

The Firebrand.

By S. R. CROCKETT.

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Ramon Garcia, known as El Sarria, having been induced to believe that his wife, Dolores, is unfaithful, stabs a village top, Rafael Flores, whom he finds presumably klesing Dolores through the window. His estates are confiscated and he becomes a hunted man. At the same time a young Bootch adventurer, Rollo Blair, comes is alunted man. At the same time a young Bootch adventurer, an Englishman. The two start to visit Don Baitasar, augot of the monastery of Montblanch. Blair and Mortimer are entertained laviship by the abbot, and meet Ettenne St. Pierre, a French gallant who is studying for holy orders. These three, with El Sarria, who has found protection at the monastery, are commissioned by the abbot to capture the queen regent and her little daughter in the interests of the church. Enrouse for the camp of Cubrera, the Carlist general, they pass the home of El Sarria, who learns that Dolores was not false to him and that his downfall was plotted by Luis Fernandez. Dolores is imprisoned in Luis home and the son to whom she has just given birth is about to be burled alive by Luis brother. Tomas, when El Sarria falls upon him. El Sarria rescues his child and takes it to the Convent of the Holy Innocents, where Concha is also staying. Then, aided by Rollo Blair and his companions, he captures Fernandez home and rescues his wife. Helsir and his comrades, captured by Gen-Rollo Blair and his companions, he cap-tures Fernandes' home and rescues his wife. Blair and his comrades, captured by Gen-eral Cabrers, cannot prove their sympathy with the Carlist cause herause Blair was forced to leave his credentials at the con-vent as security for Delores. They are sentenced to be shot at daybreak. Concha arrives from the convent with credentials, saves their lives and later joins Blair's party in search of the queen regent. The adventurers learn that the queen regent a court at San liderense has scattered be-cause of the black plague and Cardono and La Giralda are sent forward to reconnecter. They learn that a hand of gypstes are plan-ning to raid the castle, and Rollo hustens They learn that a hand of gypeles are planning to raid the eastle, and Robo hastens to the rescue of the royal party. Robo hastens to the rescue of the royal party. Robo and party barricade the palace, res.st. the gypeles, who succeed, however, in capturing the Princess Isabel. Robo rescues Isabel and starts with her for the hermiliage, which is threatened by gypey brigands, and bodles of plague victims are posted as sentinels. Robo, aided by Concha, restores the princess to the queen, and is betrothed to Concha.

(Copyright, 1901, S. S. McClure Co.) CHAPTER XL -(Continued.)

And the girl stood before him almost ere his voice had ceased to echo along the corridors. Silent she waited his pleasure. For this time it was not Rollo, upon whose had called her, but Coionel Rollo Blair, the chief of the expedition of which she was an insignificant part.

'You are armed?" he queried, as she followed him within the door, and her quick eyes took in the scene.

The girl nodded a little resentfully. Surely it was a superfluous question: An Andalusian maiden, whose lover's life is in danger every hour, always goes armed.

"Then," said Rollo, firmly, "you will accompany this gentleman to the apartments of the queen regent. You will permit him ten minutes' private convergation with her majesty in your presence. You will then accompany him back. During his absence he is not to lay his hand upon any weapon, have any personal contact with the queen or open any drawer, cabinet or case of arms. Also, he is to return with you as soon as you inform him that the time allotted is at an end. Here is my watch!"

"And if the senor should refuse to comply with any of these demands?" suggested "He will not refuse," answered Rollo,

"but if the thing should happen, why, you have full discretion. You understand?" Concha nodded, and her lips, ordinarily so sweet and yielding, firmed themselves with determination. She understood. So did Munoz. "You do not need to say more," she said,

clearly, "I am an Andalusian!" Rollo turned to Munoz.

"You have heard," he said, "treachery will do you no good and may, indeed, suddenly deprive her reigning majesty of the inestimable consolation of your companionship. Be good enough to accompany this young lady, sir. In ten minutes I shall expect your return with a favorable answer. Permit them to pass, Don Ramon!"

