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Being an Account of the Fall and Vengeance of Harmachis, the Royal Egyptian,

AS SET FORTH BY HIS OWN HAND.

By H. RIDER HAGGARD, Author of " King Solomon's Mines," "She," "Allan Quatermain," Etc., Etc., Etc.

Blustrated by NICHOLL, after CATON WOOD VILLE and OREIFFENHAGEN

CHAPTER IX. OF THE COMING OF CHARMION, AND OF THE WRATH OF SEPA.

HAT same night while we sat at supper in the house, there came NESa knock upon the door. It was opened. and a woman passed in, wrapped from head to foot in a large dark peplos or cloak in such fashion that her face could not be clearly seen. My uncle rose, and

as he did so the woman "I am come, my father,"

said in a sweet, clear voice, "though she of a truth it was not easy toescape the revels at the palace. But I told the Queen that the sun and the riot in the streets had made me sick, and she let me go."

"It is well," he answered. "Unvail thyself; here thou art safe."

With a little sigh of weariness she unclasped the pepios and let it slip from her, giving to my sight the face and form of that beauteous girl who had stood to fan Cieopatra in the chariot. For she was very fair and pleasant to look upon, and her Grecian robes clung sweetly about her supple limbs and budding form. Her wayward hair, flowing in a hundred little curls, was bound with a golden fillet, and on her feet were sandals. Her cheeks blushed like a flower, and her dark soft eyes were downcast, as though with modesty, but smilles and dimpies trembled about her lips.

My uncle frowned when his eyes fell upon her dress.

"Why comest thou in this garb, Charmion?" he asked, sternly. "Is not the areas any mother wore good enough for thee? This is no time or place for woman's vanities. Thou art not here to conquer, but to obey."

"Nay, be not wroth, my father," she answered, softly; "perchance thou knowest not that she whom I serve will have none of our Egyptian dress; it is out of fashion. To wear it would have been to court suspicion-aiso I came in haste." And as she spoke I saw that all the while she watched me covertly through the long lashes which fringed her modest eyes.

"Well, well," he said, sharply, fixing his keen glance upon her face, "doubtless thou speakest truth, Charmion. Be ever mindful of thy oath, girl, and of the cause to which thou art sworn. Be not light minded, and I charge thee forget the beauty with which thou hast been cursed. For mark thou this. Charmion: fail us but one jot and vengeance shall fall on thee-the vengeance of man and the vengeance of the Gods! To this service," he continued, lashing himself to anger as he went on, till his great voice rang in the narrow room, "hast thou been bred ; to this end hast thou been instructed and placed where thou art, to gain the ear of that ou seemest toserve. manfon 1 See thou forget it not; see that the luxury of yonder court does not corrupt thy purity and divert thy aim, Charmion." And his eyes flashed and his small form seemed to grow till it attained to dignity-nay, almost to grandeur. "Charmion." he said, advancing toward her with outstretched finger, "I say to thee that at times i do not trust thee. But two nights gone I dow amed I saw thee standing in the desert. I saw thee laugh and lift thy hend to heaven, and therefrom fell a rain of blood; then the sky sank down on the land of Khem and covered it. Whence came the dream, girl, and what is Its meaning? Naught have I against thee as yet; but hearken! On the moment that I have, though thou art of my kin, and I have loved thee-on that moment, I say, will I doom those delicate limbs, which thou lovest so much to show, to the kite and to the jackas, and the soul within thee to all the cortures of the Gods! Unburied shalt thou die, and bodiless and accursoi shalt thou wander in Amentil-ay, forever and ever !"

"Let Pharaoh hearken unto his handmaiden. I am the daughter of Pharach's ancle, the brother of his father who is now long dead, and therefore in my veins also flows the Royal blood of Egypt. Also I am of the ancient faith, and hate these Greeks, and to see thee set upon the throne has been my dearest hope now for many years. To this end have I, Charmion, become servingwoman to Cleopatra, that I might cut a notch wherein thou couldst set thy foot when the hour came to climb the throne. And behold! O Pharaoh, the notch is cut. "This, then, is our plot, Royal cousin: Thou must gain an entrance to the Household and learn its ways and secrets, and, so far as may be, suborn the eunuchs and captains, some of whom I have already tempted. This done, and all things being prepared without, thou must slay Cleopatra, and, aided by me, with those whom I control, in the confusion that shall ensue throw wide the gates, and, admitting those of our party who are in waiting, put such of the troops as remain faithful to the sword and seize the Bruchium. Which be ing done, thou shalt within two days hold this fickle Alexandria. At the same time, those who are sworn to thee in every city in Egypt shall rise in arms, and within ten days from the death of Cleopatra thou shalt be Pharaoh indeed. This is the counsel which has been taken, and thou seest, Royal cousin, that, though your uncle conder doth think so ill of me, I have learned my part-ay, and played it."

