

## Our Foreign Letter from Chile.

DONA EVA QUEZADA ACHARAN, D.M.

By LINA MOLLETT.



spread her gossamer wings and left her favourite to trace among the hard-and-fast realities of daily life the golden thread of poetry that the early enchantment knotted into the loom of her life and left to gild and glorify it to the end.

If not actually the daughter of a crowned king and queen (as the princess in the classical fairy tale is and ought to be), the parents of Eva Quezada were, nevertheless, "rulers of men," rich in every regal quality of soul and intellect, that are bound to triumph over material obstacles through sheer excellence of psychical and mental organisation.

Senor Don Quezada del Rio and Senora Dona Acharan de Quezada are both descendants of ancient Spanish families and natives of the south of Chile.

The besetting sin of Chilean parents is their tendency to pamper and over-indulge their children; but the little Eva's father and mother were not among the number. In an atmosphere of love that was ruled by judgment she early learnt to recognise the rights of authority and order, and, at the mature age of three, had very definite ideas upon the subject.

"Be beautiful, clever, and good!"

With these words a fairy godmother waved her wand over the cradle of the baby, Evita; and so—but the good fairy

At that age this small descendant of Spanish grandees held her first public oration on the justice of avenging authority.

Scene—a circus. Personages—a trained monkey and a man.

It was on the programme that the monkey should bring the man a cup at the word of command.

The monkey wouldn't. And his master beat him.

Then uprose a clear, shrill baby voice, in tones of decision, that were heard by all: "Well done! It serves him right for disobedience!"

And the astonished audience turned to see a dark-eyed, fearless Portia of three pronouncing sentence with the earnestness of conviction and dignity of an aged judge.

All through the years of her vivacious infancy the

little Eva added to the family chronicle anecdotes of a similar character.

Her mind was always quickly made up on any passing event. Her opinion was frankly expressed. Her sentence was fearlessly and impartially pronounced.

She was the true daughter of the man of law whom she idolised, who was her ideal, her friend, her teacher as well as her father, and whose premature death left a vacuum in her life no other friendship could fill.

When it was considered necessary to teach the little Eva her letters, the family opinion as to her cleverness was modified. She learnt slowly, laboriously, almost painfully, fretting against the useless toil for which she saw no reason.

Once having grasped the fact words interesting

that letters formed words and statements, the lesson was play.

At thirteen she had to be taken out of school, because she was ahead of the girls of eighteen in her class.

"It has always been so," says Miss Quezada. "I



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