But the consort of Queen Regent Maria Christina fingered his chin uncertainly without moving and Rollo's brow darkened ominously, while the sergeant began to look hopeful. Neither were in the mood to put up calmly with any refusal or hesitation.

"I am quite willing-nay, even anxious to oblige you," said Munoz. "I would gladly undertake the commission, but-!" He stopped as if searching for words, still, however, rubbing his chin.

"But what?" thundered Rollo. The blood of the fighting Blairs was rising.

Well, to put the matter plainly, I have never appeared before her majesty in this condition before. You would not have me go as 1 am?"

"In what condition?" cried the Scot in great astonishment. "Unshaven and with my hair undressed. That idiot there (pointing to the trembling

valet) spilt the water just when you came "Nay." laughed Rollo, much relieved that there was to be no shedding of blood, "indeed you must forgive him for that. El Sarria there is entirely to blame. And on this occasion I trust that her most Catholic

majesty will pardon the informality of your appearance. You can point out to her as the amtassador of others who were some- haughty stare. what overearnest in persuading you. I am sure that my two friends here will share with me the very serious responsibility of your unshaven chin." "That I shall not fail to represent to her

majesty," said the duke, bowing imperturbably.

And without any further objections went cut, followed by Concha. And that young woman, with all that weight of responsibility, swelling in pride under the crossed folds of her rebozo, did not vouchsafe even so much as a glance at Rollo. but passed her commanding officer with eyes like those of a rear-rank man on parade, fixed immovably on the broad back her discretion to the uttermost, should any cells, where, for your inscience you ought treachery be intended-aye, or even the ap- to be lying this moment!"

During their absence the remaining quartet in the chamber of Don Fernando Munoz held their ground without a word of mutual orders and to induce your highness to place converse. Rollo stared out of the window and listened to the slamming of doors and the far-away murmur of voices in the direction of the royal apartments.

In a straining silence, acute, almost to breaking point, they waited. Yet somevehemently debating, then a bass mutter of masculine argument, a quick | him his cue. stamp, distinctly feminine, upon the floor, then the slamming of a door and on the mediate direction of the holy father himback of that the sound of returning foot-

steps. "The queen refuses to receive you... I am your sins." sorry to inform you, gentlemen," said the

*****\$ | majesty I was unable (as, indeed, I anticipated), to effect anything to the purpose." Rollo turned to Concha without wasting

words on his former ambassador. "Return to the queen's chamber." he said. and inform her majesty that we will wait her pleasure here for another ten minutes. And, if by the end of that time we are not honored by a visit from her majesty, we shall most rejuctantly and with all respect be compelled to shoot Senor Fernando Munoz, whose person we hold as a hostage for her majesty's complaisance in the affair we have undertaken. We can waste no more time.

Concha's lips became more rigid than They looked as if they never would, should or could be kissed. June berself, passing sentence upon the partner of great Jove's latest transgression, could not have appeared more inflexibly stern.

But she only saluted, turned on her heel like a drill sergeant, and marched out by the side door.

In these trying circumstances the duke or Rianzares showed an unexpected and wholly admirable caim. He leaned against the mantelpiece, glanced once at the ormulu timeplece with the address of a Paris maker below the winding holes and fel again to fingering his unshaven chin. He then turned quickly toward the trembling valet, who regarded him with eyes which seemed to apologize for such unprecedented ircumstances. "There would have been time to shave

me, even yet." he said, "only that you were fool enough to spill the shaving water. Then, as if relinquishing hope, he sighed again and fell listlessly to regarding him-

welf in the mirror. The sergeant muttered to himself once or twice, as if making mental note of an

important fact which he desired to remem

"All dandles are not cowards!" was what he was saying.

CHAPTER XLL.

Rollo Uses a Little Persuasion.

Five, six, seven, eight of the ten slow It is our intention to place you and her in minutes passed away and beyond a glance a place of safety-" love for her the new sun had risen, who at the clock and a more absorbing interest in the furze on his chin Senor Munoz had not moved. The seconds hand upon the tion. clock on the mantel shelf was crawling round its miniature dial for the ninth time with vast apparent deliberation when a noise was heard from the direction of the queen's apartments.