"I hear thee, cousin," I answered, marveling that so young a woman, for she had but twenty years, codid weave so bold a plot, for in its origin the scheme was hers But in those days I little knew Charmion. "Go on; how then shall I gain entrance to the palace of Cicopatra!"

"Nay, cousin, as things are it is ensy Thus: Cleopatra loveth to look upon a man, and give me pardon-thy face and form are fair. To-day she noted them, and twice she said she would she had asked where that astrologer might be found, for she held that an astrologer who could wellnigh slav a Nublan gladiator with his bare hands must indeed be a master of the stars. I answered her that I would cause inquiry to be made. So hearken, Royal Harmachis. At midday Cleopatra sleeps in her inner hall that looks over the gardens to the harbor. At that hour, then, will I meet thee at the gates of the Palace, whither come thou boldly asking for the Lady Charmion. will make appointment for thee with Cleopatra, so that she shall see thee alone when she wakes, and the rest shall be for thee, Harmachis. For much she loves to play with the mysteries of magic, and whole nights have I known her stand watching the stars and making a pretense to read them. And but lately hath she sent away Dioscorides, the Physician, in that, poor fool! he ventured on a prophecy from the conjunction of the stars that Cassius would defeat Mark Antony. Thereon Cleo-patra dispatched to the General Allienus, bidding him add the legions she had sent to Syria to help Antony, to the army of Cassius, whose victory, forsooth, was, according to Dioscorides, written on the stars But, as it chanced, Antony beat Cassius first and Brutus afterward, and so Dioscorides hath departed, and now he lectures for his bread on herbs in the museum, and hates the name of stars. But his place is empty, and thou shait fill it; and then w: will work in secret and in the shadow of the scepter. Ay, we will work like th, worm at the heart of a fruit till the time of plucking comes, and on iny asgger stouch, Royal cousin, the fabric of this Grecian throne crumbles to nothingness, and the worm that rotted it bursts his servile covering, and in the sight of empires, spreads his royal wings o'er Egypt.'

I gazed at this strange girl once more astonished, and saw that her face was lit up with such a light as I had never seen upon the face of woman.

"Ah!" broke in my uncle, who was watching her, "ah! I love to see thee so. There is the Charmion that I knew girl. and I bred up-not the Court girl, whom I love not, draped in silks of Cos and fragrant with essences. Let thy heart harden in this mold-ay, stamp it with the fervid zeal of patriot faith, and thy reward shall find thee. And now cover up that shame-less dress of thine and leave us, for it grows late. To-morrow shall Harmachis come, as thou hast said. And so, farewell."

HUS it came to pass that on the next day I arrayed myself after the fashion of a magician or astrologer, in a long and flowing robe. I placed on my head a cap, 8 about which were broidered images of the stars, and in my belt a 22 scribe's palette and a roll of papyrus written o'er with mystic spells and signs. In my hand I held a wand of ebony, tipped with such as is used by priests and tvory, masters of magic. Among these, indeed, I held high rank, filling by knowledge of their secrets which I had learned at Ou what I lacked in that skill of hand which comes from use. And so, with no small shame, for I love not such play, and hold this common magic in contempt, I set forth through the Bruchium to the palace on the Lochias, being guided on my way by my incle Sepa. At length, passing up the avenue of Sphinxes, we came to the great marble gateway and the gates of bronze within which is the goard-house. And here my uncle left me, breathing many prayers for my safety and success. But I advanced with an easy air to the gate, wh - I was roughly challenged by the Gallic sentries and asked of my name, following and business. i gave my name, Harmachis the astrologer, saying that my business was with the Lady Charmion, the Queen's lady. Thereon the man made as though to let me pass in, when a Captain of the Guard, a Roman named Paulus, came forward and forbade it. Now, this Paulus was a large-

timb d man, with a woman's face and a hand that shook from wine-bibbing. Nevertheless, he knew me again.

