
❁ She Forgave Her Enemy. ❁

THE power of the Church is grandly shown in the following incident, which took place some years ago during a term of court in Albuquerque, N. M.

A young Pueblo Indian had killed a member of his tribe and was on trial for the crime. The mother of the murdered boy was called to testify. As she stood up on the witness stand it would be difficult to imagine a more weird and unearthly appearance. She must have measured nearly six feet in height, but extreme age had bent the broad shoulders, and the long, bare, lank arms and coarse hands told of many a year of weary toil. Her face was haggard and cadaverous, and the scanty gray hair straggled over her brow and almost hid the vivid gleam fitfully parted from her deep dark, eyes. The house was full of spectators, and a motely group of Indians, dressed in tawdry finery, lounged around the door.

Don Jesse Sena, the interpreter, rendered her evidence into English for the court and jury. On being sworn, and she understood the obligation well, she refused to testify, although repeatedly urged to do so.

When asked her reason for refusing, she said that the padre had instructed her to forgive her enemies; that she forgave the prisoner and could not swear against him. On being assured that it was not a violation of her obligation as a Christian, and being ordered to testify by the judge, she reluctantly proceeded to do so. When she had concluded, she arose, and raising her long, bony hands she exclaimed in a voice that was tremulous with emotion: "Juan, you have killed my boy, but God says I must forgive you, and I do. I obey His will." As she stepped down from the stand a dead, silence reigned throughout the court, and I could not help thinking that the good padre, who sat among his Indian children, must have felt that his teachings had born good fruit in the heart of that poor, bereaved Indian mother.

Within a day or two of the above touching event a white mother stood in the same place, testifying against the alleged slayer of her son. On the conclusion of her evidence she arose and horrified the people by launching a torrent of blasphemous curses at the unfortunate prisoner, who bent his head and bore the storm in silence.