There was a rapid gabble of tongues, a scurry of foctsteps, the hissing rustle of stiff silken skirts along narrow passages and a veice which exclaimed more and more shrilly: "The murderers! The cowards! Surely they will never dare! Have they forgotten that I am queen."

And with these words Maria Christina of Naples burst like a whirlwind into the If your majesty will consent to accompany room. Her long black hair streamed down us at once and without parley Don Ferher back. Her little daughter followed, a comb still in the hand with which she had been struggling to take the place of Dona Susana, who, as before related, had gone to visit her relations. After these two Concha followed, in ap-

pearance caim and placid as the windless Mediterranean on a day of winter.

threw himself upon one knee. The rest of the company bowed with grace or awkwardness, according to their several abilities. but the queen regent did not heed them She flew instantly to her busband and raised him in her arms. "Fernando!" she cried, "what is this I

hear? Did they threaten to kill you if I do not grant them an interview? Well, here am Let them slay me instead. What have you to say to me, gentlemen and cowards? What I have to say to you is that I hope you may not live to repent having used such compulsion with a woman

Rollo bowed again very low, and was about to speak when the queen interrupted. "And as for this humsy," she cried, turning upon Concha, "if I had my way she should be indicted for witchcraft and burnt alive at the stake, as in the good times of the holy office! Yet you, Pernando, for whom I daily risk my life, you defended her-yes, defended her to my very face!"

"Beloved and most honored," said the duke, soothingly, "I did but suggest that it would be better to convert the girl-to make a good Christian of her-" "Yes-yes," cried the queen, stamping her

you would like to be her father confessor?" "Certainly I did not, most gracious one," answered her husband, soothingly. "You no more than that many might be anxious exit from life. to obtain the office of father confessor, being, as it were, eager to take the credit for the restoration of so notable a penitent." But Rollo had small patience with the

bickerings of royal lovers at such a time. "I must crave your majesty's strict and instant attention," he said, suddenly drop- that time it was judged most safe that the for a moment, if, as I anticipate, I receive Garcia and the sergeant. Rollo, with a your consent to what I have the honor of proposing to you."

At once the jealous woman froze into a queen and fronted the young man with a pulsions of love and war had compelled him

"Your majesty," he began, "I do no dwell upon their services of the past night. though certainly Etlenne grew a little red They are known to you. Had it not been for my friends it is probable that no one of your party would at this moment have been left alive. Now, the day is passing and nobility, courage, fidelity and every other plants ceased Moncayo shone red as blood you are no eafer than you were last night. It is necessary, therefore, that you put yourself unreservedly under the escort and protection of myself and friends. W. must leave La Granja at once."

"Never!" cried Maria Christina, flercely. 'Am I, the queen regent of Spain, to be thus badgered and commanded? I have never suffered it since I left my father's house at Naples! A boy and a foreigner of Senor Munoz. As soon as they were shall not be the first. My royal guards alone, however, she moved up alongside, will assuredly be here in an hour at the fingering her pistol butt significantly. For latest. The roads will be cleared and as this little Concha was quite resolved to use for you-you shall all be safe in prison

> said Rollo, gravely, "I deeply regret that I am obliged to use the only means that are open to me to fulfil my herself in safety."

"And, pray," cried Maria Christina, indignantly, "from whom can you have orders to place a queen of Spain in restraint?" In a moment Rollo realized that it was

impossible for him to reveal his position as thing of the epic's argument came to them | an officer of the Carlist armies, but a foreven at that distance-a shrill woman's tunate remembrance of some words dropped by the Abbot of Montblanch instantly gave

"I act." he said, calmly, "under the imself-at whose feet, in the Vatican at Rome you shall one day kneel to ask pardon for

This unexpected reply seemed to agitate house." "That I did my best, this woman the queen regent, who, though forced to will bear me witness. But having had no create herself a party out of the men of

something in her car.

believe it, even from you!"