"Why," he cried, in the Latin tongue, to one who came with him, "this is the fellow who wrestled yesterday with the Nubian giudiator, that same who now howis for his ost hand underneath my window. Curses on the black brute! I had a bet on him for the games! I have backed him against Catus, and now he'll never fight again, and I must lose my money, all through this astrolo er. What is it thou savest-thou hast business with the Lady Charmion! Nay, then, that settles it. I will not let thee through. Fellow, I worship the Lady Chara ion-ay, we all worship her, though she gives us more slaps than sighs. And dost thou think that we will suffer an astrologer with such eyes and such a chest as thine to cut in the game! By Bacchus, ne! She must come out to keep the tryst, for in thou shalt not go."

"Sir," I said, humbly and yet with dignity, "I pray that a message may be sent to the Lady Charmion, for my business will not brook delay."

"Ye Gods!" answered the fool, "whom have we here that he can not wait! A Caesar in disguise! Nay, be off-be off! if thou wouldst not learn how a spear prick feels behind."

"Nay," put in the other officer, "he is an astrologer; make him prophecy-make him play tricks." "Ah," cried the others who had sauntered

"let him show his art. If he is a magiian he can pass the gates, Paulus or no Paulus."

"Right willingly, good sirs!" I answered, for I saw no other means of entering. Wilt thou, my young and noble Lord"and I addressed him who was with Paulus -"suffer that I look thee in the eves! Perchance I may read what is written there."

"Right," said the youth; "but I wish that the Lady Charmion was the sorceress.] would stare her out of countenance, I warrant me."

I took him by the hand and gazed deep into his eyes. "I see," I said, "a field of battle at night, and about it bodies stretched -among them is thy body, and a hyena lears at its throat. Most noble sir thou shalt die of sword thrusts within a year." "By Bacchus!" said the youth, turning white to the gills, "thou art an ill-omened sorcerer !" And he slunk off-shortly after ward, as it chanced, to meet this very fate. For he was sent on service and slain in Cyp.us. "Now for thee, great Captain!" I said, speaking to Paulus. "I will show thee how will pass those gates without thy leaveav, and draw thee through them after me Be pleased to fix thy princely gaze upon the point of this wand in my hand." Being urged thereto by nts comrades, this he did, not willingly; and I let him gaze till I saw his eyes grow empty as an owl's eyes in the sun. Then suddenly I withd sow the wand, and, shifting my own countenance into the place of it, I selzed him with my will and stare, and beginning to turn round and round, drew him after me, his face, fierce and drawn, fixed, as it were, almost to my own. Then I slowly moved backward till I had passed the gates, still drawing him after me, and having passed, I jerked my head away. But he feil to the ground, to rise wiping his brow and looking exceed-Ingly foolish.

most honoraule . autin gotte south, and next time I am asked for at the gates give im who asks a hearing." And with a queenly nod of her small head she turned and led the way, followed at a distance by myself and the armed slave.

We passed up the marble walk which runs through the garden grounds, and is set on either side with marble statues, for the most part of heathen Gods and Goddesses, wherewith these Lagidæ were not ashamed to defile their royal dwellings. At length we came to a portico with fluted columns very beautiful to see, but of Grecian style of art, where we found more guards, who made way for the Lady Charmion. Crossing the portico, we reached an outer wherein a fountain softy marble hall plashed, and then e by a low doorway a second chamber, known as the Alabaster Hall, most beautiful to see. Its roof was upheld by light columns of black marble, but all its walls were paneled with ala baster, whereon were graven Grecian legends. Its floor was of rich and many-hued mosaic that told the tale of the passion of Psyche for the Greeian God of Love, and about it were set chairs of ivory and gold. At the doorway of this chamber Charmion bade the armed slave stay, so that we passed in alone, for the place was empty save for two eunuchs who stood with drawn swords before the curtains at the further end. "I am vexed, my Lord," she said, speak-

ing very low and shyly, "that thou shouldst have met with such affront at the gate; but the guard there served a double watch and I had given my commands to the offi-For the rest, I know it not. It is hid from cer of the company that should have reheved it. They are ever insolont, these Roman officers, who, though they seem to serve, know well that Egypt is their plaything. But it is not altogether ill, for these rough soldiers are superstitious, and here after they will fear thee. Now, bide thou here

while I pass into Cleopatra's chamber, where she sleeps. But now have I sung



call thee, for she waits thy coming." And without more words she glided from my side. In a little time she returned, and, coming to my side, spoke:

world asleep?" she whispered. "If so, fol- | Merir!-they, too, love magic."

