A CAST FOR FORTUNE.

the lower shaft (now filled with water) the vein was eighteen feet wide and very rich in silver.

When they had struggled back to the light of day, along the apparently interminable tunnel, and sat down in the sweet outer air by the side of the stream, the young man spoke with quiet deliberateness.

'The mine is all that you have described it, Senor Fernandez,' he said, 'and apparently well worth the price asked. But, to speak frankly, I do not see how the owners can afford to sell at this price, nor where your profits in the transaction are to come

Fernandez looked at him with a smile. 'I do not wonder that it strikes you in this way,' he said. 'I shall be glad to explain. As for the owners, what can they do but sell? The mine is rich, but they cannot work it: it has gone beyond them. The water is very strong, and before the shaft can be carried deeper, a pump must be put in. They have no money for such an ex-

'There is ore enough in sight to pay that and all other expenses for a considerable

time to come. To pay expenses, yes, -but not to make much profit when worked by the patio process. There is the explanation, Mr. Derwent. The Buena Esperanza yielded a fortune in its docile ores; but the ores are now refractory, and the wealth that it still holds can be extracted only by a large outlay of money. Capital must take hold of it, and work it on a great scale. The day is past for small things.

'That is true,' said Derwent. 'This is a mine which will yield immensely, but it must, as you say, be worked on a great scale. Put the owners aside, then: where is your profit in the matter?'

I thought Morell had explained that, answered Fernandez. 'We expect to make our profit from you. If you work the mine, we want a share in it; if you sell it (which I suppose to be your intention), we want a share of your profit, as a return for having put into your hands a very good thing.'

'I was under the impression,' said Derwent, 'that it is usually the seller, and not the buyer, who pays the intermediate agent his commission.

'That might easily have been arranged,' returned the other. 'We need only have asked you forty thousand dollars for the mine, instead of twenty thousand, and we should have made ten thousand apiece. is not worth as much as that.'

'The Buena Esperanza may be worth it, but I should not have given it,' Derwent replied.

'You might, if you had never heard of the lower price,' said Fernanddz, calmly. 'I am not flattering you, Mr. Derwent, when had distrusted Fernandez vaguely from the I say that you know how to judge a mine. And you are aware that this mine is worth ten times what is asked for it. When Morell received your letter, he said to me, 'Here is a man who wants a mine for speculative purposes, to take into the great him, he was nevertheless certain that Barrera markets of the world and sell for a big price. In order to succeed in this, he must have a good mine. We will sell him the Buena Esperanza at its bottom price. taken : and then we will make our profit by sharing in his. When we have put such a property in his hands, he cannot refuse it.' I am sure Morell was right, Mr. Derwent. You cannot refuse to enter into such an ar-

business,-what then ?'

rangement.'

thousand dollars for the mine. That is our chase.

have ridden away. But it required only a mine! moment's reflection to show that such a he did know, and that he had never seen a owners.' mine that seemed to him so well worth possessing as the Buena Esperanza. He had will warrant that. said to himself, as he examined its lodes, fortune and honor for kim, it was snatched and I will not touch it.' away, and he had to choose between resign ing it altogether-for to pay the additional price asked was impossible-or to share with others the profit needed by himself. It was a hard decision; and the manner in which it was forced upon him-the time and place-made him say to himself that his original distrust of Fernandez was well

As he sat on the green bank, with the shade-arched entrance of the mine behind him, the foaming water at his feet, and his gaze taking in idly the two mozos with the tethered animals farther down the stream, and Senor Aranda near at hand smoking cigarettes, he asked himself what he should do, with a desire for counsel and direction such as he had never known before. And while he still hesitated, uncertain how to deal with the man who he now felt sure would take any advantage of bim, a sound suddenly smote on the ears of all three, which made them look at each other with a Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all glance of surprised interrogation. CHAPTER V.

ing on the rocky road as he came up the gorge, the enclosing walls of which conducted the sound with startling distinctness in advance. There was nothing yet to be seen, I will send free of charge, to all who d but the sounds made it plainly evident that | sire it, this receipe, in German, French on the rider was hurrying his animal at a pace very unsuited to the character of the way. very unsuited to the character of the way. with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. Derwent saw the two Mexicans exchange a Noves, 820 Power's Block, Rochesterstartled glance. Then Aranda shrugged his shoulders with the air of a man who foresees a difficulty. 'It is Berrera,' he said in Spanish. I told you that he had threatened to come.'

'And what does he expect to gain by coming?' asked Fernandez, with an expression of lip and eye that did not promise a very amicable reception for that hurrying rider. 'He knows that he can do nothing. I have him here.' And he closed his hand with a quick, significant gesture.

'That may be,' said the other, cautiously. | NORTHWEST FARMER. But Barrera is a man who stops at nothing. It will be well to conciliate him if possible. When he is angry, he is-dangerous. 'And so am I dangerous-when I am

provoked,' returned Fernandez. 'If Senor Barrera comes here to give trouble, instead of conciliating I shall defy him. Then let him do his worst. He knows that he can do nothing.'

