

A STORY
OF THE
SPANISH INQUISITION.

By Maria Battershall Easton.

CHAPTER VII.

But a few swift steps brought them to the narrow passage of the rear, which was the only means of communication with the interior.

"Who's there, that knocks so loudly?" cried the astonished porter as he peered forth from his room overhead.

"Entrance! In the name of the Holy Inquisition, I demand!"

That dreaded name was enough for the sturdy porter. He hastened to swing wide the heavy portals and conceal himself in some low shrubs near. And without a word more the small band of closely covered figures entered and pressed on in double file down the narrow shale walk.

And what of Isidore? Was she ready to meet the dire event that threatened her? She was not wholly unprepared for it. The priest's words had rung in her ears since he uttered them so fiercely only that sunny evening, and she had not retired, but had sat up, thinking, deeply thinking, of the future, and then seeking, earnestly seeking, guidance and strength from her new found God.

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And the sturdy girl answered him stilly, but without fear. "Ah, Father Pedro, you have fulfilled your errand quickly."

"But my father?" questioned she as she drew a warm garment over her shapely form and turned to leave the room.

What means this sacrifice of my home? questioned the stern father, angry and with drawn sword approaching to free his child.

And again came that dreaded name from the harsh voice of the leader: "In the name of the Holy Inquisition, stay us at your peril!"

And with blanched face and horror-stricken heart the father drew back, and the crowd shrank away.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Verdict Unanimous.

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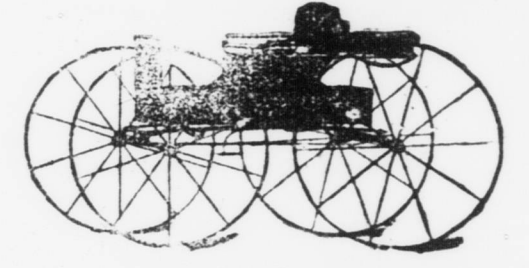
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