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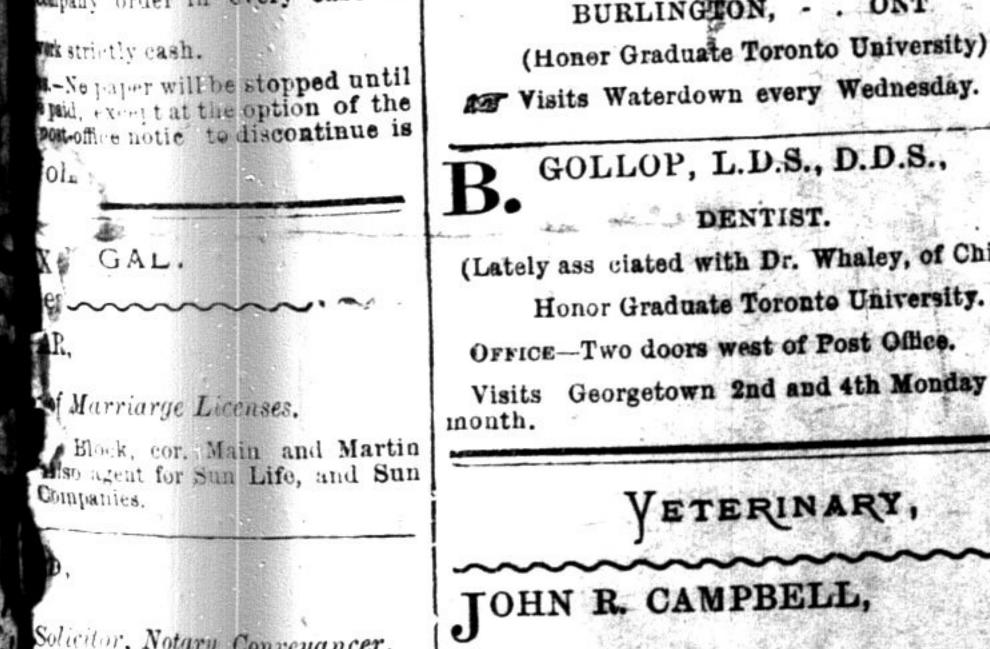
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ern Union Telegraph Offices in the strong, or had I possessed less skill in the Bank references.

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THE FALL OF TENOCTITLAN. Now, shortly after Christmas, having last of the siege. special attention given to the collection | ner from over sea and tens of thousands Tecuicho, the wife of Guatemoc, for now follow." base of action. And then began one of that day, so I would not till she shared find refuge."

> t many other beautiful and populous down her face. "What is it, wife?" I asked. towns, were blackened ruins, the most of Then Otomie broke out into a great and the Aztecs were dead by sword and fambitter crying and said: ine, and their nation was crushed forever. Of all the details of this war I do not purlose to write, for were I to do so there milk has been dry in my breast-hunger would be no end to this book, and I have has dried it—and our babe is dead! Look. my own tale to tell. These, therefore, I he lies dead!" and she drew aside a cloth

to destroy all her vassal and allied cities Can we then desire that a child should in hand, and by his side was Marina, these men never doubted but that the swered. "You call me traitor again and leave to the maker of histories. Let it be and showed me the tiny body. and people before he grappled with Mexi- live to see such days as we have seen, and, co, queen of the valley, and this he set after all, to die at last?" himself to do with a skill, a valor and a "He was our son—our firstborn," she parted in Tabasco. straightness of purpose such as have scarce- cried again. "Oh, why must we suffer

Cortes reduced the cities till the whole my faith or in any other." girdle of them was in his hands and Te noctitlan alone remained untouched. By the month of May, strive as

would-and never was a more galla fight made-all our allies were crushed had deserted us, and the siege of the ca began. It began by land and by wate. for with incredible resource Cortes caused 13 brigantines of war to be construc ed in Tlascala and conveyed in pieces for 20 leagues across the mountains to 1 camp, whence they were floated into the

corted by an army of 20,000 Tlascalans, should have been attacked in the mounbut there were few troops to spare, though its people were of the Aztec blood, had not been ashamed to desert the Aztec cause. Still I offered to lead the 20,000 Otomies whom I commanded against the Tlascalans convoy, and the matter was debated hotly at a council of war. But the 50 most of the council were against the risking of an engagement with the Spaniards