and we passed through the heavy curtains, broidered o'er with gold, into the resting place of Cleopatra. Beautiful it was "Walt, O Queen," Ianswered; "thou has place of Cleopatra. Beautiful it was "Walt, OQueen," Ianswered; "thou hast beyond imagining-beautiful with many not seen all." And even as I spoke the sercolored marbles, with gold and ivory, gems and flowers-all art can furnish and all luxury can dream of were here. Here were pictures so real that birds might have pecked the painted fruits; here were statues of woman's loveliness frozen into stone; bere were draperies fine as softest silk, but woven of a web of gold : here were couches and carpets such as I never saw. Here the air was sweet with porfume, while through 'he open window places came the far mur mur of the sea. At the further end of the chamber, on a couch of gleaming silk and sheltered by a net of fines gauze, Cleopatra lay asleep. There she lay-the fairest thing that man ever sawfairer than a dream, and all about her flowed the web of her dark hair. One white, rounded arm made a pillow for her head and one hung downward to the ground. Her rich lips were parted in a smile, showing the ivory lines of teeth: and her rosy limbs were draped in so thin a robe of the silk of Cos, held about her, by a jawalad oirdle. that the white gleam of flesh shone through it. I stood astonished, and, though my thoughts had little bent that way, the sight

thus upani, the severed through the kinship! That was Cæsar's self, I tell thee, who but now stood at my side and mur-mured through his muffled robe warning words whereof the memory is lost to me. Read me this riddle, thou Egyptian Sphinx, and I'll show thee a rosier path to fortune than all thy stars can point. Thou hast brought the omen, solve thou its problem ' "In a good hour do 1 come, most mighty Queen," I made answer. "for 1 have some skill in the mysteries of sleep, which is, as thou hast rightly guessed, a stair whereby those who are gathered to Osiris may from time to time enter at the gateways of our living sense, and, by signs and words that can be read of mortals thereto duly learned. repeat the echoes of that Hall of Truth which is their habitation. Thereby also the

messengers of the guardian Gods may descend in many shapes upon the half-loosed spirit of their choice. For, O Queen to those who hold the key, the madness of our dreams can show a clearer purpose and speak more certainly than all the acted wisdom of our waking life, which is a dream indeed. Thou didst see great Cæsar in his bloody robe, and he threw his arms about Prince Cæsarion and led him hence. Hearken now to the secret of thy visions. "Twas Casar's self thou sawest coming to thy side from Amenti in such a guise as might not be mistaken. When he embraced the child Casarion he did it for a sign that to him, and him alone, he passed his great-When he seemed to ness and his love. lead him hence ho led him forth from Egypt o be crowned in the Capitol, crowned the Emperor of Rome and Lord of all the lands.

Thus, then, I read the vision, though to my sense it had a more evil meaning. But it is not well to prophecy evil unto Kings. Meanwhile Cleopatra had visen, and, hav-ing thrown back the gnat gauze, was scated upon the edge of her couch, her eyes fixed upon my face the while her fingers played with her girdle's jeweled ends.

"Of a troth," she cried, "thou art the best of all maglenaus, for thou readest my heart, and out of two rough shell of evil omen drawest the hidden sweet!"

"Ay, O Queen!" said Charmion, who stood by with downcast eyes, and methought there was bitter meaning in her soft notes; "may no rougher words ever affront thy cars, and no evil passage less closely tread upon its happy sense." Cieopatra placed her hands behind her head, and leaning back looked with half-shut eyes.

