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THE TRAVELS
AND
EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES
OF
HENRY SIDNEY,
&c.

THE
TRAVELS
AND
EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES
OF
HENRY SIDNEY,
IN BRAZIL,
AND THE INTERIOR REGIONS
of
SOUTH AMERICA,
IN THE YEARS
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THE
T R A V E L S
AND
EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES
OF
HENRY SIDNEY.

CHAPTER. I.

Education of the narrator—obtains his father's permission to travel—embarks for Brasil—description of the passengers, crew, and voyage—amusements on board—a sea-fight—arrive in St. Sebastian.

MY principal motive for publishing the following narrative, is to prevent other curious and adventurous individuals from exposing themselves to perils in remote regions abroad, instead of enjoying in full security the real benefits of existence

at home. At the same time a detail of the various incidents of my six years peregrination, may afford some amusement to such readers as delight to sympathize with travellers in all the accidental vicissitudes of their progress through unknown lands; sometimes in imminent danger of losing their lives; sometimes enraptured with a discovery of new and stupendous beauties of nature; and sometimes delighted with a participation in that social and brotherly sentiment, which can melt and humanize even the wildest savage.

I am the eldest son of Mr. Sidney, an opulent merchant of London. It would be a kind of egotism to write a panegyric on the character of one of the most worthy men and best fathers in existence; and if this volume should meet his eye with such a tribute of filial praise, he would blush for the indiscreet zeal of his son. I shall therefore proceed to state, that in the twenty-second year of my age, after I had attained all the knowledge communicable by a classical as well as an English education, I was taken into partnership by my father. The sudden transition from my chambers in Oxford, to the busy scenes of London, was as new as it was delightful to an active mind. I was in excellent health, and the transactions of commerce

afforded full exertion for the activity of my mental and corporeal powers. The constant application, and the uniform regularity of a mercantile life, preserved me from an exposure to the seductive allurements of pleasure in a gay and luxurious city; and I am not ashamed to own, what most modern men of spirit would scorn to acknowledge, that I lived three years in London without indulging in one licentious amour; without risking a single pound note at a gaming table, and without joining in the elegant freaks of a fashionable rout, or masquerade. Yet I was not so totally devoted to business as to lose my relish for social pleasure. With my youthful companions, who were mostly the sons and daughters of neighbouring merchants, and tradesmen, I sometimes shared the gratification of innocent gaiety at a ball; sometimes went on a party of pleasure for a week to Margate, and once, even ventured for a few days to Brighton itself. The public theatres too, afforded me rational amusement; though I must say, that in common with many other men who dare to think for themselves, I was generally disappointed in my expectations of beholding a close imitation of nature by the players. The common subterfuge of puffing a theatrical performer in the daily prints, seems to have degraded the histrionic art; and a

player who can purchase praise for half a guinea in a newspaper, will yawn over his part in the closet, and misperform it on the stage.

But with all my apparent prudence, which was indeed regulated by the exemplary wisdom of an experienced parent, I was naturally of a romantic disposition; passionately fond of whatever was extraordinary in nature or art; and insatiably curious respecting the productions of foreign climes, and the manners of the natives of distant regions. Hence, frequent visits to the different Museums in London in some degree gratified my curiosity respecting natural philosophy, while books on that subject, and the voyages and travels of celebrated adventurers, constituted my principal literary amusement. The frequent arrival of cargoes of valuable merchandize from different parts of the globe, and my conversation with Captains, Super-cargoes, and even the common sailors, still farther stimulated my desire to travel; and when I attained the age of twenty-six years, and my father congratulated me on that event, I entreated him to permit me to see more of the world, by embarking on a mercantile adventure in one of our ships to Rio Janeiro. He hesitated for a moment as if irresolute, then taking me by

the hand, "Henry," said he, "your wish is natural, if not praiseworthy, and it shall be gratified. I can now trust to your discretion, you are free from evil habits, well instructed, in good health, and with a sound constitution, and an intelligent mind, I think a voyage and intercourse with foreigners will enlarge your ideas, and enable you to compare your native country with other parts of this globe, of which we are all but temporary inhabitants." I expressed my thanks in the language of affection, adding, "I hope, Sir, I shall make a profitable voyage, and meet with men of more probity than certain merchants and tradesmen in the city who have lately defrauded us of thousands." "I fear not, Henry," said he, "there are undoubtedly too many fraudulent individuals among the Merchants of London, but how small a proportion do they bear to the number of those honorable and just commercial men, who constitute the principal pillars of our free state! Our manufacturers, merchants, and tradesmen are indeed celebrated throughout the known world, for their probity and punctuality. To their high character, is England chiefly indebted for her fame. Their ingenuity and industry are the chief ornaments of the nation in peace, and its never failing resources in war. By their manly mu-

nificence, is the active charity of our countrymen rendered efficacious in the alleviation of misery in the most distant regions; their ships convey clothing and provisions to the necessitous foreigner, and even a part of the freight is sometimes the Gospel destined to enlighten and comfort the benighted heathen. Such, my son, is the respectability and paramount excellence of the British merchant; and it shall be the pride of my heart, to see you outshine every competitor for distinction in the art of acquiring wealth, for the purpose of diffusing happiness."

The consent of my father, and his approbation of my adventure, stimulated me to tenfold exertion in my preparations for a voyage to Brasil. I had often read and heard of the beautiful productions of South America; its curious animals, its picturesque and magnificent scenery, and the singular varieties of the complexion, manners, and customs of the Aborigines, as well as the settlers from different parts of Europe. I had also heard of the dangers to which a traveller was exposed in the exploration of the interior regions; but as I confined my first plan to observations on the coast, and the Portuguese settlers, I felt no apprehension or inquietude respecting dangers which I did not an-

ticipate. In the preparations for a long voyage to a warm climate, I availed myself of the experience of others and completed an excellent sea store of provisions with the facility which London always affords to the possessor of money. I also increased my wardrobe, and selected some of the most elegant productions in the French and English language, particularly the works of travellers in America. As I intended to keep a Journal during my voyage, and my peregrinations on the American Continent, I was amply provided with paper and all the requisites of writing. A friend of mine who had been many years abroad, advised me to take a pocket compass, telescope, and arms for my defence. "To a man who has lived only in England," said he, "the dangers of the traveller in other countries appear chimerical, but experience will prove them to be equally real and formidable. Mr. Latouche, who travelled above two thousand leagues through North and South America, informed me that the reptiles and beasts of prey in the woods, though perhaps not so fierce as those of Africa, are truly dangerous to the solitary wanderer. The monstrous serpent called the Laboya, which abounds in the woody regions beyond Brazil, and the Panthers and Leopards, which prowl in the ravines of the Cordelliras and the

Andes, sometimes attack villages and destroy part of the flocks and herds, nay even devour the Indians: such is the account given by a man of veracity, and I advise you, Mr. Sidney, to be well provided with the means of defence if you intend to make an excursion into those wild regions." I profited by these hints, and purchased an excellent fusee and bayonet, a musket, a case of pistols, and a sword. As I had been taught the military exercise, these weapons were familiar to me. My sea store was also an object of some consideration, but this I left to Captain Standford.

When the *Aurora* was cleared out, I parted with my dear and affectionate mother with feelings of filial gratitude. My adventurous disposition had frequently been restrained by her solicitous prudence during my minority, but when I passed the period of dependence, she no longer attempted to restrain my curiosity, but reluctantly gave her acquiescence and bestowed her parting benedictions with embraces and tears. I own that the sight of a good mother weeping, for a moment made me waver; I too shed tears, but rousing my fortitude, I respectfully kissed that maternal hand which clasped mine, and promised to remember her prudential injunctions respecting

my health, morals, and personal safety. My father saw me on board at Gravesend ; I was also accompanied to the ship's side by a few youthful friends, some of whom expressed their envy at my apparently happy outset. Like myself, they could not foresee the innumerable perils into which I was about to plunge, and as I waved my hat and bade them farewell, I ascended the deck with a proud consciousness of superiority.

We sailed from Gravesend with the evening tide on the 16th of March, 1809, and passed a multitude of vessels which were steering for the port of London. The novelty of the scene was not without its charms; a spring tide realized Denham's description of the Thames,

“ Though deep yet clear, though gentle yet not dull ;
Strong without rage, without overflowing full.”

The stream indeed was not remarkable for its purity, or its transparency, but in all other respects it was truly described by the poet.

Our vessel soon passed into the sea, and for the first time I found myself fairly afloat on the undulating bosom of the world of waters. The sudden change from the population and bustle of the greatest commercial city in the world to the soli-

tary deep, seemed like complete exclusion from society ; I looked around for my companions, and beheld the Captain, his two mates, a surgeon, thirty experienced seamen, and four boys. The passengers on board were Senor Gomez D'Avila, and two young ladies, his nieces, who were like himself natives of Portugal, and destined for St. Sebastian, the capital of the Portuguese settlements in Brazil. Senor D'Avila had an extensive estate on the confines of Portugal, which had been plundered by the French army when they invaded that country from Spain; he fled with his moveable property, which was considerable, to Lisbon, and thence to London; and he was now on his way to the Court of the Prince Regent of the Brazils. The utmost attention had been paid by Captain Standford to the comfort and accommodation of the two young Portuguese ladies, for whom a small inner room which communicated with the cabin was neatly fitted up. A brisk young Englishwoman, with health and vivacity in her looks, was their attendant, or rather their companion; and to her activity, cleanliness, and neatness, they certainly were indebted for much of their comfort during the voyage. As I had acquired a smattering of French, I contrived to keep up a conversation with the Portuguese gentleman and his nieces, but the motion of the

ship soon interrupted our social pleasures over a cup of tea; the ladies retired sea-sick to their room, and I also felt a momentary indisposition, which went off with the first night's repose.

Next morning when I went on deck we were out of sight of land, and sailing rapidly with a fresh and fair wind. The scene was equally new, magnificent and delightful to me, and I now observed what I had so often heard asserted by navigators and philosophers, that the appearance of the ocean is globular. This was evident even to the naked eye: at the line of the horizon, the water seemed to sink from and escape the sight, and whenever a vessel appeared the tops of her masts were first seen, then her yards, sails, and rigging, and lastly, her deck. •

As we were now, like Noah and his family in the ark, an isolated community, we began to feel an interest in reciprocal gratification. The ship and cargo were my own, but I did not from that circumstance arrogate to myself any peculiar consequence, as I was well convinced that for the sake of order and discipline, my Captain was the superior while on board. I was, however, curious to know the probable period of our voyage, but to this the Captain

could give no answer ; he even seemed offended at the enquiry, which I afterwards found is common among landmen, and considered as perfectly childish by seamen, who seem to have a superstitious horror respecting the future while afloat. They think it presumptuous to mention any precise time for the termination of a voyage ; for they know that they are liable to the delays of calms, contrary winds, and those accidents by rocks, quicksands, and squalls which may in a few minutes send them to the bottom. All these considerations overawe them into patience, resignation, and fortitude, not from any indolence or unwillingness to encounter hardship. In a storm they are fearless, it is only when at ease that they shudder at past dangers, or anticipate those to come.

I found on enquiry that our complement of seamen was very complete for a merchantman ; and the Captain observed that half the number would be sufficient to work the vessel, the supernumeraries were engaged to defend my property, as we were at war with France, and for this purpose the ship carried eight long nine pounders with proportionate ammunition. Some of our seamen had been on board ships of war and were skilful in working the guns, of which they gave me a demonstration.

As we rapidly ploughed the waves with a fine breeze our voyage was delightful. Sometimes a ship passed near us, when we mutually hailed, and as we were on a different course, we seemed to pass with the swiftness of a bird on the wing.

Our party in the cabin now became cheerful and social; the Portuguese ladies, restored to health and serenity, were truly interesting. The eldest sister, Isabella, was an elegant and accomplished woman, about twenty years of age; she sung enchantingly to the soft music of her guitar, and her sister Rosalie sometimes increased the harmony. But Rosalie Revira was possessed of other attractions besides her tuneful voice. She appeared to be about eighteen, of a good stature, well proportioned, and of a brown complexion, with black eyes expressive of extreme sensibility mingled with the spirit and vivacity natural to a healthful, innocent, and amiable young woman. Her fine countenance, which was a beautiful oval, and the grace which played over her blooming dimpled cheek and lips when she smiled, fascinated the beholder, and though I had often conversed with Englishwomen of superior beauty, I never before felt the power of feminine attractions so strongly. The peculiarity of our situation might be the cause of this partiality. We were, it

might be said, detached from society, and consequently endeavoured to the utmost of our abilities to contribute to reciprocal gratification as far as propriety and the customs of civilization permitted. Senor D'Avila was an entertaining companion; and the Captain, to all the rough frankness of the bold mariner, superadded that kind attention to our wants which sprung from good nature regulated by experience; nor were the amusements of our good friends on deck overlooked by us. Two or three of our seamen could play tolerably on the fiddle, and one of the mates was excellent at the german flute. It was customary on a fine evening to collect our crew on the quarter-deck, where they danced, not very gracefully indeed, but with sufficient agility and spirit to the music of two violins and a flute. Even the ladies and myself occasionally went down a English country dance with those rough exhibitors, and what we wanted in gracefulness of motion, we made up in gaiety and mirth. When the ball concluded, I gave each seaman a pint of wine, and we returned to our cabin to supper.

We had now been five weeks at sea, and according to our computation taken from the notes in the log-book, we expected to reach Rio Janeiro in less than a week. An incident common in times of war nearly compelled us to alter our course.

One morning at dawn, a strange sail came in sight; in a few hours we perceived by our glasses that she was a ship of war with English colours. I rejoiced at the sight, and my heart palpitated with the pleasing expectation of our soon receiving some news from England. Our Captain advised me not to be too sanguine in my hopes, for possibly an apparent friend might prove a real enemy. To prevent surprize, he ordered the deck to be cleared for action. The other ship approached with full sails, ran alongside, struck the English Jack, hoisted the tricoloured flag, and her commander hailing us in French through his speaking trumpet, ordered us to strike, and send our boat on board. Captain Standford replied by a broadside from his eight guns, which he had brought to the starboard side of his ship, and a warm action of thirty five minutes commenced, in which all our men, and even our boys behaved like true Britons! Though I had never been in a sea-fight before, and felt no inclination to expose myself to danger, yet the animating example of our Captain, the manly firmness of our seamen, and that sympathy which prompts men to despise death in the presence of each other, encouraged me to assist in our common defence. I fired above twenty rounds from a musket during the action, and as I stood on the

quarter deck within pistol shot of the enemy, I have no doubt that some of my musket bullets took effect.

The French privateer, for such she proved to be, finding she could make no impression upon us, sheered off, and our victory was proclaimed by three British cheers. We had two seamen killed and six wounded, and I received a slight wound in my left cheek from a small splinter.

During the engagement Senor D'Avila remained below with his neices, whose terror was great; even their English attendant acknowledged her fears, especially when a cannon ball from the quarter-deck of the privateer passed through the cabin from side to side, destroying our plates, tea-cups, &c. with a tremendous crash. When the firing ceased, however, and the Englishwoman heard the three animating cheers, she also shouted for joy, and prevailed with the ladies to hasten to the deck. Incited by curiosity, and a wish to breathe fresh air, Nancy Wilnot ascended first, leading the pale and trembling Rosalie, who seemed eagerly to cast her eyes around in search of some object, I was that favoured cause of her solicitude; forgetful of my uncouth appearance,

with the blood from my cheek streaming down my cloaths, I ran forward to congratulate her on the happy termination of the incident, but the moment she beheld me, she uttered a faint cry and fainted away. I supported her in my arms and carried her to her own room, where I left her to the care of her attendant and her sister Isabella. I then hastily changed my cloaths, had my wound dressed, and sent the Captain to assure her of my safety.

The remains of our two brave countrymen were sewed up in their hammocks and thrown overboard, and our wounded men treated with the utmost care. Next day I presented one guinea to each of the seamen, and half a guinea each to the boys. Isabella requested Captain Standford to accept of a diamond ring as a token of her esteem, and I gave a handsome gold watch to each of the mates, and the surgeon. Thus we were all gratified; my ship and cargo saved from the enemy; and nothing to be regretted but the loss of our two brave seamen. My wound was inconsiderable, and with the assurance of my safety the cheerfulness of the beautiful—the too beautiful Rosalie was restored. Her sister rallied her on her womanish apprehensions, but her blushes and confusion proved that another passion besides that of terror had been ex-

cited. Perhaps it was compassion, perhaps disgust at the sight of blood and carnage; but my vanity, for all young men are vain, construed those strong emotions into attachment to myself.

On the third morning after our sea fight we came in sight of land, and impelled by a strong and favourable gale we entered the Rio Janeiro, or River January, on the 30th of April, at four o'clock in the afternoon, and cast anchor under the guns of a fort erected on the western side of the river for the protection of the harbour.

Next day I went ashore with the first mate, and proceeded to the city of St. Sebastian, which is situated on the west bank of the Rio Janeiro, about two leagues from the mouth of that river. Our reception at the Custom House was very flattering; a port officer was dispatched in one of the royal cutters to pilot our ship into port, and I returned on board in the afternoon with passports for the passengers and my Captain. It was late when we landed; apartments were soon prepared for our reception in the marine hotel on the principal quay, and thither I conducted the two Portuguese ladies, their uncle, and attentive Englishwoman. Our tars brought all their trunks safely on shore and

placed them in their apartments, and I devoted the remainder of the evening to the service of the fair voyagers. Senor D'Avila and his nieces were profuse in their acknowledgments of my attention to them during the voyage, but I gaily cut short those compliments by observing that I should only require the gentleman and ladies to initiate me in the peculiar manners of their countrymen in Brazil, to facilitate my intercourse, and of course my success. "Perhaps you will find this return for common civilities," said I gaily, "a much harder task than you are aware; an English heretic is a much more exceptionable animal among the good catholics of Brazil, than of Lisbon." "A heretic!" said Rosalie in a low voice, with a suppressed sigh. "Yes" cried Isabella, "a heretic to be sure; and how can the man help that. But let us recollect Rosalie, that it is to the bravery of English heretics, that we owe the preservation of Portuguese independence, and the complete expulsion of a rapacious enemy." I thanked the lady for her able defence of heresy, at which, however, her uncle looked grave, and I retired to my apartment reflecting on the antisocial effect of prejudice on the human heart.

CHAPTER II.

Introduction to the Prince Regent—description of his Court—religious procession—temerity of two English sailors—appearance, manners, and amusements of the inhabitants of St. Sebastian.—short description of the city and its vicinity.

TWO days after my arrival at St. Sebastian, I was introduced by Mr. Thornton, an English Merchant, to the British Ambassador at the Court of the Prince Regent. Lord S——— received me with much politeness, and promised to present me at the Royal levee on the following day at noon. I returned to our hotel with this intelligence, and Senor D'Avila requested me to prevail with my friend to have him also presented to his Royal Highness.