00 and their allies so far from the city, and thus the opportunity went by to return 00 no more. It was an evil fortune like the rest, for in the end these brigantines brought about the fall of Tenoctitlan by 00 cutting off the supply of food, which was carried in canoes across the lake. Alas, 25 the bravest can do nothing against the power of famine! Hunger is a very great

50 man, as the Indians say. Now the Aztecs, fighting alone, were Everything in stock will be sold at face to face with their foes, and the last struggle began. First the Spaniards cut water from the springs at the royal house of Chapoltepec, whither I was taken on the end of the siege the only water that we don
t

dy nuid furnished by the lake and wells
sunk in the soil. Although it might be
sunk in the soil. Although it might be
drunk after boiling to free it of the salt, it
was unwholesome and filthy to the taste,
was unwholesome and filthy to the taste,
be said furiously. "Here, lead this man
the said furiously. "Here, lead this man
house. At his side was Marina, and around
house at his were several of his companions in
him were several of his companions in
house. At his side was Marina, and around
house. At

medicine, I think that she would have clerk I baptized the boy into the Christian church with my own hand, naming him

Now day by day and week by week the they advanced again from their different

swered flercely. "I cannot save them from swered flercely. "I cannot save them from the altar, and I would not if I could. Let the altar, and I would not if I could. Let the dogs die according to the custom of the the dogs die according to the custom of the land, and to you, Teule, my brother, I land, and to you, Teule, my brother, I was the same, for nothing could conquer was the same, for nothing could conquer was the same, for nothing could conquer "Farewell," she answered. "If you "Farewell," she answered. "If you

eadful plan of Cortes-

the root of pestilence. For one wife, that I should do well to kill myself, paddled across the lake by Tlascalans till a dreadful end. Then I remembered n you! If was week killed by the Spaniards and their so that I may be saved from a death of at length we came to the Spanish camp. oath and Otomie, and what she would

deed it was said that 40,000 died in this more. Fortune may favor us yet; still, if diers during the time of my confinement. death." manner in a single day—the day before the you think otherwise, I am ready to die." All day long, when they were not on duty, "You mean that you will say nothing of "That I will not suffer, Otomie."

of the territory of the Tlascalans, his al- me and bade me eat them, but I discov- try to make my way to the City of Pines. wildly to and fro, catching at the sunbeams again." lies, it was most suitable to Cortes as a cred that she herself had touched no food There, among your own people, we may and screaming, "Gold, gold, gold!"

now met for the first time since we had to them.

And then, looking on that dead babe,

months it was my lot to see a thousand seemed but a living skeleton, Guatemoc was strong again. them. The child was mine, my firstborn; words:

the body of our child, burying it out of hand, "and thus rid me swiftly of the and knew that it would soon be opened. At the least he was not left for the misery of life." zapilotes, as the Aztecs call the vultures,



"Look, he lies dead!" would that we were asleep and forgotten, we and the babe together."

"Rest now," I answered, "for death is The morrow came, and with it a dead- you Spaniards." three-fourths of the city was a ruin, and made ready to go to my death, when Ma- arms. The great man looked at me for gold? Nay, he knows well where of the aqueduct that Otomie bore me a three-fourths of its defenders were dead. rina spoke into the ear of Cortes. All she awhile, then spoke:

The council was summoned, fierce men, thankfulness and joy, and though I am no there are the standard the st "What is your word, Guatemoc?" said their spokesman at last. "Am I Montezuma, that you ask me?

At length there came a day when the taken to imprisonment or death. As I A recent discovery by an old | more than a thousand of their allies. All | Spaniards made a new attack and gained | shints in how owns specified on the alter of Huitphysician. Successfully used monthly by thousands of Ladies. Is the only perfectly agreed and given over to be devoured by the zel and given over to defond the zel and given over to be devoured by the zel and given over to be devoured by the zel and given over to defond the zel and given over to be devoured by the zel and given over to defond the zel and given which in Anahuse enjoined the eating of arms were treed with families by

Beware of unprincipled druggists who the bodies of those who were offered to into us with their pieces, mowing us down ble and as though with fear and exhaustion

die where I am, but that I will hold no parley with him. We are helpless; let we who remained alive within its bounds time ends for me." ter, thou- were gamered on the cause ways and that none noted our whispered words, for hind the ruins of walls, men, women and that none noted our whispered words, for