"I regret," said Rollo, "that your highress must be compelled to believe it. Pray do me the honor of following my argument. The holy father judges it necessary for the peace of the realm, and you own soul's profit, that you should be placed in a situthe utmost difficulty and after several failation where you may be able to act more ures that Rollo managed to exchange a in accordance with what he knows to be your secret desires for the welfare of the word with his sweetheart. church, of which he is God's vice regent on earth. Rollo was glad to reflect that in uttering

sonorous phrases of Don Baltazar Varela, sionsion in his own chamber at Mont- greedy for the first time in her life of her

But the lady chiefly concerned continued her guard would appear in a few hours, and with them her father's confessor, who would inform her how to reply to any genuine message from his holiness. Gregory not be moved.

to me. Your company and that of your farm house.

senor's courage, I am pained to declare

nando may do so also. But if not, since

we have not force sufficient to deal with

additional prisoners on such a journey, it

will be my unhappy duty to order the

A shrick from the queen nunctuated the

"In that case," said the ex-guardsman,

Rollo bade the valet bring his master

In addition to the queen's mule and the

presently to be mounted by Munoz, so soon,

that is, as the rest of the party should re-

gain the steeds they had left behind at the

deserted farmhouse on the hill. But till

wandering eye toward Concha and the

queen, walked and talked with Etienne and

John Mortimer, whom of late the joint com-

But these good fellows bore no malice

have always said so yourself, you know."

house. I wender if we shall find our horses

Here Etienne laughed sardonically for no

"I am in hopes that they will be fed and

we must let them have a feed of corn, too,

La Giralda, who had been leading the

queen's white mule, at that moment gave

up her post to Concha and fell back in

order to whisper something to the sargeant.

"Ah," said he aloud, as roon as he had

listened to her, "that is well thought on.

It falls out well. La Giralda and I have a

little business of our own to attend to.

which may occupy us a few minutes. With

your leave, colonel, we will go on ahead

ception. From what La Giralad tells me.

So the queen regent, with Concha in at-

refreshed," continued Rollo, imperviously;

"But yonder is the farm-

remewhat to neglect.

added Etlenne significantly.

pretty.

little hastily.

eason at all.

as we left them?"

before they start."

gentleman's instant execution.

hardly yet believing in the reality of

him to kneel and prepare for death.

It is not soldierly!"

me my beloved Fernando."

self-respect.

hitherto been silent, stooped and whispered airy and with a roof of stone arched like able to bring them safely within the lines of Thus in a moment was Rollo toppied from the vaults of a fortress, had been prepared | Vera. strapped and laid on piles of straw for the close he burst out with an oath. ladies to rest upon-that is, for her majesty and Queen Maria Christina-Concha being one of the comity and little Isabel dancing everywhere after her as her inseparable slave. So constant was the com-

"You have been very brave," he whispered. "I should have failed but for you!" Concha blushed hot with a swift pleasure these words he was only repeating the but on this occasion her usual readiness of speech seemed to have deserted her, and when the abbot delivered him his commis- she stood silent, like a tongue-tied maid.

Before either could speak again the serobdurate. She would not budge an inch. geant was back to report that La Giraida She professed and absolute certainty that and he had dinner ready for the party. "You must not expect much." he said:

own praise.

may, with safety, be cooked." But, indeed, in such weather there was | waited a long time for this pleasure." the Sixteenth. Further than that she could need of nothing better than the arroz con | Munoz did not answer in words, but as pollo-the chicken with rice, together with before preserved his imperturbable de-'In that case," said the young man, "I the abundant gaspache, for the first of meanor. His half contemptuous dignity of will not conceal it from your higness that which he had found the materials in the bearing, which had irritated even Rollo. considerable discretion has been granted store chamber and barnyard of the deserted seemed to have the power of exciting Ca-

daughter we must have upon our journey. The sergeant's hurridly prepared lunch | "Colonel," he cried, "I relieve you of

like all the Bourbons, a convinced and even delighting in the unexpected excursion, and if it be at all convenient I should be to an unworthy son! Take them away! I bigoted religionary. But Munoz, who had found that a large barn and granary, cool, glad of an additional escort that I may be will hear so more!

