A CAST FOR FORTUNE. BY CHRISTIAN REID.

[CHAPTER VIII. Continued.] "Ah, Mr. Derwent," he said, cordially, "I am delighted to see you

that it was impossible to desire members that he is dead, and ends better society than he found at with a cry of despair." Minaflores. "But I have heard," loneliness."

"It is, unfortunately, true, answered his host. "The estates said a quiet voice at the door; and are generally so large, and the dis- as Derwent looksd in that directances from one to another so great, tion he saw a tall, slender man, that wealthy Mexicans do not, as a wearing the cassock of a priest, rule, live on their haciendas, except enter the room. for a few weeks in the course of "This is a member of our family the year."

expressed a desire to see something until to-day," said Don Maurizio, —"our good friend and chaplain, went. "Nobody lives on the Padre Francisco." haciendas but the agents,' I was as- There was something very capital or abroad."

"Allowing for the exceptions," hands. said Don Maurizio, "that was a "I am grieved to hear of your aliens. When men leave their expressed my regret sooner. But you are getting well?"

result is mismanagement in all representation and Brass Founders, Mill and Steamboat Builders.

General Iron and Brass Founders, Mill and Steamboat Builders. Mexico. So when I became a Mex- I go." ican I determined that I would not follow the prevailing fashion. for which el padre has asked," she Great estates came into my hands, replied. "I think you will like and I resolved at once to administrate that." ter them myself. I have done so Derwent was very sure of it, for twenty years, and I am rather when he heard the strains of Cheruproud of the result."

infinite employment in my life.

An Irishman from Galway naturally loves everything connected with a free, out-door life; and I have taught my daughter to love it as good mount."

Derwent's eyes brightened. "1 am a Southerner," he said, as if the star-like splendor of the dark that were answer enough. "Half eves. of my life, I have spent in Louisfather to the last. Not even in Galway do you think more of riding than we do."

over our great mesas."

"And do you really, then, spend addressing Maurizio.

"Here at Miraflores? Oh, no," that gentleman replied. "I have

world so dear to me as this.' "That is very good for a girl who Francisco had come. is fresh from a season in Paris, is laid his hand caressingly on her

ing smile.

"No, thank heaven!" he answered, gayly. "What should a Mexiwent see what he thinks of our Mexican airs."

of grace, Derwent thought, in her really did not desire it. He had soft, shimmering draperies, and with her natural, unstudied charm the whole world might not hear; of step and bearing. Sitting down to the piano, she struck a few chords and began to sing in a con- degree detract from his enjoyment tralto so rich and sweet that it was like notes drawn from a violin by a master hand, rather than the sounds of the human voice. What passionate eyes of the people; then the strain sank to a lower key, a tenderer sweetness stole into it, as mio, I think we are ready." though tropical flowers were They passed through the wide,

caught and formulated by the the plain. composers."

"What did it say to you, senor?"

asked Zarifa, turning around. He told what it had suggested and she smiled as if pleased. "A girl is relating how her lover had been killed among the wild mounhere. You look better already. tains, and how her own heart is A little society is a good thing; broken," she said. "At the close although I must warm you that we can offer you very little variety in that line at Miraflores."

The close she wanders back to memories of their love, of how in the summer night he would come and sing benight he would come and sing be-Derwent replied very sincerely neath her window. Then she re-

"A very mournful motif," said he said, "that most Mexican pro- Don Maurizio. "Give us someprietors of large estates do not thing a little more cheerful, and live on them, because of their than I will play physician and order Mr. Derwent to bed."

"Sing an Ave Maria, my child,"

whom you would have met "That is what I was told when I earlier if he had not been absent

sured. There is no life there of charming in the dark, gentle face, the kind you fancy. Mexicans of the higher class all live in the soft brown eyes that looked at Derwent with a smile as they shook

correct statement, And the consequence is that half the haciendas of Mexico are for sale, destined before long to pass into the hands of

spects. Who knows this better then, turning to Dona Zarifa, said, than an Irishman? Absenteeism has "I hope that, since I am under been the curse of my country; and orders to retire, senorita, you will it is in a great degree the curse of sing at least one more song before

bini's Ave Maria. Often as he "And you have not found it very heard this beautiful song before, irksome te live on an hacienda?" it was always in a soprano ar-"I cannot understand how a man can find anything irksome which is in the clear line of duty and which affords abundant occupation for his hands and head. I have found infinite pleasure as well as infinite complement, in my life of in his can long after he had said

taught my daughter to love it as laid his head on his pillow. Still I do myself. She is an enthusias- in his memory vibrated the full, tic horsewoman, and we live in the mellow notes of the enchanting saddle half our time. By the bye, if you like riding, I can give you a picture of the silken-draped form. with its silver ornaments, and the beautiful face out of which shone

It was not strange, that his last iana, and half in the blue grass thought before falling asleep was region of Kentucky,—my mother belonging to the first, and my take care that I am not such a fool as to fall in love with Dona Z arifa." CHAPTER IX.

