" repeated Derwent, staring at honor and justify the confidence placed

the other. He had never known Halbert in his own. so familiar before, for Miss Lenox, though Morning in Mexico is almost always a relative of Mrs. Derwent, was not at what morning must have been in the all related to the young man, who was primal Paradise. Nowhere else, surely, Derweit's cousin on his father's side. | could the world have seemed so entirely "What are you talking about?" he asked. as if it were freshly created and rejoic-"What circumstances have occurred ing in its creation. What floods of sunwhich Sibyl thinks do not concern me!" shine, what lucid skies, what enchant-Halbert smoked for a moment silently ing atmosphere, what buoyant freshness before he answered. Then he turned and of air these mornings bring to the awakfaced his companion directly. "She has ening earth! Merely to be alive seems promised to marry me," he said, "and, joy enough, but, if other joy is added, although she assures me positively to the then the fresh gladness of nature is like contrary, I fear the news will not be the special touch of an exquisite sympleasant to you." pathy.

There was more than a moment's si So it seemed to Derwent when he lence now Derwent felt indeed as if he opened his eyes to the joyous brightness had been most unexpectedly knocked of another day in the land of sunshine; down. This was an event on which he and all the brightness was tenfold enhad not reckoned in calculating the post hanced when the first news that he heard sibility of atoning for his father's wrong on emerging from his apartmentdoing. In all his considerations he had brought by the messenger whom he had never considered the probability that employed to call at the house every day Sibyl might marry before she attained -was that Don Maurizio and his house China. her majority, and thus anticipate the hold had arrived.

CHAPTER XVIL

went." he said

fect blending of worldly polish and frank

cordiality could not have failed to charm

even the least susceptible to the effect of

manner. Sibyl did not hesitate to affirm

Derwent ever afterward declared that

time of settlement; in fact, there can be little doubt that the general opinion of every one about them had led him to fancy that he might marry her himself, if he chose to do so. The blow to his vanity (which really had been very little concerned) was not, however, the cause of his silence. He was overwhelmed by

the terrible necessity of telling Halbert how matters stood. But nighting was more natural than that Halbert should have misunderstood his silence. He said at length, in a low tone, "Geoff. I am more sorry for this than I can say. I feared it would be so, but Sibyl was sure that I was mistaken. She insisted that you never were in love with her. but I knew you could not have been associated with her so closely and fail to be.

"Sibyl is right," said Derwent, rousing himself with an effort. "I suppose it is because we have been associated so close "I will do my best to help you, Mr. Der ly-almost like brother and sister-that never was in love with her, though l know of no girl more altogether worthy his mother simply and absolutely fell in of a man's love. So far as that is conlove with Don Manrizio at first sight cerned you have my heartiest congratu- There could be no doubt that she was as ations: indeed, you have them in any favorably impressed as he could have de But your news has been a shock sired with the handsome man whose per-

am in terrible trouble about Sibyl's



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MINGES **Š** SHALE. XIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIXIX

-and I suspected that he was a scoun drel." he said, alluding to Fernandez "but I never could have itnagined him capable of such dastardly villainy as this. He wrote me that Barrera was certainly accountable for the crime."

"To fasten it on Barrera was his chief object," said Derwent. "By the bye, dc you know how he obtained the bond to that mine?"

· س

Morell had the grace to blush. "I dc not know exactly," he replied; "but] suspect it was in a very unscrupulous manner. He told me that he could bring political pressure to bear. I suppose you think that I bught not to have sance tioned anything of the kind. But our bargain was that he was to get the mines well."

and I was to sell them. I had no business to interfere with his manner of get ting them.

"The receiver of stolen goods might | pale and thin." say as much," observed Derwent, with corn. "A man of honor does not wish to profit by dishonesty in any form. 1 **s**o. tell you frankly that there is not silver enough in all Mexico to tempt me to ouch a mine with a title acquired as that of the Buena Esperanza was." "I hope you do not think that I shall touch it further," said Morell. "Henceforth I shall wash my hands of Senor Fernandez. I might endure cheating, but attempted assassination is a little too much. Here is a carriage. You can drop me at San Francisco street, and you will find your people at the Hotel del during-while all the time he was 'en. Jardin.

"At least the shooting did you one strength in the most satisfactory man- zling whiteness of their eternal snow good turn," he added, as they rolled out of the station gates; "it domesticated said to myself, 'What luck some fellows have!' as soon as I heard of it. And how did you like Dona Zarifa on acquaintance? Odd, wasn't it, our discussing her that day in the Alameda?"