"Come, show us of thy magic, Egyptian," she sold. "It is yet hot abroad, and I am weary of those Hebrew Ambassadors and their talk of Hered and Jerusalem. 1 hate that Herod, as he shall find-and 1 will have rone of the Ambassadors to-day, though a little do I yearn to try my Hebrew on them. What canst thou do? Hast thou no new trick? By Scrapis! if thou canst conjure as well as thou canst prophecy thou shalt have a place at court, with pay and perquisites to boot, and thy lofty soul doth not scorn perquisites." "Nay," I answered, "all tricks are old;

but there are some forms of magic to be rarely used, and with discretion, that may, perchance, be new to thee, O Queen! Art thou afraid to venture on the charm?"

"Naught I fear; go on and do thy worst. Come, Charmion, and sit thou by me. But, stay, where are all the girlst-Iris and

"Not so," I said; "the charms work ill before so many. Now behold !" And, gazing at the twain, I cast down my wand upon the marble and murmured a spell. For a moment it was still, and then, as I muttered. the red slowly began to writhe. It bent itself, it stood on end, and of its own motion moved. Next it put on scales, and behold it was a serpent that crawled and flercely hissed.

"Fie on thee !" cried Cleopatra, clapping her hands; "callest thou that magic! Why, 'tis an old trick that any wayside conjurer

AN EUGENTHIC DUCTOR.

The Quaint Ways of a Successful New England Medical Man.

Dr. Charles Wild practiced medicine in Brookline, Mass., in the days when people insisted upon taking large doses of calomel, rhubarb, jalap, piera, ipecac, antimony and countless other drugs. and on being blistered and bled. The doctor was equal to the occasion, and gave his patients their money's worth of physic and service-when they could ecure his attendance.

For the doctor was a difficult man to find, and, when found, to impress with the idea that he was actually needed. Unless the case was represented as a matter of life and death, he was ant to delay his visit until the patient had recovered or died. Those who hunted for him, knowing his habits of going from one patient to another, without going nome for a day or a night, used to go through the streets looking for "old Sal," his sorrel mare, and his familiar old buggy, standing before some house door

But such was the public confidence in him, that in ordinary illnesses people would wait his tardy visit rather than send for another physician.

The author of "Sketches of Brookline" describes him as entering a house in the breezy way, stamping off the snow or the mud. throwing off his overcoat and letting down his black leather pouch, with noise enough for three men. His salutation, uttered in a deep, gruff voice, was likely to be, if the patient vas an acquaintance:

"Well! well! what kind of a kick-up have you got now?"

He gave nicknames to the children. and would ask: "How's Nicodemus today?" or: "Well! is Ichabod's tooth ready for the lance this morning?" A friend's child, whose name was Florence, he called "Rome," "Milan," or by several other Italian cities.

A member of his family, while making out the doctor's bills, was perplexed by a charge upon the books of a visit to "Don Sebastian." On inquiry it proved to be the nickname of a child of the Cabot family.

When the doctor had studied the case and given the patient his dose of mediine, he would, if there was cause for anxiety, settle himself for a social visit of two or three hours, during which he told droll stories, and acted them out to the amusement of the children, who were very fond of him. If the case was serious ne was grave and silent, catching flies, if there were any to catch, or walked the room in deep thought.

The doctor was more than a physician. he was the counselor of his patients, who consulted him upon all sorts of matters, from choosing a wife or a husband to building a hen-coop. His opinion was an authority that few disputed, for his good sense was seldom at fault.

Hisquaint humor, on leaving a sickroom, would often express itself in some such salutation as this: "Now if you can't sleep well and don't know what to do, you can amuse yourself with taking an emetic."-Youth's Companion.

AMONG THE PERUVIANS.

The South American Nation Descrived by a Wisconsin Girl.

When Hon. John Hicks was appointed. United States Minister to Peru he chose as Secretary of Legation a bright Amer-

I SEIZED HIM AND DREW HIM AFTER ME.

her to sleep, and if she be awakened I will

"Wouldst see the fairest woman in all the low thou me. Nay, fear not; when she awakes she will but laugh, for she bade me be sure to bring thee instantly, whether she slept or woke. dee, I have her signet." So we passed up the beautiful chamber till we came to where the conuchs stood with drawn swords, and these would have barred my entry; but Charmion frowned, and drawing the signet from her bosom held it before their eyes. Thereon, having examined the writing that is on the ring, they bowed, dropping their sword points,

He naused for his sudden burst of passion had spent itself. But by it, more clearly than before, I saw how deep a heart had this man beneath the cloak of his merriness and simplicity of mien, and how flercely the mind within him was set upon his aim. As for the girl, she shrank from him terrified, and, placing her hands before her face, began to weep.