At the appointed hour we attended; Lord S———, by a nod of recognition, convinced

me that I was not neglected, and availing myself of his condescension, I entreated him to introduce an unfortunate Portuguese gentleman to the Prince at the same time. "Though it is not strictly consistent with Court etiquette for a foreign Ambassador to introduce a subject to the Prince," said his Lordship, "yet as Senor D'Avila is a man of some consideration, and what is more, your friend, I shall for once overstep the boundaries of custom." I bowed, felt the compliment, and was soon afterwards introduced to the Representative of the Royal House of Brazanga. His Royal Highness received me most graciously, he made some enquiries respecting the object of my voyage ; assured me of his protection, and at the same time expressed his grateful sense of the obligations of his people and himself to the British Government. Senor D'Avila, who waited in painful anxiety, was now introduced ; the Prince seemed to have some faint recollection of the name ; and when the gentleman modestly mentioned one of his ancestors, who had fought bravely and successfully for the Portuguese Crown, the Regent with a smile of condescension gave him his hand to kiss, and promised to receive him as one of his Courtiers. We retired from the levee much gratified ; the Court was not numerous but extremely splendid, many of the nobility and

gentry being adorned with the ornaments of the different orders of knighthood, particularly stars composed of real Brazilian diamonds. From the short time during which I had the honour to converse with the Regent I conceived rather a favourable opinion of his intellect. He seems tolerably intelligent for a Prince, for it is generally agreed, that the observation of Dryden,

“ Princes, like beauties, from their very youth,
Are perfect strangers to the voice of truth,”

will be found but too correct ; and the consequence is, they are educated in comparative ignorance of mankind. The Prince Regent is a man of low stature, of rather an open and agreeable aspect, and well proportioned. When we reflect that he was nourished on the lap of Despotism, and that Superstition was his only moral instructress, we must admire the benevolence and rationality of his character.

An account of the expulsion of Junot and the French army from Lisbon, by the British Army under Sir Arthur Wellesley, had arrived at St. Sebastian the very day of my presentation, and that circumstance doubtless increased the affability of the Prince towards Englishmen. Next day there was

a grand religious procession with the Host to the Cathedral; as I abominate idolatry, I remained within, that I might not be reduced to the humiliation of being obliged to kneel in the street, as all men did without distinction; and I observed that two of my heretical seamen, who were either ignorant of the ceremony, or refractory, were knocked down by the royal guard because they would not kneel, and immediately sent to prison. Our Captain called in the afternoon and requested me to apply to our Ambassador to obtain the liberation of the delinquents, and I found that there was no time to be lost, as they might be delivered over to the inquisition, and exposed to all its tortures. I shuddered at the rashness of my countrymen; hastened to the Ambassador, and obtained the release of the seamen, on condition that no person from my ship should attempt to come ashore except the Captain.

By the activity of Captain Standford, the cargo of my vessel was discharged into Brazilian lighters, and safely deposited in a warehouse. I now found the value of the friendship of Senor D'Avila, who not only introduced me to several merchants and tradesmen in St. Sebastian, but procured me a ready market for my goods, which were indeed of

the best quality. I soon sold the whole cargo at a great profit, and with part of the nett proceeds, I purchased quantities of sugar, indigo, cotton wool of the finest quality, and excellent tobacco, the produce of the soil, which I shipped for the port of London. I retained about £5000 sterling in cash, which I considered amply sufficient for my intended travels into the interior, and having transmitted the overplus in bills to my father, and consigned the cargo to him, and appointed Captain Standford super-cargo, I turned my whole attention to my romantic project, eagerly anticipating wonderful discoveries.

I had now leisure to observe the manners and customs of the citizens of St. Sebastian. Like the European Portuguese they are rather swarthy; they are a lively obliging race, very active in commercial affairs, and rather frank in their manners. The streets of the city are regular, but rather dirty, especially during the rainy season, or spring. The dress of the people of both sexes differs little from that worn in Portugal, and is of whatever colour may suit the caprice or choice of the wearer. The predominant colour is black among the men, which probably originates in an imitation of those lazy fraternities of Monks and Friars who infest the

city. The Aborigenes, or Indians, who reside in St. Sebastian, enjoy privileges similar to those of the Portuguese settlers themselves, and are like them active and industrious. The ladies, and indeed the women of all ranks, in St. Sebastian, are rather homely to an English eye, and by no means so cleanly either in person or dress as the natives of the British isles; but many of the emigrant females from Portugal are lovely and accomplished women.

The amusements of the citizens, of which religious processions on holidays may truly be said to be the principal, are puerile in the extreme; tricks of legerdemain, and low comedies and farces, constitute their highest recreations, and some of them, in imitation of the Indians, amuse themselves with archery, and are tolerably skilful in the use of the bow. The city of St. Sebastian is well fortified; the garrison, however, is inconsiderable, yet quite sufficient for the defence of a place not likely to be exposed to a siege. The soil in the vicinity is fertile to exuberance, and the produce, whether in the garden, the orchard, or the vineyard, is excellent. A native of Britain can scarcely conceive the quickness and perfection of vegetation in this warm and humid climate. When the rainy sea-

son is over, the fruits ripen in a few days, and plenty literally pours forth the contents of her cornucopia into the lap of skilful industry. In spring the whole country wears the appearance of a vast garden where flowers of every scent and tint that can delight the sight and smell, appear in myriads, particularly varieties of the lily unknown in Europe. Multitudes of beautiful birds and insects appear on the trees, and the lofty mountains which nearly surround the city are cloathed with groves of different kinds of valuable trees, and among others the Brazil tree, from which the country takes its name.

In the city the regularity of the streets and the snug yet fanciful appearance of the houses, which are of stone, generally two stories high, with a balcony before the upper windows, secured by lattice-work, are curious to the stranger. Another peculiarity of St. Sebastian is, that the different artizans live in streets appropriated to their trades, and not indiscriminately as in Europe. This circumstance, however regular it may appear, is not without its inconveniences to the rest of the community; for though the homely proverb that "*two of a trade can never agree,*" may be true, yet when numbers of the same trade reside together, they may readily enter into combinations to ex-

act an overprice for their articles from the purchaser. From the low situation of the city, it is exposed to heats equally insalubrious and disagreeable to the inhabitants, but as I considered myself merely a bird of passage, this inconvenience gave me little uneasiness.



CHAPTER III.

Description of the rural residence of Senor D'Avila —amusements in the country —preparations for a journey into the interior—a party of pleasure on the Rio Janciro—an accident and its consequences.

IN several of my rambles through the city and its environs I was accompanied by Senor D'Avila and his two nieces. The lively conversation and observations of Isabella gave a zest to the gratification of our curiosity; while the tender and sentimental Rosalie, frequently expressed her compassion for the multitudes of negroes who were imported and sold as slaves to work in the gold

and diamond mines in the mountains near the city, and in the captain ship of St. Vincent, which also abounds with these precious minerals.

I had now resided nearly two months in St. Sebastian ; the rainy season was over, and the sun shining in an unclouded sky rendered the heat in the city almost intolerable to an European. Senor D'Avila therefore rented a small house built in the cottage style at New Belem, a small village situated on a hill, about an English mile distant from the city. The retirement of my friend was equally pleasant and wholesome. His house stood on the brow of a small eminence which commanded a view of the city, the harbour, and circumjacent country, and the prospect presented all the variety of a magnificent metropolis, a beautiful river, woodlands, mountains, cultivated vallies, interspersed with gardens, orange groves, corn-fields, and pastures ; and to add to the enjoyment obtainable from this delightful landscape, the salubrious sea breezes frequently played around his cottage with cooling and invigorating influence.

When my friends were settled in this pleasant retreat, I generally contrived to spend the evening with them, and shall never forget the sweet

society of that interesting little party. Mary Wilmot, the English attendant of the ladies, contrived to render the cottage extremely neat and clean, and in her management of a small dairy, presented us with what is rather uncommon in Brazil, sweet cream and delicious butter. The fruits of the garden were superabundant, and constituted part of our food, while sparkling wine and the smiles of our female companions inspired hilarity and social pleasure.

In my intercourse with the tender Rosalie, I found my heart interested, but the romantic project of new discoveries, for which I was preparing, dissipated those soft emotions, and the spirit of enterprize prevailed over the influence of passion. Still a sentiment of esteem, and I may add of admiration, was cherished in my heart for Rosalie, and I also prized the agreeable though less engaging Isabella. In a moonlight night, just at the close of evening, we have rambled amid the embowering shades of their uncle's garden and orangery, while the sweet and intermingled perfumes of fruits and flowers filled the cool and refreshing breezes, and the mild radiance of the morn played lightly amid the tremulous and elastic branches of the orange trees and illumined the plants

and flowers with a fair light highly pleasing to the imagination. Security, as well serenity, rendered this rural retirement still more valuable. Here no rattlesnake in low sounds menaced the passenger with death, nor did the Leopard growl, nor the Buffalo bellow their ferocious defiance against man. No sounds were heard but those of the beautiful little humming bird which cheered by the lunar light occasionally took wing and sported around us bedecked in all the colours of the rainbow, or those of the guitar of Isabella and the symphonious voice of her sister, which occasionally vibrated in soft harmony in the passing breeze. Such were my evening's amusements, too delightful to last; my mind, incited by the desire of possessing some unknown gratification, was still occupied by the predominant idea of a journey of discovery, and having deposited about four thousand pounds with a banker in St. Sebastian, and provided a quantity of biscuit, tea, sugar, two or three suits of light clothing, a considerable store of powder and ball for a fusee, musket, and pistols, and purchased a sumpter-mule to carry these articles, I prepared to set out on my long talked-of adventure attended by Antonio my Indian servant,

On the day previous to that mentioned for my departure, I invited D'Avila and his neices to accompany me on a party of pleasure down the Rio Janeiro. We went aboard a four-oared barge about sunrise, and after a pleasant trip of about two leagues, put in at a creek to breakfast at a village. We returned towards the city early in the afternoon, as the breeze gradually freshened into a gale, and the ladies were apprehensive of a storm. When within a mile of the quay, we passed near a smaller boat with two watermen and a young lady on board. The waves now ran high and the boat was carried by the rapidity of the tide too near a ship at anchor, and striking against the cable was instantly upset. The two watermen kept themselves afloat by swimming, but they left the unfortunate female to perish. We were within less than one hundred yards of the spot, where she floated on the waves, and as I had been taught to swim, I could not behold my fellow-creature perish without making an effort for her preservation. I threw off my coat, leaped overboard, and undeterred by the shrieks of the ladies, swam towards the perishing and helpless being who had excited my sympathy. When I approached the body, I found to my great delight that the head was still above water. She seemed in a state of insen-

sibility, yet providentially she had been thrown on her back which doubtless preserved her life, as the waves carried her along. By a strong effort I reached the body, and seizing part of her garments above the left shoulder with my right hand, I still kept the head above the surface, and turned towards the barge, which had followed me, and was near. The waves now broke over us, but I continued to struggle though almost breathless, and kept fast hold of the young lady,

“ Like a rich conquest in one hand I bore her,
And with the other dash'd the saucy waves,
Which throug'd and press'd to rob me of my prize.”

With some difficulty we were both lifted into the barge, D'Avila and his fair friends hastened to the aid of the lady, but as for me, I was so completely exhausted that for some minutes I lay in the stern unable to move a limb. A cordial reanimated me, and the unknown lady was also restored to life. When she opened her eyes, she uttered an exclamation of surprize, and nearly relapsed into a fainting-fit, but the delicate attention of our party soothed her into confidence. She was taken below by the ladies, her wet cloathes taken off, and part of theirs put on. After a slight refreshment she was able to speak, and expressed her gra-

itude in accents which penetrated my heart. "Permit me," said D'Avila, "to set you right respecting the person to whose aid you are indebted for life. There is your preserver," continued he, pointing to me, "it is to his intrepidity and skill as a swimmer, that we now have the pleasure of seeing you safe among us." The young lady made a motion as if she would throw herself on her knees before me; I prevented her by receiving her in my arms. "Let us thank Divine Providence," said I, "for this signal preservation in which I was merely an instrument; to God, and not man, fair and unknown lady, are your praises and your thanks due, for a restoration to that society of which you are doubtless an ornament." The young lady wept, she raised her tearful eyes to heaven, and falling on her knees breathed forth the effusions of pious gratitude to the Lord of the universe. The scene was affecting and impressive; the other ladies shed tears, and D'Avila pressed my hand with speechless emotion. In a few minutes we were safely landed, and after proper refreshments I offered to conduct the fair unknown home. She blushed, but declined my offer, saying with a sweet smile, that she had been too troublesome already. She then arose and gracefully bade the ladies and their uncle adieu. She turned towards

me and faintly articulating, "my preserver!" attempted with tottering steps to leave the room. I supported her, ordered a carriage, and insisted on seeing her safe home. In this request I was joined by my companions, and she no longer objected. She mentioned an obscure place in the suburbs and thither we were carried. We stopped at the door of a small house, and unwilling to wound her delicacy, I wished her a good evening; but she seized my hand, and exclaiming "I must introduce my preserver to the only friend I have on earth," she led me into a small neat parlour, where a respectable matron received us. The elderly lady gazed on my companion and cried out, "Why have you changed your dress, Eleonora; what has happened to my child?" Eleonora could make no reply; she threw herself on a small sofa and burst into tears, I was then interrogated with "perhaps Sir, you can explain this mystery?" "Yes, Madam," replied I, "the simple fact is, that your daughter, for such I suppose her to be, was in danger of being drowned, her boat was upset by a cable, and I happened to be near her and succeeded in conducting her ashore and to her home." "Yes, my dear mother," cried the young lady in a tremulous voice, "that gentlemen restored your child to life and to her parent." The scene was now

indiscribable, the old lady hung upon my neck calling me the preserver of her only treasure. I gently disengaged myself from her embrace, and sat down, and I shall never forget my delightful sensations when I felt my face bedewed with the falling tears of a grateful human being.

I now learnt from the elderly lady that she was widow of a Portuguese Merchant, whose name was Gonzalvez. He had been unfortunate in business and died insolvent, but some of his friends had raised a sum of money with which they purchased the small tenement in which she dwelt, and settled an annuity of about £25 a-year on the widow and her daughter, which with their industrious efforts as embroiderers enabled them to live. "Eleonora," said she, "went down the river this morning with some work which we had finished for a lady of distinction whose villa is near the shore." "Yes" replied the daughter, "and I have brought home the money mother." With these words she put four pieces of Portuguese gold coin into her mother's hand. I soon afterwards took my leave, but not till I received an invitation from Senora Gonzalvez to dine with her on the following day.

CHAPTER IV.

Confined by a fever—on my recovery I declare my attachment to a Portuguese lady—our parting interview described.

MY recent adventure became a general topic of conversation among the citizens of St. Sebastian; I was even pointed out in the streets as the Englishman who had ventured his life to save that of a drowning lady, and the most charitable among the Brazilian gossips ventured to express a hope, that such a man might be saved though a heretic. Another unforeseen effect of the accident was a fever brought on by my exertions and a cold caught by remaining too long in wet cloaths. I was confined to my room in the marine hotel, and declared by my physician to be in a high fever, which was not however contagious. This encouraged D'Avila and even his nieces to visit the patient; and as I

thus unavoidably failed in my engagement to dine with Senora Gonzalvez, she sent a person to inquire respecting my health, who returned with an account that I was dangerously ill.

In less than an hour afterwards, the mother and daughter entered my room; Eleonora—the timid and modest Eleonora—burst into tears on beholding me; and clasping my burning hand in hers, exclaimed, “Ah, gracious heaven! he is dying in consequence of his efforts to save me!” I entreated her to hope a better result; and the arrival of my physician was soon afterwards the signal for the departure of the ladies.

In the course of the night my disease increased, insomuch that I became delirious. What passed for several days is unknown to me, but when my fever abated and reason re-assumed its sway, I found myself in my bed-chamber, and thought I heard whispers, I made an effort to rise but could not: my nurse now approached the bed, and beholding the serenity of my countenance, “Thanks to the blessed Virgin,” said she, “the Senor is recovering, the danger is over.” A few half-suppressed sobs near the bed head made me turn my eyes that way, and I beheld the amiable Eleonora with the tears

trickling down her cheeks, while her blue eyes beamed with the angelic innocence and delight of her soul. Her tears were tears of joy—she sunk on her knees, and breathed out an ejaculatory thanksgiving to the Great Physician. Her mother soon afterwards came forward, and the Doctor who had attended me daily, now entered, felt my pulse, and declared me in a state of convalescence. Senor D'Avila and his female friends also arrived, and the joyful tidings of my recovery were communicated with as much emphasis as if I had been a person of the first distinction.

In a week I was able to take an airing in an open carriage, and I accepted the invitation of D'Avila to pass some days at his cottage till my health should be completely re-established. This my youth and good constitution soon effected. The Senora Gonzalvez sent to make daily enquiries after my health, and the physician informed me that Eleonora had watched over me during my delirium, and regardless of contagion had administered the medicines herself, and assisted the nurse often declaring, that she should never again know happiness in this world if I died. These tender attentions, these inestimable efforts of a good and grateful mind were not overlooked by

me. The esteem of any virtuous human being is valuable, but that of a beautiful and pure hearted young woman is doubly so, especially in the estimation of a young man like me of a warm and romantic imagination. From this moment Eleonora Gonzalvez was the chosen mistress of my heart, and although I did not, like a knight errant in the days of chivalry offer my votive services, I felt all the enthusiasm of a warm and generous passion for the fair damsel whose life I had preserved, not from giants and sorcerers, but the engulfing waves of the ocean. Rosalie perceived my increasing attachment to the lovely orphan of an insolvent merchant with an inquietude which preyed upon her health; I felt a secret consciousness that I was the cause of her unhappiness, but reflecting that my absence would soon obliterate the remembrance of me from her breast, I again prepared for my excursion.

When I mentioned my intention to the Senora Gonzalvez during an afternoon visit, she endeavoured to dissuade me from what she thought a perilous and unprofitable enterprize; but I was not to be diverted from a project which conceived in England, had daily acquired greater strength in my mind. Eleonora came in while we were

engaged in friendly disputation, and on learning the subject, she sighed deeply, staggered towards a seat, and fainted away! I hastened to support her; she opened her eyes which met mine with an expression of tenderness not to be resisted. I assured her of my esteem—my affection—my love!—as I uttered the last word, she laid her head upon my arm and again fainted away. Her mother strongly moved now wept aloud, exclaiming, “Ah! why did you snatch my daughter from the waves to inflict a more slow and torturing death!” Overcome by the sorrow of the parent, and the emotions of her beautiful daughter, I made the amiable and grateful Eleonora an offer of my hand—she pressed it to her lips, then concealed her blushing face in her mother’s bosom. This was an evening of happiness to me; I promised to marry Eleonora on my return from my travels, for as I had set my heart upon the gratification of my curiosity by scientific discoveries, and observations on the manners of unknown nations, I made her acquiescence an express condition.