"Did we discuss her?" said Derwent. who had a feeling as if the other took an unwarrantable liberty in even mentioning her name. "I never received greater kindness in my life than from every one at Miraflores. Don Maurizio picked me up in the road, you know. He is a magnificent type-grand seigneur, yet simple, cordial, kind beyond belief. now about Dona Zarifa? Is she as unapproachable as she looks? Or could a man enture to fall in love with her?"

"That would depend entirely upon the man," replied Derwent. "You have heard, no doubt, that fools sometimes rush in where angels fear to tread. I hone that I am at least not duite a fool. she borne the journey?"

He was soon able to answer this ques. your ideal hacienda." tion himself. He had hardly entered within the gilded iron gates of the Hotel del Jardin and taken a few steps along the wide gallery that runs around two sides of the immense quadrangle which incloses the beautiful old garden of the nonastery of San Francisco, when he was met by a tall young lady with frank azel eves and red brown hair, who ut tered a cry and held, out both hands in welcome. "My dear Geoffrey, how delighted I am to see you!" she exclaimed. "And you are really alive and well? What an swful fright you gave us! Are you not shamed?" "My dear Sibyl," Derwent retorted, "are not you ashamed to have let my mother come on such a journey? If you had only believed the explicit statements of my letter"-"But we didn't believe them," she interposed. ""At least your mother did not; she thought you were trying to spare her, and seeing her misery 1 girl! thought the best thing for her to do was her!" to come and satisfy herself. I am certain you would have thought so too if you had been there." No doubt I should!" he answered. Least I should be a wrotch to find fault with so much goodness, especially

Mr. Halbert to accompany us. "It certainly was, uncommonly kind." said Derwent, recovering his gravity,

Halbert is a very good fellow always. Where is he?" "I parted with him near the office just

some inquiries. Ah, here he is!" A handsome man of about thirty, well of parting sunlight flooded the atmosset up, with keen eyes looking out of a phere and the surrounding scene with

refined face, appeared at the partly open amber splendor. door as Miss Lenox spoke. "So here you "Like Paris?" repeated Sibyl. 'Oh. are!" he said, holding out a cordial hand

to Derwent. "It is a satisfaction to see social part of the display may remind you still living, and upon my word. one somewhat of the Champs Elysees young man, I begin to fear this thing and the Bois de Boulogne, but where has been a hoax. You are looking very else in the world will, one find such a setting for a social display as is here?"

"Oh. Frank!" said Mrs. Derwent re-'If it exists I certainly do not know where to find it." said Halbert, looking proachfully, "I do not think so. He is

around at a scené which is indeed almost "I ought to be looking well," said Derwithout parallel in its beauty-the splenwent, "if the best of care could make me did avenue, with its level straightness I have been doing nothing but enbroken at intervals by magnificent circles joying an ideal life and recovering my embellished with heroic groups of statustrength. My wound, however, is not ary, and its long, leafy vista ending in yet healed, and gives me some trouble." the superb mass of the Castle of Chapul-"You must have the best medical adteped, the lovely outspread valley crossed

vice at once," said Mrs. Derwent, while Halbert looked at Sibyl and laughed. "This is pleasant, is it not?" he said. "Think of our anxiety to reach the sufferer, our hurried journey without pause; our eager desire to relieve him from the discomforts he was supposed to be enjoying an ideal life' and recovering his danues towering above, clad in the daz-

ner! I don't know what you may think | Again and again Sibyl thanked Derof our journey to the land of the Monte- went for having provided the cause you in the hacienda of the Ormonds.] zumas, Miss Lenox, but I feel rather ri- which drew them to this fascinating diculous.' land. In the brilliant sunshine of days

"I do not," replied Miss Lenox, loftily. filled with color and fragrance, with "We came to relieve Cousin Margaret's | loiterings in rich, dim churches and loveanxiety and to help her in any need that ly old world cloisters, in plazas filled she might have for us. Of course, inci- with the life of the dark, gentle, courdentally, we should have been glad to teous people, and on marble terraces, behave relieved Geoffrey also"----low which spread the most beautiful of

