

"Hand me that whip!" he commanded.

The shrieking landlord obeyed, and called upon the saints to protect him. And then Señor Zorro turned him loose, and curled the whip around his fat middle, and as the landlord tried to run he cut at him again and again. He left him once to charge down upon those who had blades and so scatter them, and then he was back with the landlord again, applying the whip.

"You tried treachery!" he cried. "Dog of a thief! You would send men about my ears, eh? I'll strip your tough hide—"

"Mercy!" the landlord shrieked, and fell to the ground.

Señor Zorro cut at him again, bringing forth a yell more than blood. He wheeled his horse and darted at the nearest of his foes. Another pistol-ball whistled past his head, another man sprang at him with blade ready. Señor Zorro ran the man neatly through the shoulder and put spurs to his horse again. He galloped as far as the whipping-post, and there he stopped his horse and faced them for an instant.

"There are not enough of you to make a fight interesting, señores," he cried.

He swept off his sombrero and bowed to them in nice mockery, and then he wheeled his horse again and dashed away.

Notes

1. *Rinaldo Rinaldini*: The chivalrous hero of *The Robber Captain* (1797), a novel by the German author Christian August Vulpius.
2. *war with Mexico*: The US-Mexico War (1846-48). See Introduction, page xvii.
3. *Castilians*: An ethnic group in Castile, in central Spain.
4. *Mexiques*: Mexicans.
5. "*monte*": A card game. Either the con game three-card monte (in which the dealer moves three cards around and the mark attempts to keep track of one of the cards), or a game of chance in which the dealer takes four cards, returns them to the deck, and flips cards until finding one that matches one of the original four.
6. *Padre Jurata*: Celedonio Dómeco de Jarauta (1814-48) was a Catholic priest who organized guerrilla companies during the US-Mexico War. After the war, he opposed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo and revolted against the Mexican government. He was captured and executed as a revolutionary.
7. *rancheros*: Wealthy property owners who held land grants (*ranchos*) in perpetuity in Alta California under Spanish and Mexican rule. After the United States acquired California in 1848, US settlers contested many of the *rancheros*' claims.
8. *fandango*: A couples dance originating in Spain.
9. "*the peaceful / Homes of men*": In 1847, *Hunt's Merchant's Magazine* published an article about Pittsburgh, whose inhabitants "by their own efforts and industry have raised up