It was now the prime of autumn, and much as I valued the society of my friends at New Belem, and my lovely mistress and her mother, I resolutely relinquished real happiness for the purpose of

exploring the unknown regions of that vast continent, on the very verge of which I had already met with some singular adventures. I was ambitious to shine in the annals of discovery, and even the hope of gain entered into my romantic speculation. Before I departed from St. Sebastian, I took money to the value of five hundred pounds sterling out of my banker's hands and deposited it in trust with Senora Gonzalvez for the use of my destined bride. The ladies already attached to me by the ties of esteem and love received this new proof of my sincerity with modest dignity; but Eleonora beheld my preparations for my journey with poignant sorrow. Never shall I forget our parting interview, nor the agony painted in her pale and expressive countenance while she sighed her last adieu in a spot where we were never to meet again. Her tears quite unmanned me—I stood pensive and irresolute for a moment. Paradise presented itself to me in the love, the unalienable love of a beautiful and virtuous maiden, but the censurable, and I may say ridiculous passion for novelty prevailed. I wept as I clasped the dear, the lovely and the beloved Eleonora in an embrace which she seemed to consider our last, and I turned away with the word adieu upon my lips whilst my bosom thrilled with a mournful presentiment.

“ Still o'er the scene my mem'ry wakes,
 And fondly broods with miser care;
 Time but th' impression stronger makes,
 As streams their channels deeper wear.”

Such was my parting with the fair and tender Eleonora; and after the pain I felt at this separation my adieu to D'Avila and his nieces was comparatively trivial.



CHAPTER V.

I set out on a journey of discovery—journal of thirteen days travels in the interior of South America—arrive in the Kingdom of Orozama—taken captive—brought before the King and retained as one of the royal guard.

MY Indian servant Antonio, who had been recommended to me by a respectable merchant, was about my own age. He was athletic, active, versed in the dialects of his countrymen, of an open countenance a cheerful disposition, and tried fidelity. With this honest young native of Brazil, I set out on

horseback on the 20th of July, 1809, on a journey of discovery which for aught I knew might be as unsuccessful as that undertaken by Mungo Park to the interior of Africa. But hope was the predominant passion as I put my foot in the stirrup. I passed slowly through the suburb of St. Sebastian; the morning was particularly fine, and the rising sun shed his glorious rays from a pure and cloudless sky on one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. Antonio was mounted on a mule, and led the sumpter-mule which carried our provisions and baggage. This young Indian, who had been converted to Christianity, chaunted his morning hymn to the virgin, as we slowly ascended the hills, and with a deep sigh I cast a last look towards the abode of Eleonora. In an hour we reached the summit of the hill over which we were to pass, and the moment after the city was concealed by the ridge from our view, a fine extensive and well cultivated country appeared before us in beautiful perspective, with the majestic Rio Janeiro winding amid its woody and verdant banks.

About noon we reached the plain, and dismounting we sat down beside a clear brook under the shade of some palm-trees and dined on biscuit and dried fruits. Antonio, who was of the Tupinambo

tribe, advised me to travel first through the country inhabited by his kinsmen, who could give us some useful information respecting the customs of the more remote and savage tribes, some of whom dwelt beyond the river St. Francis, and in Amazonia. through which I had expressed my determination to travel. As from the excellent character of my Indian guide I could confide in his fidelity, I resolved to take his advice, and we accordingly proceeded in a north-west direction. The transactions of several days, still interrupted by an unforeseen incident, I recorded in the following Journal: July 20th. 1809.—Set out from St. Sebastian; proceeded over the Arvilo hills and entered the plain of Joigna. The general appearance of the country was fertile. Several farm houses, or rather huts, appeared embosomed by orange and palm tree groves; some of the inhabitants came out to gaze at us as we passed, but we met with neither interruption nor civility. At sun-set we approached a hut, the proprietor of which was a descendant of a Portuguese settler. He received us with kindness, set milk and fruits before us, and offered us a couch formed of a kind of soft mat similar to that on which he himself reposed. His conversation like his ideas was rude, and seemed to be a barbarous jargon of Indian and Portuguese

phrases. Yet he was sufficiently intelligible to Antonio, who was our interpreter. Before we retired to rest, our host's daughter, a modest brown girl, sung her evening hymn to the Virgin; in which she was joined by the companionable Antonio.

21st. We arose early, I presented my host a piece of silver, and we continued our journey. During this day we were much annoyed by hornets, and other stinging insects. The heat in the afternoon became intolerable and I was obliged to fly to the shades of a small wood on the bank of a lake. Seated beneath the shade of a mulberry tree, which presented its ripe fruit to our hands, we dined and rested for about two hours. Humming birds fluttered around us in all the beautiful varieties of colour, and parrots of variegated plumage chattered above our heads. The scene was altogether new, wild, and pleasant to my imagination, but I was roused from my tranquillity by an unusual noise among some thickets near which the horse and mules were feeding. In a moment they snorted, fled at full speed, and before I could well snatch my musket, a huge serpent burst from a thicket and advanced with a quick undulatory motion. Antonio, who appeared terrified, instantly climbed the mulberry tree and called to me to do the same but

confiding in the firmness of my nerves and the exactness of my aim, I fired when the reptile was within ten yards of me. The ball entered its head, I sprung forward and transfixed it with my bayonet. Writhing in frightful contortions the monster expired in less than two minutes. Antonio now came down viewing me and the serpent by turns with looks of admiration; I sent him in search of our cattle, and removed to another shade nearer the lake, as the smell of the dead serpent was very offensive.

We had now proceeded beyond the bounds of the cultivated tract occupied by European settlers, and consequently prepared to encounter the inconveniencies to which all travellers are exposed in a wilderness. At night we collected some dry wood and made a fire to prevent the approach of serpents and wild beasts; we then fastened the horse and mules to trees near the fire, and having climbed into two low trees and placed ourselves as comfortably and securely as we could, each wrapped up in a cloak of English broad cloth, we soon fell asleep.

22nd. This day before we had travelled a mile we came to a wood; as we advanced the underwood and coarse grass were so high and strongly intermin-

gled that we were obliged to seek an opening, and with much difficulty proceeded slowly among large thickets. Fruits were ripe and abundant, we regaled on the most delicious pine apple, that I ever tasted, which grew spontaneously, and perfumed the air with their rich odour. How a London or Parisian epicure would have enjoyed such a repast! But our purpose was not so much to gratify the palate as the eye, and this day presented a thunderstorm so tremendous that I shall never forget its terrific effects.

It came on about two o'clock in the afternoon. A dead calm was succeeded by hollow gusts which shook down the fruits from the trees in thousands. The ground was strewed with clusters of figs from the Paecobia, or Adam's fig-tree; the Mangeba, the Araca, and the Jabaticaba, which I shall fully describe in the sequel. As the gloom increased, the fireflies made their appearance, but their twinkling light was soon lost in the glowing splendour of the thunderbolt. We secured our horse and mules by tying them up to trees, but the animals seemed so much affrighted as to be unable to move. Peals of thunder of deafening noise shook the ground beneath our feet; a flash of lightning struck a stately mulberry-tree within

fifty yards of us, and shivered it from the top to the bottom; and, to add to the horror of the storm, two panthers darted past us and hid themselves in the adjacent thickets. This violent thunderstorm lasted about an hour, when the sky suddenly cleared up, the sun shone out, and the cooled air became serene. We then continued our journey, and before sunset we came in sight of a small plantation on the bank of a river; soon afterwards two large huts convinced us that we were in the vicinity of an Indian town, and as we advanced we beheld about forty men armed with bows, arrows, and spears, drawn up to receive us. Antonio called to them in a loud tone, requesting permission to repose in their town or pass unmolested. One of the Indians replied that we were welcome, and pointed to a hut at the entrance of the village, where he said we might sleep. We accordingly dismounted, led our horse and mules into the hut, took out our provisions, and sitting down on a mat took our supper. During the meal, our lodging was surrounded by about twenty young Indian warriors, with spears or javelins in their hands; they from time to time peeped at the entrance, and I soon perceived that I was the object of their curiosity. Doubtless the difference in my complexion, features, and dress rendered me a kind

of spectacle to them, and my curiosity was no less gratified with their appearance. They were in general tall, well proportioned, of a copper or reddish colour, with agreeable round faces and black hair. As for dress, they were not much incommoded with it; the only superfluity which they wore being a kind of cincture of cotton fancifully embroidered, which was fastened round the middle and extended to the knee. Each warrior wore a small coronet of particoloured feathers, and as the plumage of several parrots and humming birds are very brilliant and beautiful, they made when skilfully intermingled a very gay ornament, equal perhaps to the garniture of the heads of hussars, adopted to gratify the puerile taste of a certain *gros* or *great* man! This guard of honour, however it might have gratified a potentate, was rather unpleasant to me, but Antonio whispered to me that from the friendliness of our reception, there could be no reason for apprehension. I credited the assertion, and calmly prepared myself for a good night's rest, which I happily enjoyed in perfect security. This may seem questionable to the inhabitant of a polished city, who lives under the protection of the laws, but were he to wander with me a thousand leagues through the uncultivated regions of the vast American continent, exposed

to a burning climate, the accidental attacks of wild beasts and reptiles, the assaults of savage tribes, and often without any nightly shelter but the branches of a tree, of which apes and monkeys were the original tenants and seemed ready to dispute possession, he would own that a night's lodging in an Indian hut was among the felicities of a traveller.

23d. This was the fourth morning of our travels, and I computed that we were about thirty leagues or ninety English miles from St. Sebastian. The friendly Indians now brought us a refreshment of milk, with a kind of bread made of the cassavi root, which they boil, dry, and bake. It is as hard as biscuit, and not unpleasant to the palate. When we prepared to depart I offered them money, which they would not accept, crying out in their own language "you are welcome." But they would not let us pass through their town, I consequently cannot describe their manners and customs, nor the furniture of their habitations. The hut appropriated to strangers, for such I found it to be where we slept, had nothing but a few soft leaves of trees overspread with mats for us to sleep on. One of the Indians accompanied us as a guide about a mile, and on leaving the

village I beheld about five hundred men, women, and children, who assembled to view us. They expressed their satisfaction by clapping their hands above their heads, and shouting almost as vociferously as my freeborn and polite countrymen are said to have done on the appearance of Blucher and Platoff in London.

We again found ourselves in perfect solitude; Antonio sung, the parrots chattered above our heads, and the buffalos in the sunny glades ran bellowing away as we approached. We now entered upon a sandy plain with little grass and no wood. All appeared an arid waste except here and there an appearance of verdure and a few flowers. I stopped, examined my pocket-compass, and found that I must pass over this desert if I would see Amazonia. We examined our provisions and found we had sufficient for a week; the proportion of liquid however was insufficient, especially when we reflected on the quantity required by our quadrupeds, and we were therefore obliged to turn aside and fill our water bottles at a spring. We then proceeded with alacrity and hope. At night we wrapped ourselves in our cloaks and stretched out on the warm sand resigned ourselves to repose. We were much annoyed by ants, centipedes, and other insects, and slept but little.

24th. This day we set out very early, and in the afternoon, to our great joy we came in sight of a small eminence crowned with trees; we reached it about sunset, and found it a delightful recess from the heat. To add to our gratification, we discovered a small spring of which both we and our quadrupeds quaffed most luxuriously; yes I repeat it, most luxuriously, for to the parched lips and dry throat of the traveller in tropical regions, a draught of pure cool water is truly delicious. On this pleasant hill we passed the night.

25th. We were in no haste to depart from our temporary abode, and the cheerful looks of our horse and mules as they fed eagerly on the herbage, proved that they also had been much refreshed. I passed part of the morning in examining and correcting my Journal; we afterwards took breakfast of bread and figs with the ripe fruit of a small mulberry-tree by way of desert: at length we set out, casting "*a longing lingering look behind,*" on the picturesque and beautiful hillock and its trees. We fared worse the following night being obliged to rest on the sand.

26th. This day about noon we came in sight of a river, and on examining my map, and calculat-

ing the probable distance from St. Sebastian, I found it was the river St. Francis, which falls into the Bay of all Saints, near the city of St. Salvador. From the appearance of the river and the hilly country westward I conjectured we were not far from its source. It was not fordable at this place, and we were obliged to proceed along its southern bank about a league, till we came to a plain where the stream flowed in an estuary, and we crossed it with safety, as it did not come up higher than my horse's belly at the deepest part. We were now completely detached from what has in the language of falsehood and adulation been termed *the civilized world*; what vicissitudes we might experience, or what dangers we might encounter were equally unknown and disregarded; we were both young, active, and adventurous; and I will say that a master and servant better qualified for a romantic journey have seldom travelled together.

Soon after we crossed the river we came into a hilly and rocky region, abounding with springs of excellent water and producing in the fertile vallies some of the most delicious fruits on earth, particularly pine apples, figs, and pears. We selected a small cavern for our abode during the night, first carefully examining whether it was the lair of a wild beast, or the haunt of a serpent.

In this pleasant and solitary spot we remained from the 26th to the 30th of July, in order to rest ourselves and our beasts. There was no danger of scarcity amid the rich and spontaneous gifts of nature, nor any appearance of annoyance or interruption from noxious animals. The clear streams sparkled down the sides of the grey rocks in silvery sheets, forming the most beautiful cascades imaginable, as they glittered in the light of the afternoon sun, Antonio washed our linen and cotton garments in the cleansing water, and hung them out to dry on the branches of the palm-tree, while I amused myself by turning over the leaves of Pinkerton's Geography in search of information respecting America, which I could not however find, and I frequently smiled at the bold conjectures, and it may be added, the impudent assertions of modern compilers who have peopled the very desert through which I passed with numerous inhabitants. When panting with the heat I slowly ascended to the highest neighbouring ridge, and cast my eyes over the vast indistinct and apparently boundless wild plain before me, I reflected on the folly of the petty competitions of European Princes for an islet, or tract scarcely worth cultivating; while such an immense extent of productive earth remained without a claimant, except

the herds of buffalos, the prowling leopard, the sinuous rattlesnake, or the half-erect orang outang. The variety of unknown plants and flowers of the mostly lively colour and fragrant scent that surrounded me, excited some regret that I was not a botanist; and I now discovered for the first time, that a traveller through unexplored regions should be a man of general science. The fruits too, which were in the highest perfection, at once regaled my palate and afforded me a fund of mental entertainment, for Antonio, could assist me in describing their names and qualities.

The first and most delicious of the fruits produced here by nature, and in the greatest perfection without artificial aid, is the anana or pine-apple, which when ripe is of a golden colour and of a most delightful scent. It is to be found in abundance in many of the woods, and presented itself in the vallies where we now stopped in all the varieties and gradations of growth, from the earliest bud and blossom to the ripened and pulpy fruitage. Indeed its beauty and variety, combined with that of the other fruits and foliage, reminded me of Milton's description of the terrestrial paradise:

“ Blossoms and fruits at once of golden hue,
 Appear'd, with gay enamell'd colours mix'd,
 On which the sun more glad impress'd his beams.”

I was somewhat surprized to observe many fruits growing wild here, similar to those which I had seen brought to the table in St. Sebastian, and on enquiry, Antonio informed me that they were of the very same kind, and even more delicate in their flavour than those cultivated by the Brazilian gardeners. He plucked the fruit of the Pocahia, which the Portuguese call Adam's fig-tree. I tasted but did not much relish it, and he informed me that when fresh gathered it was seldom eaten, but laid on mats to dry and ripen, when it changed from a dark green to a yellow colour, and became palatable. Adam's fig-tree is, however, one of the ornaments of the wilderness. It grows to the height of about twenty feet, the stalks are succulent, the leaves long, smooth, and as soft as velvet; and the fruit grows in large clusters of two hundred figs each at different distances on the main stem.

The Nara which flourished in the vallies around us, produced a fruit like the pine apple, which was more delicious than the melon, and equally pleasant to the taste and smell.

Near some of the springs where the soil was moist, we discovered the Powaire, a succulent shrub or fruit tree, about twelve feet high, with a thick stem, leaves nearly six feet long, and at least three broad, and fruit called Poco, about nine inches long, of a light green colour, and as delicious as a fig. We also found the Araca, a species of pear, small and tart. As for palm trees they were abundant.

30th. We continued our journey well refreshed and re-invigorated by rest to undergo new toils. We set out as soon as the morning dawned, according to our general plan, and about noon we halted at the entrance of a wood, overcome by the heat of a vertical sun. An European can scarcely conceive the ardour of this climate, and its oppressive influence on animal organization. Though screened by a light umbrella, the sweat burst from every pore, and literally enveloped me in a kind of vapour-bath; while my temples throbbed under the potent influence of the solar heat. At a small distance from the shade where we stopped, a herd of nearly one hundred buffalos lay sheltered from the sun by a number of majestic Cabueribas, which extended their lofty branches and reared their tops at least sixty feet above the surface of the earth,

perfuming the air with their balsamic gum. Most of the buffaloes lay chewing the cud in great tranquillity, while three or four of the herd stood as if watching against surprize from an enemy. This gregarious or semi-social disposition among these animals is doubtless instinctive; while they continue in herds, they may defy annoyance from the solitary and fiercer panther, ounce, leopard, or wild boar, to which they would become an easy prey if divided; and Antonio told me, as I afterwards found, that even the most daring and skilful Indian hunters, find it difficult to kill any of a herd without the danger of being gored by the rest, and are generally compelled to climb into an adjacent tree to escape their fury. As we did not consider ourselves perfectly safe in the presence of such a number of wild beasts, we proceeded further into the wood, and met with little interruption, except from the almost impassable underwood, whence a rattlesnake sometimes issued, threatening us with its uplifted head as it retreated. In the evening we climbed into a large Mangaba tree, a beautiful evergreen which was in full blossom very like those of the jessamine, but more odourous. As we had not lately seen or encountered any of the fiercer wild beasts of the wilderness, we unfortunately forgot the precaution of making a fire to prevent the

approach of those destructive animals; the consequence was, that about break of day our sumpter-mule was attacked by a leopard. I awoke with the first growl of the savage animal, and seizing my musket descended and approached the spot whence the sounds issued, but I came too late to protect the mule, for the leopard with a heart-freezing growl, made a spring at the defenceless animal, which with a hideous bray fell beneath the teeth and claws of his ferocious destroyer. I now took exact aim at the leopard, which was tearing the mule in pieces, and shot it through the body; it fell with a loud yell and vomiting its life blood expired upon the body of its prey. Antonio now came forward, and unbuckling our cloaths from the body of the mule, he made them up in two bundles in the form of a portmanteau, and fastened them behind my saddle and his own. With the morning light we more closely examined the body of the leopard. It was a most beautiful animal, nearly eight feet long. The skin was so fine, sleek, and elegantly streaked and spotted, that we resolved to take it off, and immediately set about the business, which with all Antonio's dexterity at the operation, occupied us nearly two hours. He threw the skin loosely over his mule's crupper, and we continued our solitary progress.