"But, since Geoffrey has behaved so earthly views, all things painful and disshamefully as not to need relief, you are agreeable seemed to fade into insignifiready to put him aside severely," said cance. Yet, solicitous as he was for the that gentleman smiling, "Come, now, pleasure of others, Derwent could not is that quite fair? I am extremely sorry himself have enjoyed the picturesque that you have taken such a long journey scenes, amid which they wandered had for such an insufficient reason, but I feel he not possessed one underlying con-"Oh, no doubt," said Morell. "But your kindness to my mother more than I sciousness. one constant thought ever can possibly express. And now that you with him. "I shall see her again!" are here don't you think you may find But for that everything would h.ve

something to enjoy?" been a weariness which was now a de "I am sure of it," replied Sibyl franklight. Unly'day by day the longing for ly. "Since our anxiety about you was re- her presence grew more insistent. Now lieved by Mr. Morell's visit yesterday I and then it startled him. Now and then have enjoyed every sight and sound. he roused himself from his dream of ex-Yes, on the whole, we will magnanipectation to ask what he should do when But tell me about my mother. How has mously forgive you for getting well be- the meeting to which he looked forward fore we came. And now tell us all about | so eagerly was over, when there was no get anything to sustain him in "I have only one improvement to sug- hopeless pain of separation." "I shall not gest," said Halbert. "The hacienda is blow out my brains," he would think chapter second. Let us have chapter and that is the only thing of which first + the whole authentic account of the am certain. I shall live; i shall work, shooting, with the cause thereof." Derwent hesitated for a moment. used to it, as one does grow used to all Should he tell the whole or only part of forms of suffering; but beyond that that story? Nothing would have induced cannot look. Nor will I look. She is him to mention Dona Zarifa's name in coming. I shall see her, I shall touch connection with the final tragedy when her hand and meet her eyes again, and peaking of it to Morell, but these were that is chough." his nearest friends and relatives. Was it not right that he should let them know prise, amounting to a shock, in store for the full greatness of his obligations? Sc him. he told the whole story, and never was Mrs. Derwent and Sibyl having retired narrative listened to with more rapt at-tention. Three pairs of widening eyes Halbert and himself were smoking towere fastened on his face as he spoke, gether in the sitting room of the former. and when he finished Mrs. Derwent fairly The door was open, partly for the balmy broke into sobs. "Oh, my dear," she cried, "what can we ever do to show our gratitude to garden always present at night-the those kind people? They have saved graceful encircling galleries lighted brilyour life twice over. And that heroic | lightly with incandescent electric lights, How I long to see and thank and the rich tropical foliage of the gar

with handsome equipages. which rolled down the wide avenue fit for the tri to me for an altogether different reason. umphal progress of an emperor, with "and I beg your pardon for laughing. Hashing wheels, gleaming harness, high fortune.' stepping horses and all the outward paraphernalia of luxury and wealth, or paused for a few minutes in the superb before I met you. He went in to make circle, where a band was filling the air

by the gray arches of an aqueduct that

dates from the Conquest, the picturesque

mass of the city's towers and domes, and

against the eastern sky the wonderful

mountain ranges, wearing such divinely

lucid tints of color as no pen or brush

can ever describe or reproduce, with the

majestic summits of the two great vol-

"Geoffrey!" "Yes; that is why I am here. When 1 that she had never before seen so princelooked into my father's affairs after his | ly a man, and that the admirable results death I found, to my horror, that he had of a wound in the shoulder were daily with melody, just as the long, level rays used Sibyl's money in an unjustifiable becoming more apparent to her. Don

manner Of course he intended to re Maurizio, on his part, was evidently place it-it happened. unfortunately, to much pleased with Derwent's friendsbe in a temptingly convenient form-but with Mrs. Derwent's delicate refinement death overtook him, as it has overtaker and Sibyl's spirited charm. He was no! Paris is tame compared to this. The many another man, before he could re most courteously prompt in paying his pair what he had done. You may not respects, accompanying Derwent, who have known that he was concerned in lost no time in seeking him, back to the several unlucky speculations during the hotel for that purpose. His daughter, last years of his life."

he said, would give herself the pleasure "I suspected it," said Halbert. "In of ealling later, and hoped the ladies fact, it was whispered once or twice that would drive with her on the Paseo that he was very hard hit. But when noth afternoon. "For myself," he said, " ing seemed to come of it I forgot the sometimes take out an English dogcart, rumors. Geoff, my poor fellow, this and if either or both of you gentlemen is awful! How does his own fortune will accept a seat with me, I shall be stand? very happy." Both invitations were ac-

"Very much impaired: so much that cepted, and waiving Mrs. Derwent's renewed thanks for her son's great debt of when I make good the loss of Sibyl's for kindness, the stately haciendado bowed tune my mother will be very straitened in means. It was to save her from this himself away.

