

left alone in the sunshine of the deserted plaza. We could hear the roll of the organ, the droning voice of the priest. A light breeze moved through the place, scattering the fragrance from the flower stalls; a little bird in the pepper-tree above our heads burst into song. "Truly," we said to each other, "Cholulu is a holy city."

The notes of the organ died away, the droning chant ceased, the church doors opened, and with an air of relief the bustling throng moved to their places, where the squawking of the cruelly handled fowl and the squealing of the bartered pigs began again—religion was done with, and business was on hand. And now came the Sunday bull-fight procession. This particular day it was a burlesque bull-fight, a sport which nevertheless meant torture and death to the poor dejected bull, who, covered with wreaths and garlands, headed the column. The toreadors who followed were clowns, with the familiar painted faces and the wide trousers of the American buffoon. They were succeeded by a bevy of hard-faced circus riders wearing their full skirts of the Mexican national colors, and by female charioteers, exchanging gibes with the crowd. As eagerly as they had flocked to the church at the sound of the bell, the crowd now flocked to see the fun, and the erstwhile devout church-goers disappeared under the arch of the bull-ring.

Ahasuerus and I, finding ourselves once more alone in the plaza, decided to enter one of the empty churches. But no sooner had we seated ourselves before the grand altar, beneath the cool shadow of the vaulted ceiling, than a crowd of beggars entered and surrounded us. They were evidently the impecunious ones who had not the price of admission to the bull-ring, and who saw in us the fore-ordained ministers to their pleasure. In vain we turned deaf ears to their solicitations. They became earnest, pressing, and finally even threatening in their demands, and we quitted our sacred retreat, saying to each other with a disgusted air, "Who is it that says Cholulu is a holy city?"