31st. The event of this morning has been already related. About one o'clock we halted as usual, to avoid the intensity of the sun's meridian heat, and sought shelter in a most romantic cavern near the edge of a small precipice, over which a streamlet of pure spring water flowed amid the flourishing leaves and flowers of various odoriferous plants which perfumed the air. A more delightful spot I never beheld. We fastened the horse and mule to the trunks of two small trees, and cut down the succulent branches of some fruit-trees, and some grass to feed them. We then sat down in the mouth of the cavern to our repast of refreshing and cooling fruits; after which Antonio spread out the skin of the leopard on a rock to dry in the sun. When retired further into the cavern, and having examined our firearms and placed them near us to prevent a surprize from man or beast, we endeavoured to make up our want of sleep in the morning, by a comfortable afternoon's nap, or what the Portuguese term a *siesta*.

After a refreshing slumber of three hours, as I found by my watch, I awoke, and waking Antonio we got up, but on coming to the entrance of the cave we were thunderstruck by the frightful

appearance of three large wild beasts which stood near the skin of the leopard, and from time to time glared fiercely around. They had not yet perceived our beasts, nor ourselves, but there was not a moment to be lost. Kneeling on my left knee, I took aim at one, while Antonio aimed at another according to my directions delivered in a low whisper. We fired at the same moment; I only maimed my object, but Antonio killed his. The unwounded panther, for such it proved, growled horribly, and fiercely looking towards the spot where we were, sprang forward and was received on the point of my bayonet. Though wounded, the savage animal struck me with one of his fore paws on the shoulder, tearing my light clothing, and lacerating the skin. He was prevented from doing me farther injury by the active and intrepid Antonio, who by a side blow of my sabre, cut the panther's throat, and afterwards dispatched him. We then approached the other dead panther, for the third which I had only wounded, was seen limping away among the adjacent thickets. On returning to examine our cattle we found them safe, and without loss of time continued what we now both considered a perilous progress. If the object of our journey had indeed been merely to hunt wild beasts, and carry off their skins, we ap-

parently had a fair opportunity to signalize ourselves; but for my own part, I began to long for the sight of a human habitation, and the comfort and security of social intercourse. The wilds through which we ranged had hitherto offered little for the gratification of rational curiosity, except the magnificent scenes of nature, and even our right to penetrate the wilderness seemed to be disputed by the original inhabitants.

“ The wilderness is theirs, with all its caves,
 Its hollow glens, its thickets, and its plains,
 Unvisited by man. There they are free,
 To howl and roar as likes them, uncontrolled :
 Nor ask his leave to slumber or to play,
 Wo to the tyrant if he dare intrude
 Within the confines of their wild domain.”

Such I now found to be literally the fact, and I began to be apprehensive that my servant and myself should become the prey of wild beasts! Instead of meeting with an interesting variety of Indian tribes, I had hitherto encountered only one, which would not even let me live one day among them. Yet still I was mortified at the idea of returning without an accession of new ideas, or any knowledge respecting the descendants of the Aborigenes. From what I had read concerning South America, I expected to have suddenly discovered

fertile regions, many peopled cities, magnificent temples of the sun, females decorated with gems and gold, and kings and chiefs surrounded with the insignia of authority and the pomp of sovereignty. Antonio was as uninformed as myself but we still resolved to proceed farther towards the celebrated river of the Amazons which we resolved should be the boundary of our researches. Though now in a vast wilderness; we were well provided for defence. As far as two healthy and courageous men with fire arms of which we knew the use, could be said to be formidable, we were so; but however successfully we might cope with a small number of wild beasts, or men, we must be overmatched by a tribe or a herd. We therefore proceeded cautiously, with our arms loaded and primed, and slung by our right side like those of heavy cavalry. Antonio rolled up the leopard's skin and fastened it behind him, averring that it would prove a trophy in the estimation of an Indian tribe, and insure their esteem.

In the evening, desirous to preserve the horse and mule, we kindled a large fire, and secured ourselves by climbing into trees.

August 1st. On the morning of this, to me most

memorable day, we proceeded towards the north-west guided by my pocket compass; when we passed the wood, we came in sight of a rocky ridge of considerable height, and which seemed to extend due north and south as far as we could see.— We slowly ascended the summit, and the beautiful prospect of a country partly cultivated, with a few huts, and a large town in a plain, distant about a league suddenly burst upon our view. I uttered an exclamation of surprize and joy which was responded by Antonio, who clapped his hands above his head, and danced about in extacy. This momentary feeling of delight was succeeded by apprehension. The Indians might be friendly indeed, but for aught we knew, they might be ferocious; or what to us would be almost as bad, they might like the first we met, be suspicious and unsocial.

But as we had undertaken our journey for the express purpose of seeing the world, we boldly resolved to descend, and leading our quadrupeds by a winding path down the precipitous hills, we arrived safely in the plain about eleven o'clock. We then stopped, took some refreshments, remounted, and proceeded towards the town.

Before we advanced a mile, we were surrounded by a considerable body of armed men, who with their bows bent, and their darts poised, compelled us to stop. Antonio now accosted their chief, who was distinguishable by the peculiar richness of his dress, and informed him that we were travellers, who came to view the country with the most friendly intentions. The chief listened attentively, and seemed to understand part of the speech; in reply to which, partly by words and partly by signs, he gave us to understand that we must deliver up our arms, and become captives on pain of death. Resistance in our situation would have been madness, we therefore complied, and with heavy hearts resigned our weapons and our liberty. We were immediately guarded by ten spearmen, and conducted to the town, in the centre of which stood the royal palace, a large circular structure of wood, with the folding door, or gate, open towards the east.

Thus terminated in the first instance, my romantic journey of discovery, with no other prospect before me but perpetual captivity; and so completely was I separated from the civilized world, that there was not the smallest probability that I should ever revisit St. Sebastian or London.

Whatever grief I felt at the idea of being thus lost to society, and to my friends, was little compared with the anguish of an eternal separation from Eleonora. I now recollected her repeated, but ineffectual endeavours to repress my foolish curiosity, and bitterly repented my obstinate rejection of offered happiness. With these reflections I entered the city of Oropay, as I afterwards found it was called, and with my fellow-captive was surrounded by a crowd of at least five thousand men, women, and children, which increased every moment, the people almost pressing one another to death to get a peep at the strangers.

In a few minutes this crowd was dispersed by a military band armed with javelins; they conducted me and Antonio into an outer apartment of the palace, where refreshments consisting of venison, bread made of the cassavi root, and strong mead were set before us. Two pages with purple girdles attended us during the meal, and as we were really hungry, and the food very savoury to men who had lived for nearly a fortnight principally on fruits, we dined heartily, and a large draught of mead in some degree made us forget our misfortune.

When sufficiently refreshed, we were led by an officer of the court into the royal presence, where, in imitation of Antonio, I fell prostrate before the throne till called on to arise. I then ventured to raise my eyes to the throne, which was of burnished gold, and beheld the Indian King, who sat in state with a diadem of diamonds glittering on his brow. He was a middle-aged man of an open countenance. He made several enquiries as to the object of our journey, and with the aid of one of his courtiers, who stood at his right hand and officiated as interpreter, was told by Antonio that I was a foreigner who travelled only for amusement, that I had engaged him as an attendant, and that I was a rich merchant. The King now viewed me with greater attention; he expressed his satisfaction at the account he had just heard, and as a proof of his favour, he received us into his tribe on condition that we should never attempt to quit the kingdom of Orozama, except in the pursuit of an enemy, or the invasion of hostile nations. We bowed lowly in token of submission, upon which his majesty graciously rising from his throne, presented each of us with a javelin, and a ring of gold to be worn on the forefinger as a symbol that we were part of the royal guard. The first emotion on this prefer-

ment, for such it was considered by the king and his courtiers, was joy that I had escaped a violent, perhaps a lingering death, which would have inevitably been our lot, if we had been made captive by a ferocious race. But the Orozamans though brave in war, were mild in peace; they abhorred assassination, and lived in harmony which would have done honour to the most polished society in the world.

What became of my horse and arms I never could learn; they were probably appropriated to the royal service, or perhaps the clothing and arms were deposited in some museum for the future gratification of the curious. Antonio and I were now equals, and I had frequent opportunities of conversing, for we soon discovered that the Orozamans were not a suspicious people, and we met with no interruption in our social intercourse. I was obliged to accommodate myself to the *costume* or rather the undress of the royal guard, which was indeed light and gorgeous. It consisted of a short vest without sleeves, another garment fastened round the middle and extending to the knee like the Scotch highlander's phillibeg; a girdle of purple with a dagger fastened on the left side, a small coronet of parti-coloured feathers, and a thin collar of

golden chain work. The materials of this dress were fine cotton, very well woven and dyed a bright yellow. The only arms we were required to wield was a javelin when in attendance about the royal person, and a spear of polished steel fastened in a shaft of strong elastic wood, which was only used when we took the field against an enemy.



CHAPTER VI.

*Manners, customs, amusements, and religious rites
of the Orozamans.*

DURING my captivity among the Orozamans, I had an opportunity to observe minutely their peculiar manners, customs, and amusements; these remarks which I committed to writing, and which indeed proved the amusement of many an hour, are now offered to the world, and if it be objected that my taking such notes might excite suspicion,

to this I reply, that in no instance was I either interrupted or interrogated on the subject, my being an inmate of the palace insured me both respect and confidence wherever I went.

In person, the Orozamans are generally well proportioned, about the middle size, of regular agreeable features, though smaller eyed than Europeans, of a deep brown complexion, and a lively, cheerful air, fond of amusements, yet not impatient of labour; and very ingenious in the formation of their houses and common utensils, and tolerably skilful in the manufacture of cotton for the purposes of clothing or decoration. The cotton plant grows in great perfection on their plantations, which facilitates the labour of the manufacturer.

Oropay, the chief city of Orozama, is about an English mile in length and three quarters of a mile broad. It consists of twenty extensive streets, and nearly eighty smaller streets and lanes. The grand square in the centre of the city is situated on an eminence and appropriated to the Sovereign. It contains the royal palace, the houses for the residence of the officers of the court, and the barracks or quarters of the king's life guard. The

royal standard, which is of azure silk fringed with gold, with a superb golden sun embroidered in the centre, is always hoisted in front of the palace, except when the army is in the field, and then it is planted in the centre of the camp. The life guard consists of four hundred chosen men, in the bloom of life, of large stature, and well disciplined. In times of peace, the standing army seldom exceeds five thousand, but in war, and particularly when menaced with invasion, the king has brought twenty thousand warriors into the field, exclusive of two thousand navigators employed on board his war boats on the upper Parapatinga river, and the lake Javouen, from which it takes its rise.

The general appearance of the city of Oropay is pleasing, though not magnificent, for the houses are not more than one story high. The roof is conical with small apertures at intervals for the admission of light and air. These houses commonly consist of two apartments; an outer room for the common use of the family where the victuals are dressed, visitors received, and business transacted. The inner apartment is for the purpose of repose, and for storing up goods. Building materials are cheap in this warm climate, for the walls of the houses merely consist of strong posts fixed at short

distances in the ground, with the interstices filled up with wicker work, the inside lined with the soft leaves of the Pacoba, and the outside varnished with a pitchy or resinous substance which excludes rain and moisture. Most of the houses are semi-circular and as the streets extend in right lines, they have an appearance of elegance and lightness very agreeable to the eye. From the nature of the materials of which they are composed they are very liable to take fire, but such accidents seldom happen, for little firing is used in the city, and that chiefly in a few public ovens constructed in the earth, and at a proper distance from the dwellings. There their venison or fish is dressed, and the bread of the ground cassivi root baked.

Society in the city of Oropay, though not in that state of refinement enjoyed by polished Europeans, is not without its charms; perhaps in no part of the world is personal liberty better protected as far as regards the community in general, yet the government is monarchical and despotic, and in whatever concerns the king, or the priesthood, the people must submit with passive obedience.

Like other Indian nations of north and south

America, the Orozamans have nothing of that chivalrous courtesy in their intercourse with women, which even in the most barbarous ages softened the ferocity of Europeans; hence, much of the labour, I may even say the drudgery of Oropay is done by females. I have seen hundreds of the women of this city busily employed in spinning cotton in a single thread at a small wheel, and many of them employed in weaving the yarn into excellent cloth. They are equally industrious and ingenious, and commonly pursue their business in the outer apartment before described. While the women are thus engaged like the good housewives of ancient Greece, the men pass much of their time in martial exercises, particularly archery, at which they are very expert, and throwing the dart or javelin, which they perform with wonderful dexterity and exactness. I have seen many of their marksmen transfix with a javelin, a circular piece of wood about a foot in diameter, and fixed to a post at the distance of thirty yards. When I first attempted to strike this small object, my dart flew wide of the mark and it was not till repeated lessons during three months that I could acquit myself like a common soldier.

Some of the male citizens, however, are employed in useful and profitable vocations, such as the manufacture of *vitoras*, a kind of light buskin made of the skin of the panther or leopard, with soles of the buffalo's hide. Others are profitably engaged in making garments for persons of both sexes, and I discovered that in Oropay, as well as in more celebrated cities, many offices which seemed to belong to the women, were usurped by the men. There were no men milliners, indeed, but they have numerous decorators, such as jewellers, embroiderers, and manufacturers of every description of ornament, from the regal coronet and the warrior's helm, to the common head dress of the indigent female.

Next to the martial exercise which here as well as in the civilized world is considered the most honourable profession, music and dancing are favourite recreations, and as both sexes can participate, they are general. The time appropriated to dancing is about an hour before sunset, when, after the business of the day, groups assemble in the shade of the palm trees which adorn the streets at different distances. Gaiety is a characteristic of this happy people, and their instruments of music reminded me of what I had read of primi-

tive simplicity and innocence. A pipe not unlike the flageolet, and a drum made of a panther's skin stripped of the fur and drawn tightly over a piece of hollow palm tree, constitutes the music, and the band is sometimes augmented and enlivened by two thin circular plates of gold, with which the musician beats time similar to our cymbals. As for the movements of the dancers it would be difficult to describe them. Sometimes they dance in circles, then in lines as if in pursuit of each other, and afterwards in a most complicated variety of convolutions too changeful to be defined or remembered by the most acute geometri-
cian. After this spontaneous exhibition of grace and agility by the young, while the aged look on with a smile of satisfaction, the parties separate with the exclamation, *vahah!* or good night, and each individual retires to home and contentment. As night soon comes on in the regions near the equator, the sounds of mirth and music are succeeded by silence and repose, each householder carefully securing his doors and lattices against the assaults of the nocturnal thief.

In the morals of the citizens of Oropay there is much to commend and much to disapprove. As far as the common civilities of life extend, they are not

excelled by a Cockney or even a Parisian ; but like them, all their seeming friendship consists in mere professions, and like them too, the Oropayan artist will outwit his customers if he can. One very striking difference, however, exists between this and an European city. In Europe, the thief, shoplifter, or housebreaker, is severely punished, but the laws of the Orozamans leave the delinquent untouched ; nay this people in common with most other nations of savages seem to consider dexterity in purloining the property of others a proof of superior acuteness. But though the laws take no cognizance of the offence after it has been committed, yet if the culprit is detected in the act, he is obliged to restore the property besides a fine of four times its value, or submit to a castigation with a sort of cat o'ninetails, with which the public executioner inflicts one hundred stripes. The only crime punished with death is assassination ; manslaughter is commuted by a heavy fine, and thus the order of society is preserved. As the people of Orozama are by no means a vindictive race, but open, bold, and courageous, the crime of assassination is rarely known among them, and the assassin is always branded with infamy, and even his kindred stigmatized with the stain. Hence an execution is scarcely ever wit-

nessed in this country; and when I mentioned that in Europe it was common to take away a man's life for theft or robbery, they expressed their abhorrence of what they termed cruel and blood-thirsty savageness. So different are the ideas of the savage and civilized nations of the earth respecting property.

Polygamy is not permitted in Orozama. Their marriage ceremonies are simple; the parents or kinsmen of the bride confer her hand on the approved suitor, that is the person whom they approve, for the maiden herself is perfectly passive or without a will on the occasion. When the marriage is determined on, the bride is conveyed in her richest ornaments, and with a veil of muslin embroidered with gold, to the dwelling of the bridegroom, where a priest is in waiting to bestow his benediction. The contracting parties then kneel, hand in hand, with their faces towards the east, the bridegroom on the right. A censer filled with fragrant gums is then brought forward, and the burning incense perfumes the whole apartment. While the incense blazes, the priest dressed in a snow white stole, with a girdle of gold glittering with gems around his middle, and a cap not unlike a mitre richly decorated with jewels on his head

pronounces the nuptial benediction. This terminates the ceremony, for the incense is immediately extinguished, and the bridegroom having embraced his bride, and received the congratulations of his friends, slips a piece of money into the hand of the priest who retires, and the joyful party sit down to a sumptuous entertainment. During my abode among this people, I was present at not less than twenty marriages, and observed that the ceremonies were uniformly the same without variation.

The birth of a child is always celebrated with much gaiety and festivity. Music, dancing, singing, and banqueting welcomes the infant stranger to the world, and as parturition in this climate is equally easy and safe, the mother commonly joins in the gaieties of the occasion with the utmost alacrity and good humour.

But it is at a funeral that the cheerfulness of the Orozaman is paramount. Then he is felicitated on the departure of his relative, whether parent, wife, or child to the blissful regions of immortality, and if he betray some of the emotions of grief by sighs and tears for the loss of a beloved friend, he is censured for selfishness by his visitors, and admonished not to interrupt the happiness of the departed

spirit but prepare to follow it to the ever blooming garden of Paradise. In fact, such visitors may be compared to Job's comforters, for by thus compelling the mourner to suppress his real feelings, they put him to exquisite pain, and I have seen a citizen of Oropay join in a song of gratulation and an apostrophe to the happy and free spirit of his only son, while the honest tears forced their way down his cheeks, and sobs suppressed his articulation.