"Nay, speak not so, my father," she said. between her sobs; "for what have I done! Naught know I of the evil wandering of thy dreams. I am no soothsayer that I should read dreams. Have I not carried out all things according to thy desire? Have I not been even mindful of that dread oath "-and she trembled. "Have I not played the spy and told thee all! Have I not won the heart of the Queen so that she loves me as a sister, refusing me nothing, av, and the hearts of those about her! Why dost thou affright me thus with thy words and threats?" And she wept afresh, looking even more beautiful in her sorrow than she was before.

"Enough, enough," he answered; "what I have said I have said. Be warned, and affront our sight no more with this wanton dress. Thinkest thou that we would feed our eyes upon those rounded arms-we whose stake is Egypt and who are dedicated to the Gods of Egypt? Girl, behold thy cousin and thy King!

She ceased weeping, wiping her eyes with ner chiton, and I saw that they seemed but the softer for her tea

"Methinks, most Roy - Harmachis and beloved cousin," she a 1, as she bent before me, "that we are a ready made ac-quainted."

'Yea, consin." I answer i, not without shamefacedness, for never before had I spoken to so fair a maid ; "thou wert in the chariot with Cieopatra this day when I struggled with the Nublan."

'Assuredly," she said, with a smile and a sudden lighting of the eyes, "it was a galiant fight, and gallantly didst thou overthrow that black brute. I saw the fray, and, though I knew thee not, greatly did I fear for one so brave. But I paid him for my fright, for it was I who put it into the nd of Cleopatra to bid the guards strike off his hand-now, knowing who thou art, I would I had said his head." And she looked up, shooting a giance at me, and then

"Enough," put in my uncle Sepa, "the time draws on. Teli thou thy mission, Charmion, and be gone."

Thereon her manner changed. Bhe folded her hands meet .. het ... her and me here

Charmion bowed her head, and, turning, wrapped her dark-hued peplos around her: then, taking my hand, she touched it with her lips and without any further words she

"A strange woman !" said Sepa, when she had gone; "a most strange woman and uncertain.

"Methought, my uncle," I said, "that thou wast somewhat harsh with her.'

"Ay," he answered, "but not without a cause. Look thou, Harmachis, beware of this Charmion. She is too wayward, and, I fear me, may be led away. In truth, she is avery woman; and, like a restive horse, will take the path that pleases her. Brain she has, and fire; and she loves our cause; but I pray that the cause come not face to face with her desires, for what her heart is set on that will she do-at any cost will she do is. Therefore did I frighten her now. while I may; for who can know but that she will pass beyond my power? I tell thee that in this one girl's hand lie all our lives; and if she play us false, what then? Alas! and alas! that we must use such tools as these! But it was needful; there was no other way; and yet 1 misdoubt me. I pray that it may be well; and still, at times, I fear my niece Charmion-she is too fair, and the blood of youth runs too warm in those blue veins of hers. Oh! woe to the cause that builds its strength upon a woman's faith; for women, I say, are faithful



"ATE, WE WILL WORK LIKE THE WORM AT THE HEART OF THE FRUIT."

only where they love, and when they love their faithlessness becomes their faith. Incy are not fixed as men are fixed; they rise more high and sink more low-they are strong and changeful as the sea. I say to thee, Harmachis, beware of this Charmion ; for, like the ocean, she may float thee home; or, like the ocean, she may wreck thee, and, with thee, all the hope of Egypt !"

CHAPTER X.

OF THE COMING OF HARMACHIS TO THE PAL ACE: HOW HE DREW PAULUS THROUGH THE CLEOPATRA SLEEPING; AND THE GATES: MAGIC WHICH HARMACHIS SHOWED UNTO | keep thy riotous crew more . liet. For thee, grive them a doathold in our that ins. and

"Art thou content, most noble Captain?" I suid. "Thou seest we have passed the gates. Would any other noble sir here present wish that 1 should show more of my skill !!