But if Don Maurizio had awakened enand also to save my father's honor, that] thusiasm in the breasts of these explorintended trying to replace what had been lost during the time that remains of ers from the states what can be said of Sibyl's minority. I decided that my best the effect which Dona Zarifa produced, with her surpassing beauty enhanced by chance to make money quickly was here: so I came-with what result thus fai a toilet fresh from the hands of the most you know. consummate artist in Paris? Derwent, who had found that he could not trust

"You have not been here very long." said Halbert. "One failure signifier himself to speak of her, had said very nothing. How have you been impressed little of her personal charms, and so by the possible chances?" Sibyl's eyes turned upon him with a

"I have been very well impressed. look of amazement and interrogation There is no place in the world, I am which almost provoked him to laughter. sure, where it is possible for the invest-"What did you mean by not preparing ment of a little capital to produce such us for such a vision as this?" the look said. And indeed that perfect face, large results | But time is needed to ac complish these results." framed by a hat which was a mass of

"That is the case everywhere. Only soft, curling plumes, was enough to provoke the inquiry. Yet to Derwent's in dreams are fortunes realized in a day. Well, my dear fellow, so far as I am con- eves nothing could ever frame it so well cerned-and I know I can answer for as the graceful Spanish drapery in which Sibyl-the time is yours. Neither she he had seen it first, although he was nor I will demand what has been lost, glad that these critical feminine eyes because we are well assured that you should behold his princess in all the will repay it to the last farthing as soon bravery of modern picturesque costum. as you are able. Only take care that you | ing.

Great is the effect of wealth. Who do not risk more than you can afford in does not know this? Yet, to a nature

"I shall take care," said Derwent, "for not readily or deeply impressed by the accidents of life its wonderful effect is a cannot afford to lose anything, and nothing is so near my heart as the paystanding marvel which custom cannot ment of this debt. Frank, you are a true stale. Derwent said to himself that i Dona Zarifa had been stripped of every friend; 1 can never forget how you have accessory of fortune her noble beauty taken this! I have no words with which and still more noble character would to thank you, but I feel it more deeply have been none the less evident to him, than I can say,"

"You have no reason to thank me," and none the less adorable in his eyes replied the other. "Merely as man to Perhaps he was right-though the test man could I do less when I have the utwould be a severe one, even for a loverthat you are anxious to repair what is to find such eyes in others. There was no fault of yours? Besides this, my nothing surprising in the fact that Mrs. uncle's good name is almost as dear to Derwent was more struck by the surroundings of the young heiress than by me as it is to you. I can never fail to remember that he put me on my feet her remarkable loveliness. The luxurions carriage which awaited them. with when I was young and struggling. For the rest, it is not Sibyl's fortune that l its handsome horses, liveried servants, have sought in seeking her, though of and every appointment perfect as if for Hyde Park, brought home to her more course it will be my duty to see that it vividly than all of Derwent's words the is not thrown away. If it were legitiposition and wealth of the people with mately lost, however, I should not whom his good fortune had associated nourn. We can do without it." "You shall not need to do without it." him. As he passed the equipage on the said Derwent. "Your faith and confi-Paseo, Derwent could not but smile at the expression of his mother's face as dence give me fresh courage. There are many more mines in Mexico besides the she lay back on the softly cushioned seat, regardir with a look of perfect satisfaction the orilliant scene of which Blena Esperanza, and, God helping me. one of them shall yield back all that has been lost of Sibyl's fortune." she was a part. "And something for yourself, too. He was not surprised that, when they hope," said Halbert, smiling. met at dinner, Sibyl's enthusiastic ad-Not for a long time had sleep been so miration overflowed all verbal bounds. sweet to Derwent as it was that night. "She is simply the most beautiful creature that I have ever seen!" she said. The consciousness of his cousin's friend ship so quiet, so undemonstrative, but referring to Zarifa. "I really did nothing so sincere, when tried by the test most but stare at her; for she is a perfect picture of loveliness. And when her difficult to man seemed to revive his eyes light up, and she makes that faswhole nature like strong wine. The cinating little Mexican salutation with faith that believed so firmly in his honor and the sympathy that fait with him in his trouble, may him that comfort which

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"I, too, have a great desire to see the girl," observed Halbert.

"I would go across Mexico to see her!" cried Sibyl. "Happy creature! to be able to do heroic things, not dream of stances that make everything seem so them! Geoffrey, my respect for you has mchanting. And, by the bye, Geoffrey, a source in the source of the over grateful to increased. There must be something I fiel that I ought to tell you something

and perhaps after awhile I shall grow But before she came there was a sur-It occurred one evening when,

the pursuit of it."

air, partly that they might enjoy the fairvlike scene which the hotel and its den fully revealed in the white radiance. 'I have never been in a place that charmed me so much as this," said Halbert. after a pause of some length. do not think it is the peculiar circum-

the fingers, she is atterly bewitching Geoffrey, Fryce ster by steres with you

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