"And in neither are there such plains over which to ride as in Mexico I am sure" said Dona When Derwent opened his eyes the next morning, bars of golden sunshine were lying on the red tiles Arrive Chatham, I have a chatham, I have chatham Mexico, I am sure," said Dona of the floor, and Ramon stood by Zarifa. "Ah, it is like flying this bedside, bearing the coffee to which he always looked forward at his best speed and ride for miles as a distinct pleasure. His shoulder was less painful, and the recol-Her delicate nostril dilated as if lection that he was to spend an she inhaled the breezes sweeping indefinite time amid these charmover the wide leagues of space of which she spoke; and, Derwent, looking at her, felt a quick thrill senor. Como esta Usted?" of Ramon senor. Como esta Usted?" of Ramon' at the thought that he might be he answered 'Muy bueno, gracias", permitted some day to ride by her with so much emphasis that the face of the attendant lighted up with a bright smile, and he said, all of your time here ?" he asked, "Bueno! bueno!" with an air of commendation, as he set the tray

A little later, after the doctor had another large hacienda in the Bajio—you know that stretch of "Bueno!" approvingly over the fertile country between Irapuato and Queretaro? I divide my came in and approvingly over the progress of the shoulder, Ramon came in and approvingly over the came in and announced that el time between that place and this, padre desired to see the senor with a month or two now and then Beg him to enter," said Derwent, in Mexico. But, rich, productive, who had been very much pleased and beautiful, too, as the Bajio, is, by the gentle, refined face of the both my daughter and myself pre- priest. He anticipated an agreefer this wilder country; and if we able visit, in which he could ask were called upon to name our home much concerning the country of I think we should say Mirafiores," oue intimately acquainted with its inner life; but he was by no means Zarifa. "There is no place in the prepared for the errand on which it soon transpired that Padre

"Dona Zarifa," said the priest, it not?" said Dona Maurizio, as he after all due inquiries had been made, "thinks that perhaps you are strong enough now for a little She placed her other hand over outdoor exercise, and that you may his, and looked up at him with her like to see something of the dark eyes melting into a more hacienda,—at least of the portion liquid softness than they had which lies immediately around the known before. "You were not in Paris," she said, with an enchant- she and I will be happy for you to accompany us on our usual morning round.

"I shall be delighted." answered can haciendado, with his heart Derwent. A man of another among his flocks and herds, do stamp might have been disappointthere? But go, carina mia, and ed that he was not to have a tete-a give us some music. Let Mr. Der- tete with his fair hostess, but Derwent was not only too much a man Mexican airs."

She rose instantly and moved a thing in a country with the cusacross the floor,—a perfect picture toms of Continental Europe, but he and he was very sure that the society of the padre would in no of her companionship.

They found her in the court when they came out, standing under the shade of one of the she sang her listener did not know, Moorish arches, dressed as Derwent —the words were Spanish,—but had seen her first, in black, and the air was wild, haunting, mourn- draped with lace, which she wore ful, and yet passionate in the ex- in the graceful Spanish fashion treme. As he listened, he seemed over her head. She gave him her to see the rugged mountain-passes, hand, asked how he was feeling, the great Sierras like storm-tossed and if he was sure that a walk waves, the vast expanse of mighty would not fatigue him. "You plains, the sad, gentle faces and must promise," she said, "that you

breathing their fragrance out on the starry night, and with one last cochere, which led to the front of burst of sad, strangermelody it ended. the house, and out into the arcade "Oh, yes, it is Mexican," said which ran the length of the long Don Maurizio,—"one of the wild building, and the great arches of native airs that linger among the which framed in a succession of picpeople and that are now and then tures the magnificent expanse of

> [To be continued.] Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

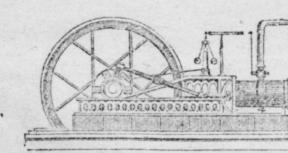
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