"How am I to be convinced of that?" she for them. The borses of the party had The brow of General Cabrera had been such to a young man is the hope of im- with the exception of his Dolores no woman eried, turning on him dercely. "I will not been fed and watered. Cloaks had been un- darkening during this speech and at the mediate success. He cursed the hour that was to be trusted. If not at heart a rake,

regent of Spain. I have heard of a certain Montblanch and the day on which he ac- and seek Rollo, when Concha suddenly light-o'-love calling herself Maria Chris- cepted a commission from men without spoke. tina, widow of the late King Pernando the honor or humanity. He was indeed almost Seventh. And if this be indeed the lady in case to do himself a hurt, and both panionship of these two that it was with and her brat, we of the true opinion Concha and the sergeant watched him with owe you. Don Rollo, a debt of gratitude solicitude during the remainder of the which shall not be easily repaid, for she afternoon as he wandered disconsolately and hers have troubled the peace of this about the little camp, twirling his muscountry much and long. Of which now, by tache and clanking Killiecrankie at his San Nicholas, there shall be an end."

As he spoke he ran his eyes along the line to where Munoz rode behind his mistress. "And the tail gentleman with the polished whiskers? Who may be be?" he cried, some of the bourgeois folk of Aranda and a yet more angry fire gilttering in his eyes. there, by an unexpected act of grace and

"At last, estanco keeper!" cried Cabrera. face. "I, Ramon Cabrera of Tortosa, have

brera to the point of fury.



"I WILL SHOOT THESE THREE PRISONERS TOMORROW AT SUNRISE."

was a prodigious success. close of this speech—one of the longest that | dust of the farmyard upon his arrival.

Rollo had ever made. But the queen, reited. He had succeeded heyond expects. successful accomplishment of his mission. His plan was to proceed by unfrequented permit me to put on a decent coat. A paths, such as were, however, perfectly man ought not to die in a dressing gown. familiar to his adjutant, Sergeant Cardono, along the northern slopes of the Guadarrama till he should be able to look out what he wanted and presently the duke of across the fertile plain of the Duero to-Rianzares, in his best uniform, found himward the mural front of the Sierra de

self in a position to die with credt and Moncayo. Thence, by forced marches across the But so unexpected was the nerve and valley, undertaken at night, he might hope resoluton of the queen that it was only in two stages at most to put his charges when the duke had been bidden kneel down under the care of General Elio, the immedietween the halves of a French window ate representative of Don Carlos, who had which opened out upon a balcony that established his headquarters there. Small Christina, flinging dignity finally to the wonder that Rollo grew excited. The winds, fell upon his neck and cried to her worst was over-the myriad adventures, the "Take me where you wsh. Do perilous passes, the thousand enemies with me what you will. Only preserve to Now the plains lay before him and-Concha loved him

In less than an hour the whole party was If only this weight of responsibility were on its way. The queen regent was mounted once off his mind-ah, then! on a white mule which had been brought in Foor Rollo! And, indeed, poor humanfrom the hill pastures above El Mar. Be- kind in general. How often the wind fails hind came Piebald Pedro's donkey, with a to a breeze, heat-tempering, grateful, which basket chair strapped upon its back for the comes in fits and starts, not severe enough little princess, who was in high give, hold- to chill, yet long enough to cool the body.

ing Concha's hand and singing for gladness wearled by the summer heats, with a sense foot, "but did you not add that in that case to be done with La Granja. The sergeant of grateful relief. and El Sarria walked one on each side of And it is precisely in the teeth of such Senor Munoz, who, by suggestion of Rollo, a gentle breathing, cheek-fanning earthhad assumed a coat less decorative than wind that the thunderstorm comes riding mistook my meaning. All that I said was that in which he had proposed to make his up overhead, its flanks black and ragged with rain and flerce spurts of hail, and in the midst the white desolating lightnings donkey, the sergeant led a horse which was zigzagging to the ground.

CHAPTER XLII.