Here they attacked us again. The great

died so fast that they could not bury che. But spare those of my people who re- fame." vill surely hang me, and it is in my mind, They took me to a canoe, and we were liberty and the hope of home; on the other

of dead when not less than 70,000 perished "as I said in bygone days, while you live bars of wood, and through these bars I "I know nothing of the treasure, beneath the sword and by fire alone. In- there is hope, but the dead come back no could see and hear the revelings of the sol- eral," I answered coldly. "Send me to my

tes, and I saw his face darken. "Say," he said to me in Castilian, "are you that renegade, that traiter who has aided these Aztecs against us?" "I am no renegade and no traitor, gen-

eral," I answered boldly, for the food and self, but I said only: Englishman, and I have fought with the is one for the better." Aztecs because I have good cause to hate

CHAPTER XXV. THOMAS IS DOOMED. sometimes in the suburbs of the city, some-will defend it. Better that we should all the house toward the stainway. Otomic very streets. Time on time the Spaniards the hands of the Teules."

will defend it. Better that we should all living into the house toward the stairway. Otomie the hands of the Teules."

In vain did I pray Guatemoc to forego hounds upon a defenseless buck, and on mo with his bears boot. But Otomic this norror.

"Is this a time for gentleness?" he anpeople, for none was spared. On the more stooped down and held her hand to me to people, for none was spared. On the more stooped down and held her hand to me to people, for none was spared.

"Nay, live on. Time shall bring

"Farewell, Guatemoc," I answered.

"You are fallen, but let this comfort you-"On, on!" growled the soldiers, and I ure." low," I said to Otomie at my side, went, little thinking how Guatemoc and I

The room of the stone house where they think of me, living or dead, if I did this "Nay, husband," she answered sadly, prisoned me had a window secured by thing, and I wavered no more.

"Then you must hold your hand hus- and drank, staking tens of pesos on a sin- sworn any oaths, they are broken by God. acted. Farmers' notes discounted and of Spaniards, for many had joined his ban- where Otomie dwelt with her royal sister, of his share of the countless treasures of their king is my prisoner; their great city "Listen," I whispered. "Do not let it the Aztecs. Little did they care if they is a ruin. The true God has triumphed quarters at Tezcuco, in the valley of Mexi- was starving, for I had scarcely tasted be known that you are my wife. Pass won or lost, they were so sure of plunder, over these devils by my hand. Their co. This town is situated near the borders food for 40 hours, but all that my wife yourself as one of the ladies of Tecuichpo, but played on till drink overpowered them wealth is my lawful spoil, and I must of the lake, at a distance of several leagues could set before me were three meal cakes, the queen, your sister. If we are separat- and they rolled senseless beneath the ta- have it to pay my gallant comrades, who from Tenoctitlan, and being on the edge or tortillas, mixed with bark. She kissed ed, and if by any chance I escape, I will bles, or till they sprang up and danced cannot grow rich on desolation. Think Listening at this window also I gath-

seen. For eight months it raged, and when ly swallow the bitter morsels, and also ing sadly. "But I do not know how the learned that Cortes had come back, bring-tor. I have said that you shall die if yours It ceased at length Tenoctitlan, and with that she strove to hide tears, which ran Otomie will receive me, who have led 20, ing Guatemoc and several of the princes should fail you, and so you shall, to be Aztec ladies. Indeed I saw and heard the There are means. Doubtless you who have Now we were on the deck of the brigan- soldiers gambling for these women when lived in Spain have heard of them," and tine and must stop talking, and thence, they were weary of their play for money, he arched his brows and glared at me "This, my beloved. For two days the after the Spaniards had quarreled over us a description of each of them being writ- meaningly, by which a man may die and for awhile, we were taken ashore and led ten on a piece of paper. One of these la- yet live for many weeks. Now, loath as to the top of a house which still stood, dies answered well to Otomie, my wife, I am to do it, it seems to me that, if your where Cortes had made ready hurriedly to and she was put up to auction by the brute memory still sleeps, I must find some receive his royal prisoner. Surrounded by who won her in the gamble and sold to a such means to rouse it—before you die." his escort, the Spanish general stood, cap common soldier for a hundred pesos, for "I am in your power, general," I an-