Yet this idea of the unending happiness of the dead, so universal among the Indian tribes, is not only consolatory but rational, and even sanctioned by the religion of nature. The Indian beholds renovated vegetation, fruits and flowers re-appear after a temporary pause, and by analogy he believes that his departed friends revive and live happily in another state of existence. Whether they have any tradition among them respecting the creation, the fall of man, the general deluge, or the restitution of all things by the Messiah, I never could learn; for whatever knowledge or opinions their priests have of these things are locked up in impenetrable mystery and silence in their own bosoms; and it would be considered both profane and presumptuous to interrogate those privileged beings.

A few hours after death, the body is wrapped up in cere cloth and carried on a bier to a hill about two miles from the city for interment in the general burial ground. A Priest precedes the body, and on coming to the grave, a circlet of gold is placed on the brow of the deceased as an emblem of eternity, and it is lowered into the tomb. The Priest then bowing towards the east begins a short oration, in which he describes the felicity of a better state of existence, he congratulates the relations of the deceased on the exemption from pain and perpetual happiness of their friends; describes the blissful elysium where immortal youth, health, and pleasure are the portion of the virtuous, and terminates his discourse by some precepts, adherence to which will, he says, entitle his hearers to a share of this beatitude. He then flings a handful of the flowers and leaves of the Mangaba tree upon the body; the grave is filled up with the surrounding dry sand, and a small mound covered with the branches of trees, and chaplet strewed by the hand of friendship or affection marks the place of recent interment. In a few hours, however, the heat of the sun dries up those leaves and flowers to dust, and the spot becomes undistinguishable from the other numerous hillocks of the cemetery.

Though ingenious in some of the handicraft arts, the Orozamans are ignorant of letters, and have therefore no historic record. All their knowledge of ancestry is traditional. They compute their year by the lunar revolutions and the vicissitudes of the seasons; but though they avail themselves of the light and appearances of the heavenly bodies in their journies, they seem totally ignorant of astronomy. Hence an eclipse fills them with terror, and a thunder storm is dreaded as a manifestation of the wrath of the good Being who they believe created and sustains the universe.

My watch was considered a wonderful instrument even by King Manore himself, nor could the priests, who were called in on the occasion, solve the mystery of its internal motion, or still less explain the use of the lines and figures on the dial plate. At length I was commanded to describe the watch which I did with the aid of Antonio. We stated that it was intended to measure time, and divide the day into twenty four subdivisions which we termed hours. The king listened attentively to this explanation, but his priests were puzzled, and looked on me with an air of suspicion. My pocket compass next became a subject for investigation. We described the attractive influence of the polestar over the

needle in consequence of its having been touched by the magnet, but our account was so unintelligible and unsatisfactory to the priests that they declared I must be a sorcerer and hold unhallowed communion with evil spirits. I smiled at their ignorant malice, and observed that the good natured Manore himself smiled too. In confutation of this surmise, I said that evil spirits could not perform any act beneficial to mankind; that the compass enabled sailors to steer with certainty towards their destined port when far out of sight of land; that a watch by the exact division of time enabled an operator to calculate on what he could perform in a given period and thus promoted industry, and that, in fact, the invention of the compass, or the watch, were like the art of weaving, or any other useful acquirement of human ingenuity, beneficial to mankind. The king expressed his cordial acquiescence in this sentiment, and dismissed both me and my accusers, observing, that since none of his courtiers could make any use of these curious instruments I might keep them myself.

Thus I lived at the court of King Manore nearly a year in that state of occasional activity, but general indolence, customary among the Indians of

South America. I had by this time made a proficiency in the language of the Orozamans and could converse fluently in their harmonious and voluble dialect, but as they were universally illiterate I could make few discoveries respecting their history. I learnt however that they were frequently engaged in sanguinary warfare with the Zapuyans, a numerous tribe that inhabited the country on the northern bank of the river Parapatinga. The object of these wars was the navigation of that river, and the exclusive right of fishing in it, and the lake Javourn, and although the contest according to tradition had now been renewed from time to time for more than three thousand moons, or upwards of two centuries, the strife seemed to gather greater force and malignity with every successive generation. I could not help moralizing on the general aptitude of mankind to war, and with what ingenuity the statesmen of belligerent nations can palliate aggression and rouse the malignant passions of others for their own aggrandizement. This was precisely the case at the court of Oropay, and in what European cabinet has not the same spirit been predominant? About eighty moons before, peace had been solemnly declared between the kings of Zapuya and Orozama, as for the people they had nothing to do with the

business, for those absolute monarchs declared war or made peace regardless of the feelings or the sufferings of their vassals, thousands of whom fell in every contest; nay they exacted imposts or taxes at will like the most arbitrary despot in the old world. Yet King Manore was almost idolized for his moderation, and it appeared that he was indeed a very humane Prince compared with the tyrants who had preceded him.

His revenue arose principally from the gold collected in the beds of several brooks which issued from the mountains over which I passed when I entered his dominions. The quantity of this precious metal yearly obtained by about two thousand men employed in this business was incredible, and hence the profusion of golden vessels, embroidery, and other ornaments which appeared in the royal palace, and even in the houses of private individuals. I had some pieces of Portuguese gold coin when I was made captive; but they were all returned to me, except two which the king placed in his cabinet rather as objects of curiosity than valuable for the metal of which they were made.

Another source of revenue to the royal coffers

was the taxes imposed on the different manufactures, and fisheries; thus the cotton spinners, weavers, embroiderers, buskin-makers, and habit makers, were all obliged to pay a sum annually for permission to work at their respective trades, and I could not but admire the ingenious similarity of savage and of civilized financiers, and the facility with which each can deprive an individual of the fruits of his labour under the specious pretext of defending him from a foreign enemy.

Being now adopted into the tribe I was admitted to all the privileges of an Orozaman, and went with the monthly procession to the great temple erected on a hill, about a mile from the city, and surrounded with the most beautiful trees. This monthly ceremony always took place at the full of the moon. The religious rites began at noon and lasted till midnight. The *Vinuc*, or High Priest, decorated with vestments before which the brilliancy of pontifical garniture would appear dim, entered the great western door of the temple attended by about one hundred priests each bearing a censer in which aromatic gums blazed. He proceeded with a dignified and majestic air to the eastern entrance and extending his arms bestowed his benediction on the reverent multitude of at least thirty thousand men,

women, and children, or nearly the whole population of Oropay. On the right, King Manore sat on an elevated throne, surrounded by his nobles and the guard, of whom I was one. The High Priest then delivered an oration, in which he expatiated on the happiness enjoyed by the people under the protection of the sovereign, whom the good Being had appointed to make them happy. He then mentioned the beneficial influence of the heavenly bodies, particularly the sun, in invigorating animals and ripening the fruits of the earth, but though I listened most attentively I could not hear a sentiment expressive of the idolatrous adoration of that glorious luminary. The High Priest, like our great poet, Milton, seemed to regard the sun as the powerful agent of Omnipotence in the visible creation, but still as merely the creature of a greater Being.

“Thou sun of this great world both eye and soul,
Acknowledge him thy greater, sound his praise
In thy eternal course.”

When the High Priest concluded, a numerous choir chaunted a general hymn of praise to the great Being. Instrumental sounds were also employed to aid the solemnity of this part of the ceremony, but to my ear, they were offensive.

Another benediction from the High Priest terminated divine worship, and the vast promiscuous crowd returned to the city with a tranquil air.



CHAPTER VII.

Inquietude and impatience in captivity—the Zapuyans attacked the war-boats of King Manore, and capture, sink, or disperse them—the victors invade Orozama—preparations to oppose them—a battle and its consequences.

WHILE the hours thus passed unprofitably away among a people from whom I could obtain little knowledge, and who on the other hand seemed quite regardless of any information which I could communicate, my chief consolation was in the society of Antonio. Often did we recount all we could recollect of our former adventures, often dwell on the amiable manners and beau-

tiful simplicity of Eleonora, and the matronly dignity of her mother, sometimes I hinted my desire to escape, but he shuddered at the idea. "Only consider," said he, "the immense distance from St. Sebastian, how far do you compute it to be?" "As nearly as I can calculate," said I, "on the ten days out of the thirteen, in which we were in active progress, we must be at least one hundred and fifty leagues from that city." "Then it would be nothing less than frenzy to think of returning on foot," replied Antonio, "let us continue where we are till some unforeseen casualty may again release us from a captivity, which, however tiresome, is neither severe nor cruel." I assented with a sigh, yet I considered my captivity as little better than a lingering death. Custom it is true, had in some degree reconciled me to my singular situation; but an unconquerable desire to revisit St. Sebastian and enjoy happiness with my beloved mistress arose paramount. Thus I continued to indulge the illusive reveries of hope till war with all its horrors surrounded me.

This event was unforeseen by King Manore and his Courtiers, who confiding in the number and strength of the war-boats and the vigilance of the mariners employed on the Parapatinga, enjoyed

the blessings of life with perfect security, and that love of ease natural to the inhabitants of a warm climate. It was now the harvest of the Orozamans; the people of the small towns and villages were busily employed in drying figs, and the fruit of the Mangaba. The vintage, for such it might be called, had also commenced; the rich and cordial juice of the pine apple was carefully collected for the use of the king and his courtiers, and the fruit of the Jabaticaba was pressed for general use, the acid juice of which made excellent strong wine. While the labourers were engaged in this pleasing employment, and in collecting the produce of the cotton plant, a courier arrived at Court with news which threw the whole city into consternation. The Zapuyans had unobserved built several war-boats in a remote creek of the Parapatinga, manned them with resolute warriors, attacked the fleet of the Orozamans, and after a desperate conflict of nearly half a day, captured the commander's boat, sunk several of the others, and dispersed the rest. The enemy had followed up their success by invading the kingdom of Orozama with an army of ten thousand warriors, who burnt the town of Xarves on the bank of the river, slew, or made captives of all the inhabitants, and were now on full march for Oropay. This news completely

rouzed the active powers of the Orozamans, and I could not behold without admiration the ardour of the people and the enthusiasm of the priests. The High Priest went in person from house to house, animating the patriotism of the young men, and promising them the reversionary bliss of Paradise if they fell in battle, and the favour of their king and gratitude of their country if they outlived the conflict. Volunteers from the smaller towns and villages marched into the capital. They had been incited by the priests, who I found were excellent recruiting officers, and like their brethren in the civilized world, with every appearance of meekness and brotherly love, were inwardly as proud, sanguinary, and vindictive as the most profane soldier. In two days the levies amounted to five thousand men; the royal armoury was thrown open for their equipment, and nothing was to be heard in the streets of Oropay but the golden drums of the musicians, nothing to be seen but waving banners, glittering armour, and martial habiliments. The volunteers in general were athletic young men, from eighteen to thirty years of age. These were selected by the priests from the population; the aged, and the married being like the priests themselves, exempt from military service except in a case of the last emergency. But

all the effective men who remained at home were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to serve their country if the first army should unfortunately be defeated.

King Manore, and an experienced warrior named Vanaram, or *the Thunderer*, now appeared at the head of the troops. His majesty appointed several veterans who had distinguished themselves in a former war, to command different divisions of the army ; they were decorated with badges of distinction representing stars, leopards, rattlesnakes, and other glittering ornaments of martial blazonry, wrought in gold and beset with gems, which the king had conferred upon them for their former services ; and they were made leaders of their fellow-soldiers to incite others to similar heroism, that they might obtain equal promotion and honour. Thus, even among inland Indians, totally isolated from the sea coast and an intercourse with the civilized world, the same incitements were adopted by the cunning of courtiers and priests, to stimulate the bad passions for their own aggrandizement. Not that the defence of their country was censurable in the Orozamans. Reason and instinct both prompt every generous and manly mind to defend a country against invasion ;

but what people when victorious or successful in the repulsion of an invader will stop there? The victors invariably pursue the vanquished, invade them in turn, and thus a love of conquest, and a passion for military glory, are fermented and cherished in the human heart.

On the fourth day after the news of the invasion reached Oropay, King Manore found himself at the head of nearly ten thousand men; volunteers continued to arrive every hour; they were formed into regular divisions, and the king resolved to advance against the Zapuyans, who continued to penetrate into the heart of his kingdom without opposition.

The Orozaman army, like that of other Indian nations, was composed entirely of infantry; the archers marched in front, the javelin or spearmen formed the reserve, except the royal guard, which was stationed in the centre of the vanguard around the royal person. On this occasion, Prince Zirvan, a youth about nineteen years of age, marched at his father's right hand. He was the heir apparent, being the eldest of Manore's ten sons. He had been placed under the tuition of the priests, who had doubtless instructed him in the best moral

principles, and he now, for the first time, entered upon the great theatre of life to give eclat to the expedition, and stimulate the loyalty of the warriors. The experiment proved a good stage-trick; the soldiers received their prince with shouts of joy; and as I stood near him when he first received his spear from his father's hand, I could perceive from the ardour which sparkled in his eyes as he poised the weapon, that a love of war, or a desire to destroy, seems natural to man since

“ The first smith was the first murderer's son.”

We marched from Oropay soon after sunrise, and proceeded with alacrity to combat the daring enemy, who met us halfway. During our march the king was drawn on a kind of sledge by tamed buffalos, and relays of these strong and active animals were ready at different distances.

On the third morning of our march, we came in sight of the enemy, who were also in motion, but halted on the appearance of our vanguard. Vanaram, our general, also ordered his troops to halt. He passed along the lines exhorting the Orozans to fight valiantly, and not only expel but destroy those presumptuous enemies, who had dared to invade the territories of the best of kings.

He then led on the vanguard in person, and in a few minutes the hostile armies mingled in mortal combat. They fought with little regularity but great bravery. King Manore himself alighted from his sledge, penetrated the thickest ranks of the enemy, and seized their principal standard, which was of white cotton, with a splendid sun of golden embroidery in the centre, surrounded with a moon and stars. But this trophy was not gained without a great sacrifice; the King of Orozama lost above one half of his guard. Meanwhile his principal general Vanaram was slain, and with his fall, the rout of the army seemed inevitable. Then it was, that the presence of mind and valour of Prince Zirvan prevailed over the impetuosity of the foe. He seized the royal standard of Orozama, and calling on the guards to follow him, he attacked the Zapuyans with a fierceness as irresistible as it was unexpected; stopped them in their career of victory, and made them fly in turn. Impelled by the ardour of youth, he pursued the fugitives too far, and entered with them pell mell into a small wood, where they rallied; a desperate conflict ensued, his guards were overpowered, most of them slain, and the remainder, of which there was one, with the gallant young warrior himself, dragged away wounded and captive. Yet

the victory of the Orozamans was so complete, that the invaders continued their retreat till they reached the bank of the Parapatinga, where they embarked on board their own war-boats and those they had taken from the Orozamans, who pursued them to the water's edge. As the Zapuyans had the command of the river, they had nothing to dread from the vengeance of their enemies; but they had suffered so severely in the conflict that it was not probable they would attempt another expedition for some years. Their loss amounted to nearly five thousand men, or one half of the army. Yet by a little political cunning the chief of the Zapuyans claimed the meed of a conquerer, and produced the royal standard of Orozama, and a captive Prince, to substantiate his claims. He was received on his own shores with acclamations; the dreadful carnage of his warriors was forgotten, or only bewailed in secret by their relations, and Rostamar was carried in triumph on a litter made of the branches of fragrant evergreens, by a chosen band of his warriors, through the principal streets of Vinani. Prince Zirvan, and what remained of his vanquished guard, with their standard furled, while that of the Zapuyans floated in triumph above it, formed part of the procession; and the people expressed their satis-

faction by reiterated shouts of joy. Thus a second time a captive, I was led through the streets of a hostile city as a public spectacle; and the anguish of my mind was rendered still more poignant by bodily pain, for I had received three wounds, one in my breast, and two in my right thigh, while closely engaged with the enemy in defence of Prince Zirvan. He saw and acknowledged my activity in his cause, and as my person was rather remarkable, being above the common size of the Indians, and of a fairer complexion, I was considered as one of the Orozaman officers, and confined in the same apartment with the Prince. Only about fifty of the two hundred men whom Zirvan led to the charge survived, and these were all taken prisoners with himself. Our confinement was very strict, and we continued several days shut up in a close prison to the manifest injury of our health.

About a week after the battle, a flag of truce from the Orozaman Court arrived with the offer of an immense treasure as the ransom of Prince Zirvan, but this was rejected by the haughty Sovereign of the Zapuyans, who, secure in possession of the entire navigation of the Parapatinga, had nothing to dread from a rival nation which had lately been so formidable.

CHAPTER VIII.

*Prince Zirvan and myself liberated from captivity—
—a description of the Court of Vinani—Reli-
gion, manners, and customs of the Zapuyans—
grand hunting excursion—fortunate incident—
promoted at Court—general festival.*

OUR captivity for life was now considered by ourselves as a thing of course, and the admirable fortitude with which Zirvan endured adversity commanded my esteem, and reconciled me to my own misfortunes. We experienced some mitigation of the severity of confinement by being removed to a more commodious and airy apartment in the verge of the royal residence, and on the birth-day of the Sovereign of Zapnya, we were formed, with the remainder of our comrades, in a procession, with our captured standard in the centre. In this order we were marched to the front of a moveable throne erected for the pompous and

imperious Zamas. He surveyed us with attention, and I took this opportunity of viewing him and his vassals with curious earnestness. Zamas was about thirty years of age, tall, well formed, and handsome. He wore a robe of sky-blue silk studded with diamonds, and a coronet on his head glittering with the costliest gems of South America. Several ladies stood at his right hand, whom I afterwards discovered were members of the royal family; at his left, Rostamar the victorious general, and several of his officers, appeared, and a splendid retinue of courtiers, in gorgeous habits stood behind the throne. A guard of about two hundred men kept the area of the square clear of the populace, who assembled in thousands to behold this exhibition. Two bands of music, similar to those I formerly described, from time to time gratified the crowd with their rude harmony.

When Zamas had contemplated his captives for some minutes, he sent one of the officers of his court to order Prince Zirvan to approach the throne. The royal captive advanced with a firm but modest air. Zamas informed him of the offer that had been made by his father for his ransom, and the consequent refusal on his part. At the

same time he declared, that while he detained him as a hostage to secure the future tranquillity of Zapuya, he would lighten his captivity by admitting him to his court; and he also might select any of his fellow-captives as a companion. In reply to this offer, Zirvan mentioned the fact, that the aggression was on the part of the Zapuyans, and therefore he thought there was no necessity for retaining him as a hostage to preserve peace. The offer of Zamas he accepted on condition that the rest of the captives should be sent home; then turning towards his little band and pointing to me, "that is the man," said he, "whom I select as my companion in captivity." Zamas instantly granted his request, and the generosity of the sovereign was proclaimed to the crowd, who expressed their satisfaction by loud shouts. Prince Zirvan and myself were instantly marched to the rear of the throne, and our fellow prisoners conducted away by an escort to the place of embarkation.