The meaning of these quick sentences did not escape Derwent, though he understood little of the language in which they were spoken. Human tones are much the same in all languages, however, and there could to the close of 1890, and a good map. Copies will be be no more doubt of the anger of one man than of the apprehension of the other. 'What is the matter?' he asked, turning

to Fernandez. 'Who is coming?' 'We do not know,' that gentleman replied. But Aranda thinks it may the other owner of the mine, -- the man I told you of, who is dissatisfied with the bargain. If it should prove to be so, do not trouble yourself about the matter. I can manage him, and he A MONTHLY ILLUSTRATED MACAZINE EOR \$1 A YEAR

has no power to do anything. There was a minute's further suspense, and then, emerging from the green foliage at

the head of the canada, came a powerful black horse, ridden by a middle-aged Mexican, who, in his picturesque buck-skin dress, and his broad sombrero overshadowing a strongly-marked face, with the dark, flashing eye of an eagle, was by far the most imposing figure Derwent had yet beheld. Handsomer men he had seen, but none who impressed him more by an individuality derived from a long line of warilke and untamed ancestors. 'I wonder how many Indian chiefs, with a strain of the Spanish hilalgo. have gone to make this man what he is !' he thought, with a thrill of irrepressible admiration, Simultaneously with the appearance of the rider he found his sympathy enlisted on his side, and said to himself that the old fable of the lion and

forward, met Fernandez. V. hether he came in peace or war was a question that no one would have found need to ask. The first sound of his deep-toned voice was enough to show that he was ani mated by a wrath that did not pause to dissemble and consider phrases. It seemed to Derwent, standing by with intelligence alert and observant, that the character of each man was more clearly revealled to him by manner because he did not understand the language they spoke. The indignant wrath of the new-comer was not more evident than the insulting defiance of Fernandez. If he did not repeat in words that he held the man before him powerless in his hand, his manner expressed it as plainly as speech; and there was a scorching power to exasperate in his few, quiet sentences.

the fox had found another realization, when

the new-comer dismounted, and, striding

Presently Senor Berrara turned and accosted Derwent, asking courteously if he spoke Spanish. With very sincere regret the young man answered that he did notand then, taking a sudden resolution, he addressed Fernandez. 'What does this man wish to say to me?' he asked. 'If it concerus the purchase of the mine, I have a right to know.'

'He wishes to tell you,' replied Fernandez, 'that he has changed his mind about selling it at the price named. But this is child's play. He has signed the bond, and has no right to interfere at fall in the mat-

'Has he not sense enough to know that.' 'Who can say? You may see for yourself that he is a passionate fool, -the kind of man to run his head against a rock. And now and then he finds a rock of particular hardness,' he added, grimly.

Derwent did not reply at once. He could not say, what he distinctly thought, You cannot say that the Buena Esperanza You are deceiving me. This man is no fool, and there is more in the matter than you pretend.' But he decided that he would waive the purchase of the Buena Esperanza for the present. The counsel and direction which he had desired a few minutes before had come to him most unexpectedly. He first. He now determined that he would take nothing through his hands, for he felt sure that the taint of fraud would be upon it. Entirely ignorant though he was of the point at issue between the two men before was an honest man and Fernandez a scoundrel. After a short pause, he spoke with a decision of manner that could not be mis-

'Be kind enough to say for me to the gentleman that he may set his mind at rest so far as I am concerned. I shall not buy the Buena Esperanza until I am assured that there is harmony among the sellers. I wish to take no man's property against his will. 'And if I do refuse,' said Derwent, - 'for I Further, I object to having the price of the object very much to having partners in my mine doubled upon me, as you have doubled it within the last half-hour. We will there-Then we must ask you to pay forty fore say nothing more at present of pur-

Fernandez turned sharply and looked at There was a silence. Had Derwent fol- him with a light in his eyes that was altolowed his impulse, he would have risen to gether evil. Do you really mean this?" his feet, said, curtly, 'I decline to buy your he demanded. 'Do you intend, after all my mine on any terms,' and, mounting his mule, trouble and expense, to refuse to take the

'I regret your trouble; but it was taken, course would be particularly ill advice at I believe, in the line of business,' answered present. Whether or not Fernandez meant Derwent. 'Your expense I will reimburse. to flatter him when he said that he knew But I shall certainly not take the mine how to judge a mine, the fact remained that with the passionate opposition of one of its

'This man has no power to harm you. I

But it seems that I have power to harm that if all went well with him he ought to him by taking his property against his be able to make enough out of this alone to wishes. That I will not do unless I know accomplish the end he had in view. And something of the history of the bond that he now, after he had, as it were, seen with his evidently repudiates, Frankly, there is a own eyes the treasure that was to redeem look about this thing that I do not like,

'I should have taken care to keep this fool away if I had imagined that his mere appearance would intimidate you so completely,' said Fernandez, with a bitter

'I am not intimidated in the least,' said Derwent, calmly. 'If you think so, you are mistaken. But you do not think so. You know very well why I decline to have anything further to do with this affair. Let us have no more words. It is sufficient to state explicitly that I will not buy the Buena Esperanza under the present circumstances, at any price.'

[To be Continued.]

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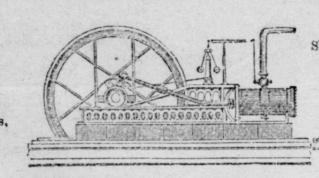
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