Our eyes met, and she started, thereby ing which I sat and slept in my prison un- who has wrought me and mine bitter showing that she knew me again, though troubled by any, except the native woman wrong—one of your company named De it must have been hard for Marina to rec- who waited on me and brought me food Garcia or Sarceda. To find him and for Iztapalapan was the first to fall, and are born to it. Just so much happiness is stained at a st here 10,000 men, women and children were given to us as shall save us from madness stained, starving and tattered wretch who have never caten before or since, and I are conquered, and I am your prisoner. put to the sword or burned alive. Then and no more. Ask me not why, for I canput to the sword or burned ance. Then and no more as a brave many sorrows could not rid. At the least, deal with me as a brave many my body of its appetites and commanding deals with a fallen enemy. I know noth-I meeting between Cortes and Guatemoc. believe that at the end of a week I had in-end." between the conqueror and the conquered. creased in weight by a full half. Also my "As a man I might wish to do this,

dead infant moved me the most of all of stood and spoke, Marina translating his eating I watched at my window, hoping, shipers of idols; you have seen your fel its mother wept beside me, and its stiff "I am Guatemoc, the emperor, Malin- Otomie or Guatemoc. If I might not see and tiny fingers seemed to drag at my che," he said. "What a man might do to my friends, however, at least I saw my deserve to be tortured eternally, heartstrings. Seek not the cause, for the defend his people I have done. Look on foe, for one evening De Garcia came and less that will be so after we have don Almighty, who gave the heart its infinite the fruits of my labor," and he pointed to stared at my prison. He could not see me, with you. As for the hidalgo Don Sar power of pain, alone can answer, and to the blackened ruins of Tenoctitlan that but I saw him, and the devilish smile that ceda, I know him only as a brave compan stretched on every side as far as the eye flickered on his face as he went away like ion in arms, and certainly I shall not lis Then I took a mattock and dug a hole ould reach. "Now I have come to this a wolf made me shiver with a presage of ten to tales told against him by a wander out by the labor of 10,000 Indians, who worked at it without cores for two months. Which, in Tenectitlan, is found at a depth against me. Dest with me as you will, but stood gazing at my window hungrily, as you," and here a gleam of light should be against me. Dest with me as you will, but stood gazing at my window hungrily, as you," and here a gleam of light should be against me. Dest with me as you will, but stood gazing at my window hungrily, as The bearers of these brigantines were esof two feet or so, and, having muttered a it will be best that you kill me now, "and a cat gazes at a caged bird, and I felt that across the face of Cortes, "that there is no not recorded by the feet or so, and, having muttered a it will be best that you kill me now," and a cat gazes at a caged bird, and I felt that across the face of Cortes, "that there is no not recorded by the feet or so, and, having muttered a it will be best that you kill me now," and a cat gazes at a caged bird, and I felt that across the face of Cortes, "that there is no not recorded by the feet or so, and, having muttered a it will be best that you kill me now," and a cat gazes at a caged bird, and I felt that across the face of Cortes, "that there is no not recorded by the feet or so, and, having muttered a it will be best that you kill me now," and a cat gazes at a caged bird, and I felt that across the face of Cortes, "that there is no not recorded by the feet or so, and, having muttered a it will be best that you kill me now," and a cat gazes at a caged bird, and I felt that across the face of Cortes, "that there is no not recorded by the feet or so, and the feet or s prayer over him, there in the water I laid he touched the dagger of Cortes with his he was waiting for the door to be opened should be any old feud! between you, se

"Fear not, Guatemoc," answered Cor- upon which I was put to torture. Meanwhile, as time went on, I noticed and such I honor. With me you are safe, that a change came over the temper of the you be handed over to the care of Don Sar for we Spaniards love a gallant foe. See, camp. The soldiers ceased to gamble for ceda till such time as he shall find mean here is food," and he pointed to a table untold wealth; they even ceased drinking to make you speak?" "Eat, you and took to hanging together in knots, discuss- knew that I was condemned to be tor your companions together, for you must ing flercely I could not learn of what. On tured, and that De Garcia was to be the So we ate, and heartily, I, for my part, my prison there was a great gathering in from this cruel heart when I, his deadlies thinking it would be well to die upon a the square opposite my prison, to which I foe, lay in his power to wreak his yenge full stomach, having faced death so long saw Cortes ride upon a white horse and ance on? But still my will and my honor upon an empty one, and while we de- richly dressed. The meeting was too far prevailed against my terrors, and I an voured the meat the Spaniards stood on away for me to overhear what passed, but swered: one side scanning us, not without pity. I noticed that several officers addressed "I have told you, general, that I know Presently Tecuichpo was brought before Cortes angrily, and that their speeches nothing of this treasure. Do your worst