"By Taranis, Lord of Thunder, and all the Gods of Olympus thrown in, no!" growled an old Centurion, a Gaul named Brennus. "I like thee not, I say. The man who could drag our Paulus through those gates by the eve, as it were, is not a man to play with. Paulus, too, who always goes the way you don't want him-backward, like an ass-Paulus! Why, sirrah, thou must have a woman in one eve and a wine cup in the other, to draw our Paulus

thus At this moment the talk was broken, for, coming down the marble walk, followed by an armed slave, was Charmion herself. She walked calm and careless, her hands folded behind her and her eyes gazing at nothing ness, as it were. But it was when Charmion thus looked upon nothing that she saw men of the guard made way for her bowing for, as I learned afterward, this girl, next to Cicopatra's self, wielded more power than any one about the palace.

"What is this tumult, Brennus?" she said, speaking to the Centurion, and making as if she saw me not; "knowest thou not that the Queen sleeps at this hour, and if she be awakened it is thou who must answer for it, and that dearly?" "Nay, Lady," said the Centurion, humbly;

"but it is thus. We have here"-and he perked his thumb toward me-"a magician of the most pestilent-um, I crave his pardon, of the very best sort, for he hath but just now, only by placing his eyes close to

the nose of the worthy Captain Paulus, dragged him, the said Paulus, through the gates that Paulus swore the magician should not pass. By the same token, Lady, the magician says he has business with you -which grieves me for your sake."

Charmion turned and looked at me care "Ay, I remember," she said; "and lessly. so he hath-at least the Queen would see his tricks; but if he can do none better than cause a sot"-here she cast a glance of scorn at the wondering Paulus -- "to follow his nose through the gates he guards, he had better go whence he came. Follow me,

of all her beauty struck me like a blow, so that for a moment I lost myself as it were in the vision of its power, and at heart was grieved that I must slay so fair a thing. Turning suddenly from the sight I found Charmion watching me with her quick eyes -watching as though she would search my heart. And, indeed, something of my

thoughts must have been written on my face in a language that she could read, for she whispered in my ear: "Ay, it is a pity, is it not! Harmachis being after all a man, methinks thou wilt need

all thy ghostly strength to nerve thee to the I frowned, but before I could frame an

answer she touched me lightly on the arm and pointed to the Queen. A change had come upon ber; her hands were clenched, and about her face, all rosy with the hue of sleep, gathered a cloud of fear. Her breath came quick, she raised her arms as though to ward away a blow, and then with a stifled moan sat up and opened the windows most. And as she came the officers and of her eyes. Dark they were, dark as night; but when the light found them they grew blue, even as the sky grows blue before the blushing of the dawn.

"Casarion !" she said; "where is Casa rion? Was it then a dream? I dreamed that Julius-Julius who is dead-came to me, his bloody toga wrapped about his face, and, having thrown his arms about his child, led him away. Then I dreamed I dieddied in blood and agony; and one I might not see mocked me as I died! Ah! who is that man?"

"Peace, Madam! peace!" said Charmion "Tis but the magician Harmachis, whom thou didst bid me bring to thee at this hour.'

"Ah! the magician-that Harmachis who overthrew the giant! I remember me now. He is welcome. Tell me, Sir Magician, can thy magic mirror give forth an answer to this dream! Nay, how strange a thing is sleep, that, wrapping the mind in a web of darkness, straightly compels it to its will. Whence, then, come those images of fear rising on the horizon of the soul like some untimely moon upon the twilight sky!

Who grants them power to stalk so lifelike from Memory's thronging halls, and, pointing to their wounds, thus confront the Present with the Past? Are they, then, Sir Magician; and for thee, Brennus, I say messengers! Doth the semi-death of sleep

pent seemed to break in fragments, and from each fragment grew a new serpent. And these, too, broke in fragments and bred others, till in a little space the place, to their glamored sight, was a seething sea of snakes, that crawled, hissed and knotted themselves in knots. Then I made a sign, and the serpents gathered themselves about me, and seemed slowly to twine themselves about my body and my limbs till, save my face, I was wreathed thick with bissing snakes.

"Oh, horrible! horrible!" cried Charmion, hiding her countenance in the skirt of the Queen's garment.

"Nay, enough! Magician, enough!" said the Queen; "thy magic overwhelms us. I waved my snake-wrapped arms, and all was gone. There at my feet lay the black wand tipped with ivory, and naught beside.

The two women looked one upon another and gasped with wonder. But I took up the wand and stood with folded arms before them.