The splendour of an Indian Court was now familiar to me, but I observed that the Palace of Zamas was a scene of greater magnificence and luxury than that of Manore. A laxity of morals, if I may use the expression when speaking of Indians, much more voluptuous than that of the Orozamans

was perceptible in the court and the city of Vinani, the capital of the Zapuyans. Conjugal fidelity was scarcely thought a virtue, and chastity was not an essential to respectability of character, or admission into the best company. It would not be proper to describe the loose attire, and seductive allurements of the ladies who adorned the Court of Vinani; I shall merely hint, that both Zirvan and myself were assailed by all the arts of coquetry, and those arts prevailed.

The religion of the Zapuyans is more gross, and approaches more nearly to the idolatry of Paganism than that of the Orozamans. They have temples dedicated to the sun, and seem to consider that luminary as the highest object of their worship. In all respects they seem inferior to their rivals, except the military art, in which they are equal. They are not so dexterous at the useful handicraft arts, except such as are connected with personal decoration, which they carry to a height perhaps not to be exceeded. Their dwellings are formed of slight materials, and as they delight in excursions through an uncultivated territory, they frequently suspend a kind of hammock of cotton to the branches of trees as a place of secure repose. Yet even this precaution is not always sufficient, especially

where leopards and panthers abound ; for those ferocious and active animals have been known to have brought down an Indian hammock with a single spring in the dead of the night, and to have made immediate prey of a whole family !

Soon after our liberation, Zirvan and myself were ordered by the King to attend him upon a hunting excursion. As this is an amusement always dangerous, the hunting-party are well supplied with weapons, particularly darts, javelins, and bows and arrows. The object of our excursion was to destroy several leopards which had approached some villages on the bank of a river and annoyed the inhabitants. The destruction of these savage visitants was certainly a patriotic work, and therefore commendable in the sovereign ; but undoubtedly the principle motive was the self-gratification which uncivilized tribes derive from sanguinary pursuits.

Our party consisted of about five hundred active and resolute men, skilful in the use of arms, and accustomed to the sport. Several ladies also accompanied us, and their venturesome curiosity reminded me of the alacrity with which the women of Spain formerly assembled to see the bull-fights.

On our arrival near the lair of the wild beasts, we surrounded the woody spot, and gradually lessening the circle soon discovered our game. In less than an hour ten large leopards were killed, and the king supposing that we had destroyed all, desired us to retire to a neighbouring village for refreshments. The order had just escaped his lips, when a fierce leopard sprung from a thicket, passed several of the hunters with great swiftness, and made directly for a group of ladies. Fortunately I happened to be near them—hitherto I had not signalized myself among the sportsmen by any feat, but seeing the danger of the ladies, who expressed their terror by shrieks, I reached the savage animal just as he had struck down a lady with his paw, and by a well directed blow with my javelin, I pierced his throat, and stretched him in the agonies of death at my feet. The young lady whom I had thus saved from the jaws of a wild beast, was the Princess Enia, the youngest sister of Zamas; and my exploit was related to the sovereign, who rewarded me by conferring on me the title of Zarapana, which in the language of the Zapuyans is Royal-hunter, a title held in as high estimation at the Court of Vinani as that of the Bath, or the Garter, nearer home. The Princess herself presented me with a girdle of purple cotton, fringed

and begemmed with diamonds; this present I have preserved through all my vicissitudes and perils, and it would make no contemptible figure among the curiosities in the British Museum.

Next day all the ladies returned to Vinani, but we continued our hunting for a full month, and completely cleared the country of the wild beasts which had filled the inhabitants of the villages with such consternation. The reader may conjecture how actively successful we were, when I state that during our excursion we killed one hundred and twenty three leopards, thirty five panthers, twelve wild boars, and above five hundred buffalos; besides numerous reptiles, such as rattlesnakes and laboyas. We skinned all the leopards and panthers, and such of the buffalos as were near the river and might be easily conveyed in boats to the city. On our return to Vinani, the King proclaimed a general festival of a week, and admitted people of all ranks to the walks in his beautiful gardens and shrubberies. A sumptuous entertainment was provided for all visitors, and served up on an extensive lawn before the eastern front of the palace, and after this banquet a ball was given to the principal courtiers, among whom I was now admitted, though not without indications of envy

and displeasure from several of them. Prince Zirvan, from his rank was also admitted, and as it is customary for the Indian ladies to select their partners in the dance, I had the enviable honour of being chosen by the Princess Enia, who had not forgotten the adventure of the leopard-hunt. This distinction increased the envy of several young courtiers, but however my vanity might be gratified, my heart was not affected. It still continued devoted with all the warmth and fond recollection of a first love to the beautiful and tender Eleonora. This Indian ball was like that of the Orozamans which I formerly described, with this difference, that it was of a more licentious nature, and might be compared to the Fandango or the Waltz of more polished Europeans. When the festivities were over, our Court again sunk into the indolence, inactivity, and I may add, the stupidity peculiar to ignorant Indians, the inhabitants of a warm climate where nature poured forth her spontaneous gifts with an exuberance that precluded the necessity of labour, and where the total absence of literature, or any other artificial mode of recording events, prevented the researches of reason and extinguished curiosity.

CHAPTER IX.

Uninteresting indolence of an Indian Court—the Orozimans surprize and capture the Zapuyan fleet—general preparations to resist an expected invasion—I escape with Zrean from prison—arrival at New Belem—proceed to St. Salvador—description of that city—sail for St. Sebastian.

AMONG this idle and ignorant race, I was doomed to pass three tedious years of my existence ; I say years, for it was only by the succession of the seasons, that I could now calculate on the lapse of time. All knowledge of the days of the week, the month, and even the names of the months, were now lost to me ; and I might well exclaim with the poet,

“ The sounds of the church-going bell
These vallies and rocks never heard ;
Ne'er sigh'd at the sound of a knell,
Nor smil'd when a sabbath appeared.”

In this barbarised state of captivity, it cannot be supposed that my mind was beneficially improved either by the contemplation of inanimate nature, or observations on the human beings by whom I was surrounded. I made a proficiency, however, in the knowledge of their language, which differed in many phrases and peculiarities from that of the Orozamans. But the language of savages can convey little information, and I shall not, like some fanciful travellers, present a vocabulary of what is not worthy of study. But while I thus attained a superficial knowledge of two Indian languages, the recollection of my own suffered daily diminution. Alarmed at this circumstance, and still inspired with the hope that I might one day revisit my native land, I often pronounced a short poem or oration in English aloud, to the great amusement of my Indian auditory, who interrupted my sentences by frequent peals of laughter. By the same mode I endeavoured to retain the remembrance and articulation of French. My chief consolation was in the friendship and converse of Zirvan; we sometimes contrived plans for our escape, but we were deterred by the difficulty of the enterprize. An unexpected incident revived our hope of liberation.

In the third summer of our captivity, the active

warriors of Orozama surprized a fleet of about thirty war-boats in a creek on the southern bank of the Parapatinga. The commander of this fleet, too confident of his security, and tempted by the abundance of fruits and the excellent spring water obtainable near the creek, ordered his mariners to land, but they had been only a few minutes on shore, before they were surrounded by a superior number of Orozaman warriors, and compelled to surrender. A party of the Orozamans equipped in the clothing of their enemies, whom they left in custody of a strong guard, went on board the war-boats with the Zapuyan flag flying, and sailed in quest of another fleet on the lake. The enemy, deceived by this stratagem, were off their guard; and when attacked surrendered after a short struggle. Thus by a daring and successful enterprise, the marine power was once more transferred to the Orozamans, who made immediate preparation for invading Zapuya.

When intelligence of this event was brought to Zamas, his rage was unbounded. He instantly ordered his warriors to march, and in the presence of the whole Court commanded the public executioner to put his two Orozaman captives to death. This sentence was heard with satisfaction, by

some who envied my accidental elevation, but the Princess Enia fell at her brother's feet and besought him with tears to spare the life of a man who had so fortunately preserved her from the jaws of a wild beast. He granted her request, and she then interceded for the life of Zirvan. His life was also spared, but we were both conveyed to the strongest prison belonging to the palace, with a strict command to our guard to put us to death if we attempted to escape. We were also separated, but I discovered a small aperture in the partition wall, by which we were enabled to communicate our ideas to each other. Here we continued two days without food, for the alarm and warlike preparations were so general that we seemed to have been forgotten. This we afterwards found was actually the case, for our guards were commanded to join the troops by an officer, and we heard them depart from the entrance of our cells. How to get out was now the difficulty, for the doors were strongly secured on the outside. But what will not the love of liberty achieve! Though half famished, we began to work our way through the wall in the rear of the prison; a ray of sunny splendour suddenly illumined my darksome dungeon, I gave a cry of joy, and in half an hour afterwards successfully made my way into the

palace garden. It was now near sunset, I hastily gathered some ripe figs, returned to my dungeon, and handed part of my prize through the hole to my fellow-prisoner. Thus re-invigorated, we both set to work to open the communication between his dungeon and mine, which we happily effected with the twilight. We now issued together out of the dungeon, breathed the pure and refreshing air with indescribable delight; and having collected several branches of the fig-tree loaded with ripe fruit, we scaled the stakes and wicker work, which formed the fence, and gliding like spectres amid the perfumed groves, escaped across a rivulet, and soon found ourselves clear of the city. We walked quickly during the night, in a north-east direction, and next morning concealed ourselves in a wood. It would be difficult to imagine two human beings more destitute. We had little food, no arms, and without a guide in a hostile country. Even my pocket-compass, which had formerly been so useful in pathless regions, was lost. But we still cherished the hope that we should get free. Zirvan clasping my hand in his, resigned himself to my guidance. As I had studied the geography of South America, I knew that by travelling north west we should arrive on the eastern bank of the river Orellana, and by

following its course we might possibly reach the town of Para, in the Portuguese part of Guiana. In all my vicissitudes and misfortunes, I had preserved my journal and lead pencils; and I now resolved to commit the result of my observations to writing. But as the day of the week, and of the month too, on which I began this frail record, were equally unknown, I was obliged to arrange my matter in the following order.

First Day.—Escaped in company with Zirvan an Indian Prince from Vinani. We reposed in a wood next day.

Second Evening.—We set out by moonlight. Our provision consisted of a few figs, which remained of what we had gathered in the royal garden. Next morning, we again rested in a wood, and finding ourselves in a solitary place, we proceeded in the afternoon. Some fruits, which we discovered in this wood afforded us a seasonable supply of food. We rested on the following night in two large branchy Cabueriba trees, and for the first time since we made our escape, we heard the growlings of leopards and the bellowings of buffalos.

Third Day.—We set out at day break, but had

not proceeded far, before we were pursued by a leopard. We both ran behind two high trees into which we climbed, the savage beast passed swiftly in a direction different to that in which we travelled, and we met with no farther annoyance, after resting about two hours in the shade, we continued our journey, and came into an open country, which bore some marks of cultivation, as a few spots planted with fruit trees were fenced in. Our hearts throbbed at the sight, we consulted each other for a short time on the subject, and resolved to seek the huts of the cultivators. On arriving at the summit of a gentle eminence we beheld four huts erected on the bank of a considerable river, and on approaching them, we were met by about a dozen of men, who seeing us unarmed also laid down their bows. As we could make ourselves perfectly intelligible to each other, we offered them two large diamonds if they would convey us in a canoe or boat to the nearest Portuguese settlement. This they refused to do, and seemed to abhor the Portuguese, possibly from a traditional account of the cruelty of the first European settlers to the natives. But they offered to convey us the greatest part of the way to the sea coast; my heart bounded with joy at the proposal, and next morning with the dawn, we began

our voyage down the river, which we now found was the Paripatinga.

-During a rapid voyage of fourteen days I took but few notes, indeed there was little to be seen, but a succession of woodlands, hills, mountains, vallies, and plains, in a state of nature; except where an Indian tripe had erected a few huts, or here and there a more populous town near the banks of the river.

At length we came in sight of the majestic river Orellana, or Amazon. Here our conductors refused to proceed and having conveyed us safely across the Parapatinga, they landed us on the eastern bank, received the two diamonds, and left us. We now proceeded towards the sea coast with more confidence, and were ferried over several small rivers by the Indians who lived on their banks. On the 4th day after we parted with our friendly voyagers, we came in sight of New Belem, or Para, situated on a river of that name, and in the afternoon to my inexpressible joy, I once more found myself among Europeans. Our arrival, and the singularity of our adventures excited a lively interest in the hearts of the inhabitants. The governor of the town, Don Francis Peirera, received us into his own house,

and generously supplied me with an European habit from his own wardrobe. As for Prince Zirvan, he preferred the garb to which he had been accustomed, but expressed his admiration of the general appearance of Belem ; the magnitude of the church, and the size of some of the ships in the doek. My ardour for strange sights and romantic adventures was now cooled, and with the intercourse with polished society, my desire to revisit my friends in St. Sebastian revived. It was with considerable difficulty that I could make myself intelligible for some days after my arrival at New Belem ; but my articulation daily improved, and with the assistance of books and conversation, I gradually recovered my knowledge of the English, French, and Portuguese languages.

On enquiry, I found that I arrived in New Belem, on the 24th of March, 1812, just four years and four days from the time I set out on my exploratory travels. Thus a considerable portion of the prime of my life had passed in captivity among savage, or at least uninformed tribes of Indians, from whom I received indeed a lesson of adversity, which convinced me of the folly of romantic expectations. The intercourse between me and my friends in England had been long suspend-

ed, and they doubtless considered me as no longer in existence in this world. A still more tender intercourse, that with Eleonora, was also interrupted perhaps for ever. She might be dead, or estranged, or married to another. My mercantile affairs were now a nonentity, for I could not reasonably claim any part of the profits of my father's business, when my own efforts were discontinued to promote his success. Hence, I considered myself a bankrupt in trade, an alien in friendship, and a lover who lost his mistress by neglect. Such were the gloomy forebodings that crowned into my imagination as I reviewed the transactions of the last five years. One pleasing reflection was, that I was not destitute of property in this remote part of the world, having left four thousand pounds in the hands of a banker in St. Sebastian; and this sum was more than sufficient to maintain me and Eleonora for many years in America, or afford us the means of returning to Europe, if she should be disposed to accompany me thither. I therefore was urgent with the governor of New Belem, to permit me to proceed in a coaster to St. Sebastian; he granted my request, and after much enquiry, I found that the Santa Teresa, a ship of one hundred tons burthen, bound for Maranh, to take a cargo of cotton to the capital, would be ready to sail in two days.

Zirvan, the Indian Prince, who might now be said to be under my protection, was my daily companion in my rambles through New Belem. His mind which was curious and docile expanded with the contemplation of so many new and interesting objects, and I thought it my duty to a young and virtuous fellow-creature, who had so nobly shared adversity with me, to contribute to the utmost of my power to his information and happiness. Our friendship was equally pure and reciprocal, and I resolved that he should never be destitute while I could command a guinea.

There is nothing remarkable in the town of Para, or New Belem, to attract the curiosity of an European. Like most small seaports in a low situation, the streets are dirty and inconveniently narrow. But the harbour is good, and it appears to be a place of considerable trade.

The happy moment at length arrived when I was summoned on board the *Santo Teresa*; I bade the Governor of Para farewell with the strongest feelings of gratitude; went on board with Prince Zirvan, and we sailed with the morning tide. A coasting voyage along the shores of South America is delightful, as the ship is never out of sight

of land, which presents all the picturesque beauties of bold projecting promontories, receding creeks, billy woodlands, and lofty mountains; while vast and majestic rivers, of which an European can scarcely form an idea pour their abundant streams into the parent ocean.

In two days we reached the port of St. Louis and took on board a large quantity of Maranhao, or Maranham cotton wool. The port was called St. Louis by the French, who first settled here in the beginning of the seventeenth century, but were expelled by Portuguese troops sent from St. Salvador, then the capital of Brazil. When our lading was completed, we again set sail for the Bay of All Saints, where we anchored after a prosperous voyage of ten days, on the 12th of April, 1812.

When I landed, I hastily proceeded to the city of St. Salvador, with a letter of introduction from the governor of New Belem to the viceroy. I did not, however, obtain an immediate audience, for Don Ferdinand, like the opulent inhabitants of this city in general, was proud and reserved. I had no presents to offer, except two small diamonds, for I was determined not to give away the

suberb girdle, which had been presented to me by the Indian Princess, as a grateful return for having rescued her from the paws of a leopard.

Nearly a week passed away before I was admitted to an audience though I daily attended at noon for that purpose. To divert the tedium, I frequently rambled with Zirvan through the upper and lower divisions of the city of St. Salvador. The upper division of the city is situated on a lofty eminence, full six hundred feet above the harbour. Many of the streets, interspersed with beautiful gardens, run in pallel lines to the summit, and have a most magnificent as well as charmingly picturesque effect when viewed from the lower town, or the harbour. The houses are mostly two, and some of them three stories high, strongly built of cream-coloured stone, not unlike that of Bath in England. In the centre of this division of the city, on the very summit of the hill stands the viceroy's palace, the town-hall, and the mint. Some of the churches and convents are magnificent. The nunnery of the order of St. Clare is an extensive building; and an asylum for girls abandoned by their parents is a small plain structure, where about fifty of these poor and innocent children are educated. Many girls who

were received into this asylum, have become respectable in society, and been married to opulent tradesman. From this institution it appears that the citizens of St. Salvador are charitable, and they seem to agree in the sentiment, that "charity shall cover a multitude of sins," for their moral character is none of the best, they are proud, indolent, and voluptuous. Many indeed of the merchants and tradesmen, who inhabit the lower division of the city, and subsist by commerce, are very industrious; and though St. Salvador, did not appear to me a desirable place of residence, the natives are better able to estimate its advantages, and they seem cheerful and contented.

After a tedious delay, I was at last admitted into the presence of the viceroy, and presented my diamonds. He made some enquiries respecting my intentions, and when he found that I had considerable property in St. Sebastian, he condescended to treat me with greater affability, especially when I hinted that I should willingly pay whatever he demanded for my passage and that of my companion to the capital in one of the royal cutters. He assured me that a vessel should be immediately ordered to proceed with me to the capital of the Brazils, and I found he was as good as

his word, for next day the captain of a cutter came to my hotel to inform me, that he was ready to take me on board, and to sail with the evening tide. I hastened to the harbour, accompanied by Zirvan, went on board the Prince Regent cutter, Captain Leyola; and we soon afterwards stood to sea with a fair wind.



CHAPTER X.

Return to St. Sebastian—Elconora not to be found—meet Antonio—his account of his escape—his account of the grief of Elconora—I visit D'Avila's Neices—D'Avila imprisoned in the dungeon of the inquisition.