A Snare Not Spread in Vain.

The town of Aranda lay to the left ping all ceremony. "I will only detain you queen's consort should walk between Ramon perched high above them, on the slopes of the Sierra de Moncayo. Rollo looked past the crumbling gray turrets of the little fortalice and over the juniper-and-thyme covered foothills to the red peaks of the Sierra. From the point at which they stood Moneayo fronted them like a lion surprised at the mouth of his lair, that raises his head haughtily to view the rash trespassers on his domain.

when Rollo, with the frankness that dis-The lower slopes of the mountains were tinguished his every word and action. awny yellow like the lion's fell, but from launched into enthusiastic praise of the virtue characteristic of la Senorita Concha. in the level rays of the setting sun. "There-there," thought Rollo, "I have

"In addition to which she is very pretty," it almost in hand now. Beyond that far-Rollo stopped with the semi-indignant air extending flank lie Vera and the headf a horse pulled up short in full career, quarters of General Elio!" But in a moment he had recovered himself. They were riding easily, debouching "Yes," he said, doggedly, "she is very slowly and in single file out of the defiles

with which the country was cut up. The "Not that you are a man to care for sergeants and Rollo were leading, when beauty-you never were," persisted Eti. as they issued out upon the opener counenne, with a side look at Mortimer. "You try, all suddenly they heard -themselves called upon peremptorily to halt, at the "No, I never did care," Rollo agreed, a peril of their lives.

'Whom have we here? Ah, our certificated Englishman! And in his company-whom ?" The speaker was a dark-haired man of

active figure and low stature, whose eyes twinkled in his head. He was dressed in the full uniform of a Carlist general. About him rode a brilliant staff, and from behind bred or with milky sediment on standing. every rock and out of every deep gully-cleft peered the muzzle of a rifle with just one black eye peering from under the white Basque boing or the red one of Navarre. And for the third time Rollo Blair, out upon his adventures, had come face to face with General Don Ramon Cabrera of Tortora.

Yet it was with glad relief in his heart that Rollo instantly rode up to Cabrera and, having saluted, thus began his report: "I and arrange matters for the queen's re- have the honor, general, to report that I have been fortunate enough to induce her may be as well to avoid entering the majesty, the queen regent of Spain, and her daughter, the young Queen Isabel, to place themselves under my protection. I am protendance and the little Isabel riding de- ceeding with them to the headquarters of opportunity of private conference with her liberal opinions in her realm, was at heart | murely alongside on her diminutive donkey. General Elio, according to my instructions,

I your charge. You have done well. I am The great folk partook as heartily as the equal in rank of General Elio, and there any, and (perhaps owing to their extreme is no need that you should convoy this youth) the pollos tasted much more tender party to his camp. I will assume the full than could have been expected, considering charge-yes, and responsibility. By the the fact that the sergeant had found them holy St. Vincent, I promised them twenty industriously pecking and scratching in the for one when they slew my mother in the square of the Barbican. But I knew not Rollo ate but little, for he was intensely from how evil a vine-stock I should gather second vintage. A poor commandant's threats, still held out. As for Munoz, he tion so far and now he was beginning to wife from a petty Valentian fort was the said no word until Rollo abruptly ordered see his way past all entanglements to the best I could do for them at the time. But now-the mother of Ramon Cabrera shall be atoned for in such a fashion as shall make the world sit dumb!" While Cabrera was speaking Ramon grew

slowly chili and then ice-cold with horror. "Sir," he said, his voice suddenly hoarse and broken, "surely you do not realize what you are saying. These ladies are under my protection. They have committed themselves to my care under the most sacred and absolute pledges that their lives would be respected. The same is the case with regard to Senor Munoz. It is absolutely necessary that I should place them under the care of General Elio as the personal representative of the king!" "I have already told you, sir,"

Cabrera, furiously, "that I am of equal rank with any Elio or other general in the armies of Don Carles. Have not I done more than any other? Was it not I who carried my command to the gates of Madrid? Aye, and had I been left to myself I should have succeeded in cutting off that fox Mendizabal. Now, however, I am absolutely independent, owing authority to no man, save to the king alone. It is mine to give or to withhold, to punish or to pardon. Therefore I, General Ramon Cabrera, having sworn publicly to avenge my mother. when, where and how I can, solemnly declare that as a further retaliation I will shoot these three prisoners tomorrow at sunrise, even as Nogueras, the representative of this woman who calls herself queen regent of Spain, shot down my innocent another man's beast!" mother for the sole crime of giving birth

heels with so flerce an air that even Cabrera's officers, no laggards on the field, kept prudently out of his way.