> dered me to accompany them. "Whither?" I asked. "To the captain, traiter," their leader

Then I knew that the man believed that her from him roughly.

son, our firstborn. Already the hardships
The dead were heaped in the houses like said I could not catch, but I heard the wired blood, half English and half Spanbees stifled in a hive, and in the streets words "hidden gold." He listened, then mixed blood—half English and half Span- he was one of those whom the spy saw go they lay so thick that we walked upon hesitated and spoke aloud: "Do not hang ish. You were cast away in the Tabasco out with it upon the lake. Our friend was this man today. Let him be safely guard- river and taken to Tenoctitlan. There you with them also, but he came back no more. ed. Tomorrow I will inquire into his were doomed to personate the Aztec god Doubtless they murdered him. What Tezcat and were rescued by us when we this man to you that you should plead for



- M. Comment At his side was Marina.

that noble spirit.

"Tell him," said Guatemoc, "that I will for I will join you there."

"Tell him," said Guatemoc, "that I will join you there." selor of Guatemoc and assisted in his de- Cortes. "You know this renegade?" fense of Tenoctitlan. Is this true, pris-"It is all true, general," I answered.

them all because of your treachery to your De Garcia hesitated, stroking his peaked that led you to commit this horrible trea- it because it is a tale of error for which you to die by hanging as a traitor and an given to the follies of youth it chanced

"Farewell, my brother," he said, with a We have reason to believe that you are acds and thousands; I am Guatemoc. Bring me to Malin- in your fall you have found immortal tate, between a shameful death and the revealing to us of the secret of this treas-

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hand was the loss of honor, with life and

and most of the night also, they gambled it. traitor. Think again. If you have

"I know nothing of this treasure, gen-

"So be it, beloved," she answered, smil- ered some of the tidings of the camp. I "Yet memory sometimes wakens, traithe king of England-not of the king of Thus things went for several days, dur- Spain. I came hither, following a villain

wept also. Every hour in those terrible Still proud and defiant, though he weariness was conquered at length, and I Wingfield, but I am more than a & am the hand of the church here in . sights more awful, and yet this sight of a walked straight to where the Spaniard But when I was neither sleeping nor huac. You have partaken with the wor

Now a great faintness seized me, for the day when De Garcia came to look at torturer. What mercy had I to expec-

there was silence. I caught Marina's glance and saw pity in her gentle eyes But she could not help me here, for Corte. was mad because no gold had been found. and the clamor of the soldiers for reward had worn him out and brought him to this Any change from this hole shameful remedy, he who was not cruel by nature. Still she strove to plead for me "Certainly," he replied, "and this is with him, whispering earnestly in his ear. For awhile Cortes listened; then he pushed

captured the great teocalli. Subsequently him? Cease to trouble me, Marina. Am 1 not troubled enough already?" and Cortes put his hands to his face and remained lost in thought. As for Marina, she looked at me sadly and sighed as though to say, "

have done my best," and I thanked her with my eyes. Presently there was a sound of footsteps, and I looked up to see De Garcia standing before me. Time and hardship had touched him lightly, and the lines of silver in his curling hair and peaked beard did but add dignity to his noble presence. Indeed, when I looked at him in his dark Spanish beauty, his rich garments decked with chains of gold, as he bowed before Cortes, hat in hand, I was fain to confess that I had never seen a more gallant cavalier, or one whose aspect gave the lie so wholly to the black heart within. But knowing him for what he was my very blood quivered with hate at the sight of him, and when 1 thought of my own impotence and of the errand on which he had come I ground my teeth and cursed the day that I was born. As for De Garcia, he greeted me

"But too well, general. Three times he has striven to murder me."

"Well, you have escaped, and it is your "Good. You are now our prisoner, and hour now, Sarceda. He says that he has a had you a thousand lives you have forfeited quarrel with you. What is it?"

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