IN passing down the Bay of Bahia into the open sea, I observed some islands which had escaped my notice when I entered the port a few days before. At that time I was fatigued and dispirited after a long captivity and having suffered many hardships. In such a state the mind is inattentive to surrounding

objects; the finer feelings are blunted, and even curiosity itself, the last passion which languishes in the breast of a traveller is suppressed. But now the case was widely different, I was on my way to a city which contained several friends, and what was still more, the object of my first love. My expectation was high, I was in good health, and the vivacity of my mind was renewed. Hence every object which presented itself in the course of our voyage was interesting. I closely observed some of the islets in the bay as we passed them. They were covered with luxuriant verdure, which on accurate inspection proved to be tobacco plantations. In some of them the sugar cane was cultivated and seemed to flourish. The various indentations of the coast as we passed along, and the towering woodlands on the airy ridges amused my fancy, but as we approached St. Sebastian every other idea was absorbed in impatient expectation. We entered the Rio Janerio, passed the fort under the Portuguese flag, and with a palpitating heart I once more set foot on the Quay, and hastened to the marine hotel. Here I found several letters from my father. The first dated October 15, 1810, mentioned the arrival of the ship in the Thames, with the cargo of American produce which I sent. He approved of the goods, and urged me to return to

England as soon as I had gratified my curiosity by Travels through Brazil. The other letters, four in number, were of later dates, and expressive of his solicitude and that of my mother respecting my safety, and their regret that I had not answered his letters. My heart smote me as I read, and I felt that I acted undutifully to my affectionate parents by a fantastical indulgence of a foolish and inordinate curiosity. I resolved to return to England as speedily as possible, but I could not think of returning without Eleonora, and after a slight refreshment I sallied forth, accompanied by my faithful friend Zirvan to the abode of my mistress.

When I approached the house my heart was filled with horror. The windows were broken and barracadoed; the door secured on the outside with a strong padlock; the place was uninhabited, and bore strong marks of desolation. When I recovered from the shock, I made enquiries among the neighbours respecting Eleonora and her mother, but all the information I could obtain was that they had privately departed more than a year before, and that the house had since been without inhabitant. It would be impossible to describe my emotions as I cast a last glance on

the former abode of one of the most amiable of women ; I returned to the hotel, and shut myself up in my chamber, where I shed tears of unavailing regret and anguish. Zirvan, though uninformed respecting the cause of my sorrow, endeavoured to console me for what he supposed was merely the loss of a friend. He mentioned the happy isles where friends are re-united to part no more, but enjoyed perpetual happiness. I thanked him for his friendly consolation, but hinted that my friends were I hoped yet in this world, and that I should immediately endeavour to discover their abode. He then retired to his apartment, and I endeavoured to forget my misfortunes in oblivious repose.

Next morning I wrote to my father, and gave him a brief account of my exploratory journey, captivity, sufferings, escape, and safe arrival at St. Sebastian. I also informed him of my intention to return to England by the first English ship, and as there was a Letter of Marque then taking in her lading for the port of London, which would be ready to sail in a month, I hoped to see my native land in less than three months. This letter was forwarded in the royal packet to Lisbon, and I should have returned to Europe by the same

conveyance, had not the hope of again meeting Eleonora induced me to remain for some time in the capital of the Brazils.

My whole attention was now turned to the discovery of my mistress. I visited all my former friends, and availed myself of their local knowledge of the city and its environs to render my search successful. But my activity and solicitude were equally fruitless. In one of my perambulations in a remote suburb, I met my former servant Antonio. The appearance of a spectre could hardly have excited more surprize, for I had left him in the field of battle among the Indians at a vast distance from St. Sebastian. He seemed no less surprized than myself, for uttering a loud exclamation of joy he ran forward and embraced me, while the honest tears of friendship filled his eyes. I was much gratified at this unequivocal proof of his gratitude, and after mentioning a few particulars of my escape, I enquired how he had eluded the vigilance of the Orozamans. "The total defeat of our army," said Antonio, "and the death of the king, who was killed soon after you were taken, threw the Orozaman army into such confusion, that every man sought safety in flight. I thought this a favourable opportunity to re

gain me liberty, and fled with other fugitives towards the lofty mountains which have hitherto been considered the western boundary of Orozama. In the vallies we found refreshments, and there the warriors halted. I remained two days and a night with them, but on the second night I recommended myself to the protection of the great Being, and armed with my dagger and javelin, I ascended the summit of the nearest mountain and resolved to make my way back to this city, or to perish in the wilderness. Some of the early fruits were ripe, and afforded me sufficient nourishment; I often was lost amid the almost impassable woods, but recollecting how useful the guidance of the stars had been to us in our first journey, I was enabled to rectify the mistakes of the day by their nightly and unerring aid. Thus I travelled for nearly a month, and was almost exhausted with fatigue and watching, when I fortunately met a small wandering tribe called the Zorimas, who directed me into the shortest path to the Portuguese territory. My return to St. Sebastian made some noise; I was seized by the Police on suspicion of having murdered you, and thrown into a dungeon; but on searching my lodging nothing could be found to criminate me, and I was again set at liberty. About an hour

after I left my dungeon, and just as I had received some refreshments from a compassionate citizen who had long known me, a person came with a message from two ladies who were acquainted with you, requesting me to go to them immediately. I went and was conducted into a parlour, where the young Portuguese lady whom you so much admired sat." "What Eleonora!" exclaimed I. "Yes, Sir," replied Antonio, "your Eleonora, for if ever woman loved man, you are beloved by her." "Where is she now Antonio?" said I quickly. "Let me continue my story," said he, "and I will tell you all I know." I then listened with speechless attention, eager to catch at every word which might convey information respecting the dear object of my solicitude.

"When I entered the room," said Antonio, "I saw the young lady pale and almost fainting, supported by her mother, she eagerly enquired what I knew respecting you, and I frankly informed her of the disastrous defeat which we suffered. The Senor, my master, was either killed or taken prisoner said I—but the young lady could hear no more—a fainting fit, in which her spirit seemed to have taken flight, interrupted my story. I assisted her trembling and afflicted mother in en-

deavours to restore her to life, and after some minutes she opened her eyes. Tears the most abundant that I ever beheld, seemed to relieve her; she feebly articulated your name, and with a look of inexpressible woe, threw herself on her knees before a crucifix, and expressed a short prayer. She then seemed to have regained some degree of composure, thanked me for the trouble I had taken, put a piece of money into my hand, and while I ventured to express a word or two of consolation, she again thanked me, but the deep sigh which accompanied her words convinced me that her heart was greatly afflicted. About a fortnight afterwards I passed through the same street, and on looking towards the house, I perceived that it was tenantless. I immediately enquired about the ladies, and was told that they had departed either to embark for Europe, or to some more healthful situation in the neighbourhood of the city." "Perhaps they have gone to reside at Senor D'Avila's," said I. "That is very probable," replied Antonio, "for the spot is delightful, and the Portuguese gentleman would receive his country women kindly for your sake."

Elated with the expectation of meeting Eleonora at the seat of D'Avila, I desired Antonio to

consider himself again my servant, and to meet me at the hotel in the evening. I then turned my steps towards the pleasant retreat of my friend. On my arrival, I entered the hall with the familiarity of an old acquaintance, I was immediately ushered into the parlour by a servant. Both the nieces of my friend were there; they expressed their pleasure and surprize on the occasion, but when I enquired after D'Avila they both sighed, and Rosalie mentioned that he was then a prisoner in the dungeons of the Inquisition. "The dungeons of the Inquisition!" exclaimed I, "what has my virtuous friend done to incur the persecution of those malignant priests." "Hush!" cried Isabella, "it was expressions of similar meaning that occasioned his imprisonment, let me intreat you to be cautious what you say concerning the Brethren of the Holy Office." "Say rather of the accursed Tribunal," cried I, "what numbers of manly and intrepid assertors of truth have those diabolical priests tortured to death! But D'Avila, the generous D'Avila, what is his crime?" "That, Sir, we cannot learn. All we know is that on the evening prior to his commitment to prison, he had some altercation in one of the apartments of the royal palace, with a nobleman respecting the merits of your countrymen. His opponent repro-

bated them as odious heretics, while he on the contrary vindicated their character, as the manly and successful defenders of civil and religious liberty. His opponent censured the people of England as the mortal enemies of the Holy Catholic Church, and endeavoured to prove from history and the various Bulls issued by Popes, that England was not only the native land of heretics, but an asylum for apostates from the Mother Church. Our uncle retorted, that England was indeed the asylum of the oppressed whether by political or fanatical despotism. There, said he, there exists no Inquisition to torture the bodies of men for the salvation of their souls. ‘O very well’ replied the nobleman, ‘your most obedient Senor D’Avila.’ Here the dispute terminated. Our uncle came home, and repeated the particulars, at which we shuddered, lest his indiscreet warmth should prove injurious. Nor were our fears groundless, for next morning at day break about twenty of the Holy Brotherhood broke into this house, arrested our uncle, forced him from his bed, and when Rosalie in her solicitude for the preservation of our guardian, entreated the commanding officer to let him escape, one of the ferocious band knocked her down, exclaiming with an oath, ‘The defender of heretics shall be safely lodged in a dungeon of

the Inquisition, let him escape out of it if he can.” “ Yes, and he shall escape if I exist,” cried I. Isabella, smiled at what she considered the mere warmth of friendship. I then enquired whether any Portuguese ladies lived in their neighbourhood, but they knew of none. Soon afterwards I departed with a renewal of my promise to liberate their uncle if possible.

On my return to the city I found Antonio waiting my arrival. He engaged to accompany me to England, and I promised him good wages. Zirvan was much gratified at the idea of having a countryman for an attendant. I told them of the situation of Senor D’Avila and my determination to set him free. Antonio pointed out the danger and impracticability of the enterprize. “ Only consider, Sir,” said he, “ the strength of the prison, the watchfulness of the guards, and the general influence of the clergy. If you even could open the door of your friend’s dungeon, neither of you could remain one day in this city without detection; and the most cruel tortures would be inflicted on both for what the Holy Brotherhood consider an unpardonable crime.” These observations of Antonio were certainly reasonable, but I had a resource in view, to the invincible nature of which

he was a stranger. That resource was the enterprise and intrepidity of British seamen, to whom no artificial obstacles are insuperable.



CHAPTER XI.

Go on board the Albion—concert a plan with the Captain for liberating D'Avila—go to a ball—dance with an Heiress—receive two challenges—a duel—a wedding—visit two females near the city in expectation of meeting Eleonora—interesting incident.

APPREHENSIVE of the sufferings of the imprudent D'Avila while exposed to that most vindictive and cruel of all enemies—a combination of Priests, I went on board the Albion, Letter of Marque, to request the aid of Captain Ornington. When I related the circumstances of the case to him he seemed perplexed and irresolute. “What

would you have me do in this affair Sir?" said he. "Nothing but permit a few of the most resolute of your seamen to accompany and support me in my attempt to set a worthy captive free, and that achieved, to admit us on board under the protection of the British flag." "Well Sir, it is rather an unpleasant business, but what I can with propriety perform shall be done. You know I am accountable to the owners for the ship and property on board; and as the Portuguese Government are undoubtedly influenced by the clergy, particularly those connected with the Inquisition, they might seize the vessel, condemn the cargo, and imprison my whole ship's crew in their infernal dungeons." "If you will leave the management of the business to me, Captain, I shall take the whole responsibility upon myself; I am the son and partner of one of the most opulent merchants in London, of which fact I can produce satisfactory proofs; and as friendship is my only motive, I hope you will not withhold your assistance. Do you know the crime for which my friend is incarcerated in a noisome dungeon?" "No, Sir." "Merely for vindicating the national character of the English for liberality, generosity, and a love of freedom." "But did he say nothing more?" "Why yes, he execrated the tyranny exercised

by the clerical executioners of the Inquisition." There he was wrong, in a country where such slavish deference is paid to the ministers of Catholic superstition. Have you mentioned your intention to any other person?" "No, except in a general way to two confidential friends." "Well how do you intend to proceed?" "We must scale the outer wall of the Palace of the Inquisition; secure and gag the turnkeys, and compel them to conduct us to the dungeon where my friend is confined." "I'm afraid, Sir, your party will be a forlorn hope." "O never fear, with British seamen I shall be successful." "You speak like a Briton. Who is to head the enterprize?" "I will lead the men." "There you speak like a true friend, and the man who is willing to venture his life for his friend is worthy of the esteem of all mankind. You shall have my aid, and I have no doubt but there will be a sufficient number of volunteers found on board this ship. How many will you require?" "Six active resolute men will be quite sufficient." "Very well, say no more about the matter; come on board when I send you a message that the ship is cleared out and ready to sail, which will, I expect, be in ten days at farthest." I expressed my acknowledgments to Captain Ornington, and having presented the ship's crew with twenty guineas to purchase a dinner I went ashore.

Antonio was now daily engaged in exploring every part of St. Sebastian to discover Eleonora and her mother. I often renewed my enquiries respecting these interesting females, but without success. One of my old friends, Pedro Vanillas, a rich merchant, invited me to an entertainment, and I went rather with a wish to dissipate my chagrin, by seeing others cheerful, than any inclination to participate in amusements. A ball was given, and Vanillas importuned me so much to join the dancers that I complied. I was favoured with the hand of Henrietta Servis, the heiress of one of the most opulent merchants in the city, and as lovely as she was rich. Many were the young gentlemen who sighed for the fair Brazilian; some of those visitors were present, and they all looked upon me as a rival.

Just as we had retired from the ball-room to a refectory, and I was engaged in handing some slight refreshment to my partner, Don Carlos Castanos passed close to me, and slipped a note into my hand. I took the opportunity when the young lady was engaged in conversation with another, to read the contents of the paper. It was a challenge, couched in very courtly language, but as I had no inclination to be shot or run

through the body by a Brazilian hero, however polite he might be, I took no notice of his defiance. The only effect it had upon me was to incite me to dance again with the fatal Henrietta, whose beauty could inspire even a fopling with the contempt of death. The challenge was, however, not to be trifled with, for before the company broke up, I had another invitation from him to dispute the point of honour. This was also unanswered, and my antagonist, by a rash conclusion, attributed my silence to pusillanimity. He therefore availed himself of the revenge common to worthless minds, by endeavouring to vilify me. In this he was eventually unsuccessful, for a young Irish merchant, with whom I was on friendly terms, stood forth my champion at a coffee house where Castanos asserted, that I was a poltroon, and the English a nation of heretics and cowards. "Every one of your assertions are false, Sir," cried Fitzgerald, "Mr. Sidney, whom you thus stigmatize is generous, friendly, and I have no doubt brave; the English are a people as remarkable for their integrity as their valour; and as for the unmeaning charge of heresy, that is mere matter of opinion. "Do you know, Sir," replied the Portuguese, that "by vindicating that Englishman who refused to meet me, you become

liable to the chastizement that awaited him?" " *Chastizement!*" exclaimed Fitzgerald, starting up in a rage, " Sir I'm your man this moment. Delays are dangerous, let us settle the matter on the spot." This was agreed on, the opponents retired to a garden in the rear of the coffee-house, and fought with swords. The contest was fierce, but in less than five minutes Fitzgerald deeply wounded and disarmed Castanos, and compelled him in the presence of their seconds to acknowledge his error.

This incident happened without my having the slightest intimation of it, but though Fitzgerald was wounded, it was one of the most auspicious events of his life, for Henrietta, who was rather of a romantic disposition, in two days afterwards sent an intimation to my friend that she was desirous to see him. At the interview, he contrived to make himself so agreeable, that a marriage was the consequence. The young lady rightly conjectured that a generous friend would prove a good husband, and the fortunate Hibernian became the bridegroom of one of the richest and most amiable ladies in St. Sebastian. These events furnished amusing topics for the citizens, and even inmates at the Court of the Brazilian capital.

In the meantime Antonio discovered, as he supposed, the retreat of Eleonora and her mother. By his unremitting enquiries he found that two interesting females, supposed to be ladies from Portugal, lived in the most secluded manner at the little village of Valdano, about two leagues from the city. It was evening when he brought this intelligence, and at day-break next morning we set out to ascertain the fact. When I came in view of the village, I was so overpowered with the alternate emotions of hope and fear that I almost fainted. I was directed to the residence of the strangers, whose windows were open to receive the pure air. A modest girl about sixteen stood at one of them; she was pale and in tears—and I thought I heard a groan issue from the apartment. I bowed to the young woman, and incited by an irresistible desire to know whether the object of my search was an inmate, I hastily entered the cottage, and proceeded to a chamber where I beheld a woman on a small pallet, pale, motionless, and apparently expiring. The young girl stood before me. “Forgive this intrusion,” said I, “It was not curiosity drew me hither; I came in search of a beloved friend, who I fear is lost to me for ever. But tell me, can I be any assistance to you, for you seem destitute.”

While I spoke the young girl sobbed, and tears as clear as crystal, followed one another in large drops down her pale yet beautiful cheek, "Ah, Sir!" exclaimed she, "my mother is dying—she is dying for want—neither of us have tasted food these three days." I was struck with the deepest compassion, and hastily calling Antonio, desired him to get some wine or milk, and fruits immediately. In less than a quarter of an hour he entered with an abundant supply. We raised the fainting, famishing mother, whose daughter kneeling beside her held a small cup of wine to her lips with a trembling hand. She swallowed a small quantity of the cordial which revived her; but no language could express the joyful tenderness with which the daughter beheld returning vitality. She threw herself on her knees, she clasped her hands, and with eyes turned towards heaven ejaculated the pious gratitude of an innocent mind; while her mother gazed on her with a look of affection totally indescribable, but never to be forgotten. My heart was touched at this moving sight; I shed tears, and beheld the drops of sympathy ready to start from the full eyes of Antonio. The scene was impressive—it was edifying, and I resolved to dedicate the day to humanity.

In the course of the afternoon, Antonio brought abundance of such provisions as the village supplied ; I slipped a few pieces of Portuguese money into the hand of the happy daughter, who kissed mine and bedewed it with the tears of gratitude in return ; and after a promise that I should make some provision for the support of this destitute mother and child, I returned with my faithful Antonio to the city.



CHAPTER XII.

Preparations for scaling the walls of the Inquisition—a description of the seamen engaged in the enterprize—the escalade successful—the captive liberated—a conversation—amusements on board the Albion.

THE time now approached when a few daring adventures were to engage in an enterprize truly perilous—a violent encroachment on the peculiar rights of the Holy Brotherhood, nay, even the cap-

ture of that grand citadel of cruelty the Inquisition. I had now after an ineffectual search of several weeks given up the hope of ever discovering the retreat of Eleonora; and though I could not without the deepest regret, reflect on what I considered our eternal separation, yet the natural gaiety of youth prevented despondency, and even what I now thought unavailing sorrow, was gradually dissipated by the various avocations in which I engaged. Among these, the liberation of D'Avila was the paramount object, and to this bold enterprize I directed all the energy of my mind.