The royal party had been disposed in a small house, a mere summer residence of That, General Cabrera," said Rollo at the special supplication of the sergeaut.

there is little available for the pot, which riding forward as if to strike Munoz on the sergeant did not resume his duties in the rillo. And as if reminded of a duty El Sarcamp of Cabrera. The troop to which he ria rolled a beauty as he dragged one huge barely escaped from a strong force under ing in the breeze, her basquina held co-Espartero near the walls of Madrid itself quettishly in one hand, and the prettiest by showing the cleanest of heels possible. toss of the head for the benefit of any unreproved to the party of Rollo, which ward like a young roe. by himself, in gloomy converse with a heart | mountain side Ramon Garcia pitled him. into whose dark secrets at no time could his life Ramon Cabrera's love for a mother temporarily insane.

Deprived of La Giralda and judging that Rollo was in no mood to be spoken with Concha Cabezos took refuge in the society of El Sarria. That stalwart man of few words, though in the days of her lightheartedness quite careless of her wiles, and, indeed, unconscious of them, was in way strongly attached to her. He loved the girl for the sake of her devotion to Dolores as well as because of the secret preference which all grave and silent men have for the winsome and gay.

'This butcher of Tortosa," she said in a never do the thing he threatens. Not even

possible likeness. Concha and he sat at summer evening. some distance above the camp and El Sarria nent target a few yards beneath them. "I think he will," said Ramon Garcia,

and the very devil in his cups. Beeides, maiden's glance was so sprightly and her who am I to plame him-is there not the lips so provokingly pouted is a question matter of his mother? Had it not been Do. hard enough to be propounded for the doclores-well, I would have shot half a dozen torial thesis at Salamanca. For Ramon royal families!"

"for he hath taken it in his head that the if he chewed the cud. Still he was not queen and her husband trusted themselves even in these matters so dull and unobto his word of honor." Ramon Garcia shook his head sadly.

Rollo's, Dolores Garcia might at this mo. ing his girths!" ment have been in the hands of Luis Fer- And El Sarria laughed out suddenly and nandez!"

And El Sarria laughed out suddenly and sardonically. For he could see the lad

"Aye, or dead-" said Concha, "she would pulling his leathern belt a few holes tighter never have lived in the clutches of the evil. in order that he might present his most hearted! I know her better. But, Don Ra- symmetrical figure to the eyes of this dazmon, what can we, who owe him so much, zling Andalusian witch who had dropped do for our Don Rollo?"

"Why-what is there to do?" said Ramon, with a lift of his eyebrows, "here in the camp of Cabrera we are watched, followed. suspected. Do you see that fellow yonder with the smartly set obina? He is a miller' son from near Vitoria in Alava. Well, he hath been set to watch that none of us leaves the camp unattended. I will wager that if you and were to wander out fifty yards farther, yonder lad would be after us in a trice!" "Ah!" said Concha in a brown study.

Yes-he is not at all a bad-looking boy and thinks excessively well of himself-like cried come others I could mention. Now, El Sarria, can you tell me in which direction lies Vera, the headquarters of General Elio?" "That can I'" said El Sarria, forgetting his caution. And he was about to turn him about and point it out with his hand when Concha stopped him.

"The miller's son is craning his neck to look," she whispered, "do not point. Turn WORLD FAMOUS MARIANI TONIO about slowly, and the third stone you throw let it be in the direction of Vera!"