"Is the Queen content with my poor art?" I asked most humbly.

"Aye, that am I, Egyptian; never did I see its like! Court astronomer art thou from this day forward, with right of access to the Queen's presence. Hast thou more of such magic at thy call?"

Yes, Royal Egypt; suffer that the chamber ho a little darkened and I will show theo one more thing." "Half am I afraid," she answered;

"nevertheless, do thou, Charmion, even as this Harmachis says."

So the curtains were drawn and the chamber made as though the twilight was at hand. I came forward and stood me beside Cleopatra. "Gaze thou there!" 1 said, sternly, pointing with the wand to the empty space where I had been, "and thou ehold that which is in thy mind." shalt b

Then for a little space was silence, while the two wernen gazed fixedly and half fearful at the apol.

And as they gazed a cloud gathered before them. Very slowly it took shape and form, and the form it took was the form of ington Capital. a man, though as yet he was but vaguely mapped upon the twilight, and seemed now to grow and now to melt away.

Then I oried with a loud voice: "Shade, I conjure thee, ap ear!"

And even as I cried the Thing, perfect in every part, leapt into form before us, sudden as the fiash of day. His shape was the shape of Royal Cæsar, the toga thrown about his face, and on his form a vestment bloody from a hundred wounds. An instant so he stood, then I waved my wand be an apology for want of speed. One and he was gone.

I turned me to the two women on the couch, and then I saw Cleopatra's love.y face all clothed in terror. Her lips were ashy white, her eyes stared wide, and the be thought quick than accurate? Do fiesh was shaking on her boues.

"Man!" she gasped, "man! what art thou who canst bring the dead before our eyes?"

"I am the Queen's astronomer, magician, servant-what the Queen wills," I an swered, laughing. "Was this the form that was on the Queen's mind !" She made no answer, but, rising, left the

chamber by another door. Then Charmion rose and took her hands from her face, for she, too, had been strick-

en with dread. "How dost thou these things, Royal Harmachis!" she said. "Of a truth I fear

ican girl, Miss Elizabeth L. Banks. Since being domiciled at Lima, the capital of Peru. Miss Banks has kept her eyes open, and, with instinct sharpened by her connection with various Northwestern newspapers, she has proved a good news-gatherer. Writing to a friend in this city. Miss Banks says:

"Procrastination is the ruling habit of Peru. Ask a Peruvian when he will do any thing and he replies 'Manana," which being translated means 'to-morrow.' Nothing is ever done to-day, all things take place on the 'manana.' which never comes. This 'manana' habit is, I suppose, breathed in with every breath of the air that one takes in Peru, and I am afraid I have drawn a good deal of it into my system.

"This is a very interesting old city, and yet the people and the government are very much behind the times, their ideas being those of one hundred years ago. The city of Lima has been called 'the heaven of women, the purgatory of men and the hell of asses;' and to the last proposition I will heartily assent. The city is full of donkeys, and the men and women who drive and ride them always carry a big chunk of wood with them, which they continually apply to the ribs of the poor animals. Some enthusiastic writer has called the women of Lima the most beautiful in the world. There are some pretty Peruvian girls to be met on the streets or saying their beads in some of the many churches. Their dark eyes are the kind that would make a man jump off Pizarro's bridge into the river Rimac if his suit happened to go wrong. The Peruvian men pay a great deal of attention to their personal appearance and pass away much of their time in dress suits and tooth-pick shoes. They are very gallant, but are not half so nice as American men from any point of view .-- Wash-

SPEED VS. QUALITY.

Never Consider Fast-Doing of More Importance Than Well.Doing.

Many persons seem to think that speed in work is a higher accomplishment than quality of work. If speed is of the first importance, then it may be an apology for poor quality. If quality is of the first importance, then it may says: "I want to learn to write fast." Another says: "I write this very burriedly; please excuse erasures." Would such writers-or workers-rather they place the writing above the written? Even a shorthand writer ought not to write faster than he can write well. Speed follows quality; quality; never follows speed. It is a good thing to do good work fast. But it is a bad thing to do fast work badly-and that is the way it generally is done when the fast-doing is held above the well-doing. Bad work had better be done so slowly that it never gets done at all. The only way to attain to high speed is to work for something better than speed .- S. S. Times.