El Sarria did as he was bid, and after the third he continued to project stones Vera-ward, explaining as he did so: yonder reddish clef the road goes, a hound path, a mere goat's slide, but it is the directest road. There is open ground to the very foot of the ascent. Many is the time I have ridden there, God forgive me, on times a day.

of Men.

lighted continually upon the handsome young Vitorian in the red boins, lifted again sharply and sought the ground. At that highest pinnacle of happiness, for El Sarria sighed and decided montally that he had entered the bloodthirsty land of she was by nature a flirt. And so he was "I know no such person as the queen Spain. He curred his visit to the abbey of about to leave Concha to her own devices

"Don Ramon," she said, "shall we walk a few hundred yards up the mountains away from the camp and see if we are really being watched?"

El Sarria smiled grimly to himself and rose. The strategem was really, he thought, too transparent, and his impression was strengthened when Concha presently added: 'I will not ask you to remain if you would rather go back. Then we will see whom they are most suspicious of, you or I. A girl may often steal a horse when a man dares not look over the walt."

In the abstract this was incontestable, but El Sarria only smiled the more grimly. quietly, "Is his excellency the duke of Rian- La Giralda had been permitted to wait upon After all. Dolores was the only woman upon whose fidelity one would be justified To the secret satisfaction of Rollo the in wagering the last whin of a good cigabelonged had been left behind to watch the foot after another slowly up the hill in the movements of the enemy, for Cabrerra had | rear of Concha, who, her love-locks spray-Cardono, therefore, still attached himself whom it might concern, went leaping up-

camped a little apart. A guard of picked All the while Rollo was sitting below men was, however, placed over the quarters quite unconscious of this display. His head of the royal family. This Cabrera saw to was sunk in his hand. Deep melancholy himself and then sullenly withdrew into brooded in his heart. He rocked to and fro his tent for the night to drink aguardiente as if it pain. Looking down from the

"Ah, poor, innocent young man," any man enter. It is indeed the most char- thought; "doubtless he believes that the itable supposition that at this period of heart of this girl is all his own. But all men are fools-a butterfly is always a butmost cruelly murdered had rendered him terffy and an Andaluse an Andaluse to the day of her death." Then turning his thoughts backward, he

remembered the many who had taken their turn with mandelin and guitar at the relas of Concha's window when he and Dolores lived outside the village of Sarria, and he (ab. thrice fool:) had taken it into his thick head to be jealous.

Weil, after all, this was none of his business, he thanked the saints. He was not responsible for the vagaries of pretty young women. But with the corner of an eye more accustomed to the sun glinting on ow voice to Ramon Garcia, "will surely rifle barrels than to the flashing eyes of beauty, El Sarria could make out that the a devil out of hell could slay in cold blood Vitorian with the red boing was following not the queen regent only, but also the them, his gun over his shoulder, trying, not innocent little maid who never did any man | with conspicuous success, to assume the sauntering air of a man who, having noth-El Sarria looked keenly about him for ing better to do, goes for a stroll in the

"Tis the first time that ever I saw a was idly employed in breaking off pieces of soldier off duty take his musket for a shaly rock and trying to hit a certain pin- walk!" growled El Sarria "and why on the nacie of white quartz which made a promi- Sierra de Moncayo does the fellow trick himself out as for a festal day?"

Concha looked back over her shoulder, slowly, "Cabrera is a sullen dog at all times presumably at El Sarria, though why the Garcia was stolid as an ox of his native The thing will break our Relio's heart Aragon, and extraneous glances and pretty if it cannot be prevented," sighed Concha, gestures were as much wasted on him as servant as he looked, that is, when he had any reason for being observant.

"Ab, 'tis his sacred thing, that honor of "Here comes that young ass of Alava." his-his image of the Virgin which he car- he murmured. "Well, he is at least getting ries about with him," he said, "and indeed, his money's worth. By the saints favor-El Sarria has little cause to complain, for able to my native parish, the holy Narhad it not been for that same honor of Don classus and Justus, but the burro is tighten-

> so suddenly into the Carlist camp from the place whence all witches come.

(To Be Continued.)



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