One fine afternoon, just after dinner, as I was amusing myself with the perusal of some English newspapers in the marine hotel, the Albion's jolly boat approached the wharf; the first mate leaped on shore, and hastily directing his steps to my lodging entered the apartment where I sat without ceremony. He brought a message from Captain Ornington requiring my immediate presence on board. On my arrival alongside, I perceived the ship's company drawn up on the quarter deck with their captain in front; I ascended the rope ladder, and after the customary compliment, the captain introduced me to his crew. "Here,

my lads, is an English merchant who wants your assistance. One of his dearest friends is now confined in the prison of the Inquisition, and for what crime do you think, my lads?—Why only for saying what every man of sense knows to be true, that England is the first country in the world, Englishmen the most free and brave of the human race, and the Inquisition a d—ned limbo where priests torture better men than themselves. Now my gallant fellows, all that our countryman requires is about half a dozen bold marines who can scale a wall, and are not afraid of being knocked on the head by a few cowardly Portuguese soldiers and turnkeys; he will himself lead you to the spot, mount the walls with you, and share your danger, if there should be any. And for whom does he wish you to thus venture manfully? To set free an honest Portuguese gentleman, whose only fault is his good will towards Englishmen. I now conclude, my lads, with stating, what I'm sure you care very little about, that Mr. Sidney will reward each of his brave assistants on this occasion with twenty guineas, besides a general treat of grog to the whole ship's crew." This harangue was received by the sailors with three cheers, their customary mode of expressing their unanimity and defiance of danger. Yes, trivial as those ani-

mating sounds may seem to the philosophic mind, unaccustomed to feel the powerful influence of sympathy, they have a surprizing effect in the incitement of courage. Three British cheers are indeed the harbingers of whatever is great, adventurous and brave among our tars; with the last sound, the lingering fears that might have remained, are expelled from the heart, and nothing remains but a confidence of success that is invincible. While I heard my countrymen thus express their approbation in *loud unison*, and beheld their manly faces beaming with courage while they waved their caps over their heads, I also cheered. "Now my brave boys," said the Captain, "where are our volunteers? Turn out the scaling party!" In half a minute six men advanced and surrounded the captain, and at least double the number shewed by the ardour of their looks, their desire to imitate so heroic an example. "Well done my gallant boys!" exclaimed the Captain, while turning round he shook me by the hand, "there Sir, is your guard of honour, I'll be bound they'll follow wherever you lead." "I never doubted the bravery of my countrymen," replied I, "but my lads, as we shall probably have some sharp service, we must be well armed. A brace of loaded pistols, and a dirk, will however be sufficient for each man, and as for

the scaling ladders, I shall leave them to your management." The men smiled, and I added, "As for the promised reward, every man of you shall have his twenty guineas whether we prove successful or not." "Say nothing about the money, Sir," exclaimed a bold tar, "d—n the money I say—as the poor gentleman was imprisoned by those rascally priests for his love for Old England, we'll set him free for love—or die on the spot!" "Bravo! Ned," cried the Captain, while all the volunteers expressed a similar disinterestedness. "Well, well, messmates," said I familiarly, "let us first do the job, and we shall afterwards count the cost and divide the spoil."

The six men who had thus voluntarily offered to risk their lives for a man they had never seen, merely because he suffered for his indiscreet expression of attachment to Englishmen, were what we call able-bodied seamen. They had all of them faced death before, and been engaged in several actions on board men of war. Their names, their features, and even their characteristics are strong in my recollection, and I shall never forget the emotions of enthusiasm and admiration which I felt while the interesting group stood before me. The most prominent character was Edward John-

son, a native of Hull, and as brave a Yorkshireman as ever stepped between stem and stern ; the second was William Edwards, a Lancashire lad, bold, lively, and open-countenanced ; the third, Thomas Williams, a Welshman, a genuine descendant of the heroic Llewellyn ; the fourth, Alexander Boyd, a North Briton, worthy of his country, with a shrewdness of aspect, and manliness of deportment, the signs of skill and courage ; the fifth was John Henderson, a native of Belfast, a man about thirty five years of age, whose well proportioned and athletic form was well adapted to hardship, while his cheerful aspect inspired hope and confidence ; the sixth was Bernard Maloney, another Hibernian, one of the true Melisian breed, who, though a son of the holy Mother Church, had very little superstition in his mind. His form and manner, promised promptitude in action, while his firm brow, and compressed lip indicated unconquerable fortitude. Such was the gallant little band with whom I risked liberty and life to liberate a friend.

According to Captain Ornington's plan, I returned on shore to collect my friends and send them on board as soon as it was dark. The time was favourable for there was no moon-light, and

the boat could be steered to the ship by the occasional but momentary display of a light from the quarter deck ; for lights on board ships at anchor beneath the guns of the fort were prohibited by the government.

On my return to the Quay, I sent Antonio to conduct the two neices of D'Avila to the hotel. They soon arrived with their portable articles of value, and I explained as much of our scheme as was necessary. While they shuddered at our danger, they expressed their gratitude for my attention, and their wish to place themselves under my protection, and return to Europe. Soon after sunset darkness came on, and the ladies, accompanied by Zirvan, were taken in a boat to the Albion. Antonio, the active, brave, and faithful Antonio, remained with me to share the dangers and horrors of the enterprize.

About midnight, our associates came ashore, and having fastened their boat by a rope to one of the iron rings of the wharf, they approached the entrance of the hotel in profound silence. They had provided two rope ladders, and I had prepared two dark lanterns. Thus equipped, we marched in silence towards the Palace of the Inquisition.

Two large lamps, which illumed a figure of Saint Dominic, the tutelar Demon of the Holy Brotherhood, beamed at the principal entrance, and we could perceive the glittering arms of the sentinels. We thought it rash to attack them, and agreed to scale the wall as near the entrance as possible. In a minute our active party mounted and descended into the area in front of the grand Hall. Here two soldiers stood to guard the entrance. We rushed forward, seized them in a moment, and so effectually gagged them that they could not utter a syllable. We left them in custody of one of our party, who stood over them with a loaded pistol, and a naked dirk. We then knocked gently at the folding door; a turnkey, who probably supposed that one of the soldiers wanted something, cautiously opened the door, and held it ajar. Our tars boldly sprang forward, the turnkey uttered one cry, and only one, for he was immediately knocked down, gagged and pinioned, his bunch of keys torn from his girdle, and pistols held to his head while he was menaced with instant death if he did not conduct us to the dungeon of D'Avila. We now found the benefit of our dark lanterns, for the long damp passage by which he led us to the dungeons was arched over, without *any* window, or the smallest lamp, or taper, to il-

lumine it. We passed along nearly two hundred yards before we came to the cell of D'Avila. It seemed detached from the rest, as if for the purpose of inflicting particular punishment. We tried several of the keys before we could find the right one, and I own I felt much apprehension lest the inmates of the palace should give the alarm and we should be detected. At length Maloney, with a strong wrench and an oath, succeeded in opening the door. We entered hastily, and the terrified D'Avila, who thought we were coming to lead him to execution, raised his hands and eyes towards heaven and breathed a short ejaculation. He was interrupted by our sailors, who raised him from the straw on which he had lain for weeks, and while I clasped his hand and whispered the word liberty! they broke his chain with a dexterity which could not be surpassed. D'Avila was too weak to walk, four of us therefore carried him to the entrance; but how to dispose of the turnkey and guards was the question. A Portuguese, a Spaniard, or Italian, would have felt little hesitation in quickly dispatching the prisoners, but there is something odious to a Briton in the base crime of assassination. The unhappy men now in our power were only the passive instruments of priestly cruelty; they had made no resistance, and consequently

we felt no anger against them. After a short consultation in whispers, we thought it best to carry them to the quay, and thence on board. Our enterprize required dispatch; D'Avila, the turnkey, and the two soldiers, were soon out of the precincts of the Inquisition, and safely stowed, for stowed I may call it, in our boat. Our active tars jumped on board, seized their oars, and in less than an hour we came alongside the Albion with our prize. Senor D'Avila was supported up the ship's side and restored to the embraces of his nieces whose rapture was inexpressible. As for the soldiers and the turnkey, they were not brought on board, but put into another boat, and sent to the side of the river opposite the fort where they were safely landed and fairly left to shift for themselves. This act of common humanity took up another hour, during which the anchor was weighed, the sails unfurled, and on the return of our men, we set sail with a fair wind, and before sunrise, we were above four leagues from the fort, and beyond the reach of danger.

We now interchanged mutual congratulations on the success of our enterprize. The morning was fine, and we all took breakfast on the quarter-deck, except the young ladies, who were discomposed by the motion of the ship. After break-

fast I paid each of my gallant comrades twenty guineas, and with a hearty shake of the hand, which seemed to gratify them as much as the money, I repeatedly thanked them for the firm and masterly manner in which they had gone through the business. They now had time to rally each other on the exploit. "As for you, Boyd," said Edwards, with an arch smile "I don't so much wonder at your wish to pull down the Inquisition." "Pull down the Inquisition," replied Boyd, "what do mean?" "Why, don't you remember when we were coming ashore last night, that you swore you would engage with two of our eighteen pounders, to knock down the walls about the priests' head in two hours. That was all fair in a Scotchman, but how Maloney, who says his prayers upon sticks,* could be so undutiful a son of the Church of Rome, as to invade the Inquisition, I cannot conceive." "D—n the Inquisition!" exclaimed Malony, "it is no part of my creed to believe in the infallibility of an Inquisidor-General; and if it was I could turn heretic like yourself before I would persecute a fellow-creature."

The promised grog was liberally dealt out to

*The common custom among Irish Catholics of repeating a Pater Noster or Ave Maria, for every bead or division of his rosary.

the ship's crew after dinner; several excellent sea songs were sung in chorus on the deck, particularly, "The Battle of the Nile," "Poor Jack," and "the Sailor's Epitaph;" and we spent the afternoon with all the hilarity of men flushed with success, and inspired with general esteem for each other. In fact, I was now the sailors' favourite, not so much for my freedom in opening my purse, as the activity which I displayed in liberating D'Avila. They swore I could climb like a cat, and that it was a thousand pities, and a d—nd shame too, that I had not been bred to the sea, for I should certainly have been an Admiral." These rough compliments certainly pleased me, though I was convinced of the superior spirit, and noble disinterestedness of the sailors who accompanied me, and whose principal motive was the desire to perform a service of danger, no matter how mischievous; while I was incited by the powerful sentiment of friendship.

CHAPTER XIII.

Arrival in London—a parting scene—meeting of a son and his parents—conversation respecting Eleonora.

AFTER a pleasant voyage we arrived in the port of London on the 4th of July, 1812. I hastily prepared to go ashore accompanied by Senor D'Avila, his nieces, and Zirvan, and attended by my faithful servant, Antonio. I was yet in possession of about three thousand pounds, which was paid into my hands by my banker at St. Sebastian some days prior to my departure from that city. Consequently I had only spent about two thousand pounds in South America. The widow and her daughter whom I relieved at the village

had been by my directions conducted by Antonio to the Brazilian capital, and I left one hundred pounds in the hands of my banker for their support, and recommended them to some of the most benevolent of my Portuguese friends. Thus I had performed my promise to a destitute and virtuous mother and daughter at a comparatively small expense, and I now returned to my native land fully convinced of its superiority above all others, and of the folly of embarking in voyages of discovery. Just as I was about to descend into the boat from the ship's side, I slipped a purse of one hundred guineas into the hand of Capt. Ornington, requesting him to distribute the money among the seamen. The gallant tars, though equally ignorant and careless respecting my present, now crowded round me and I was obliged to submit to the uncourtly gripe of many a hard hand. When I was in the boat, the Captain requested me to stop a moment as his men wished to pay me a parting compliment. I complied, and in a moment they hoisted their colours, manned the yards, and gave me three cheers, waving their caps. I returned their salute, by waving my hat; the watermen rowed towards the shore and I landed at the Tower Stairs. I ordered two hackney coaches to be called, in which we placed our

luggage, and were conveyed to my father's residence. My parents were both at home; but I shall not attempt to describe our meeting——* *

* * * * *

When the first spontaneous effusions of joy were over, I introduced my Portuguese friend and his nieces to my parents; Zirvan was afterwards presented, and though last not least, in attachment, my servant Antonio. Apartments were immediately prepared in my father's for the accommodation of his unexpected guests, and I was received into the bosom of civilized society in its most refined and exalted state. The contrast of manners between the citizens of London and St. Sebastian was striking. In the former city, every man seemed to enjoy perfect freedom, and with a busy yet satisfied air pursued his traffick; in the latter commerce was considered a secondary thing, and the primary object of popular attention seemed to be veneration for the ridiculous mummery of monastic superstition. I felt proud of the moral superiority and paramount opulence of my countrymen, and there was only one wish of my heart ungratified. That wish was to know what became of Eleonora and her mother, for the passion which I had so fondly, and it might be said imprudently,

cherished for the amiable and virtuous object of my heart's first choice, had gradually been diminished or repressed by the trying vicissitudes which I underwent.

Behold me then, once more a citizen of London, quietly re-admitted into partnership with an excellent father, who smiled at my narrative with the dignified equanimity of a Briton, and when I concluded my tale expressed his hope that I was perfectly satisfied of the futility of exploratory adventures. He seemed, however, much interested in the destiny of Eleonora, and questioned me closely respecting the nature of our connection. I assured him that it was as pure as the most chaste attachment could make it, but that I had given up all hope of ever again meeting with my mistress. "That will be your own fault or I am mistaken," said he, "for about two months before I received your letter, the supercargo of a Portuguese merchantman from Oporto, called at my counting-house with a letter from Eleonora directed to me ———" "From Eleonora!" exclaimed I with emotion. "Yes Henry," said he, "but hear me out. She intreated me to inform her whether I had received any intelligence from you; repeated the account of your captivity and death as related

by your servant: and expressed her sorrow with the unaffected tenderness of an affectionate heart. Her account, and your silence, made us conclude that you were indeed dead, we felt as we ought, and I answered the letter of the Portuguese lady, in terms which however consolatory must convince her, that we considered you lost to society. Here is her letter," continued he, handing it to me, "you of course know whether it is genuine." "It is the hand writing of Eleonora, Sir," said I, endeavouring to suppress the emotions of joy, while the tears filled my eyes. My good father saw my situation, and left me alone. I kissed the name of my beloved girl traced with her own fair hand—my passion returned with redoubled force like a spring tide, and nothing was now thought of but a voyage to Lisbon.

CHAPTER XIV.

*A voyage to Lisbon—interview with Eleonora—
return to London—reflections.*

THOUGH my father was apprehensive that my exploratory *furor* was returning, he did not attempt to dissuade me from a visit to a young lady whom he confessed seemed every way worthy of my attention, except in pecuniary matters. “It would have been more consistent with the character of a young merchant, Harry,” said he smiling, “to have sought an union with some rich heiress, or the daughter of an English nobleman, instead of the poor and unprotected orphan of a foreign bankrupt.—But as you have sufficient wealth, it certainly is praiseworthy and generously

disinterested to raise suffering merit from indigence, to that affluence of which she will doubtless be the chief ornament. Go then, my boy, *import* your mistress, and then I hope you will settle for life." I inarticulately breathed my grateful thanks—hastened to prepare for my voyage; set off for Plymouth, and two days after my arrival in that town, I sailed in the Packet for Lisbon.

On the fifth day of our voyage we came in sight of land, sailed up the Tagus, and beheld the magnificent Portuguese metropolis. It would be difficult to describe the beautifully picturesque effect of the city, its harbour crowded with shipping, and the distant back ground of lofty mountains beyond it. I shall not attempt the task, for Eleonora alone filled my imagination. I landed, and without losing a moment I hired a carriage and was conveyed to Belem, where Eleonora and her mother dwelt. The village is small and only remarkable for the salubrity of the air, the fine view it commands of Lisbon, and the royal Palace, now inhabited by the Bishop, who presides in the regency. The house where my mistress resided was soon pointed out to me; I alighted from the carriage, and with a palpitating heart entered a small

court yard and knocked at the door, Eleonora herself opened it, but on seeing me, she was overpowered by surprize and uttering an exclamation seemed ready to faint. I carried her into a little parlour, where with the assistance of her mother, she soon revived. Our congratulations, caresses, and emotions would, if fully described, make a tolerable page in a novel, but as my narrative is merely intended to be the vehicle of simple incidents, I shall omit ornamental flourish and proceed with my tale.

It required little rhetoric to prevail over the scruples of Eleonora, and induce her to accompany me to England, as my destined bride. Accordingly we went on board an English store ship bound for Portsmouth, and in four days touched the true soil of freedom. From Portsmouth we went to London in a chaise and four, and we were received by my father with his characteristic urbanity. My mother was delighted with the beauty and modesty of Eleonora, and told me privately, "that she was sure she would prove a good wife." D'Avila and his female friends were much gratified at again meeting with Eleonora, and in less than a week after our arrival in London, I was united to the object of my choice by in-

Dissoluble ties. To say that I am satisfied with my lot would be saying too little. I am grateful to Heaven for being doubly blest, first in the favour of excellent parents, and secondly with the love of a wife equally amiable in her person, pure in her morals and exalted in her sentiments. My passion for romantic adventures is extinguished, but I have not forgotten the companions of my vicissitudes. Senor D'Avila now presides over my business as far as it is connected with Portugal and the Brazils; Zirvan is receiving the instruction communicable by an English Education; and Antonio remains with me as my confidential servant. My fortune has not originated in my own prudence or good management, for if left to myself like many another romantic visionary I should long since have perished, and this brief narrative may prove beneficial to rash and vain young men, who inflated with a consciousness of their own merit, or deluded by the meteoric splendour of the illusive prospects held forth by the captivating descriptions of travellers, pant to enjoy the delights of an imaginary Utopia.

Thus after a peregrination of nearly three years and a half. I am happily re-established in the honourable and lucrative business of a merchant. My

wife is now familiarized to English manners, and has made a considerable progress in our language. Unfettered by bigotry, her free and virtuous mind has become a proselyte to the Protestant religion, and even her mother, notwithstanding some lingering prejudices against us, can contemplate this change in her daughter's sentiments without apprehension or horror. At leisure hours, I have amused myself with transcribing my observations and recollections of what I have seen, and what I have suffered; and I now offer them to the attention of young men of a romantic disposition, as a disuasive against the indulgence of inordinate curiosity. My Indian habiliments, and arms, I carefully preserved, and intended to have deposited them in the British Museum; but my father desired me to place them in my library as a *memento* of youthful indiscretion. I could not refuse the request of a man, whose parental liberality enables me to keep my carriage, and my future years shall be more actively devoted to mercantile transactions, that I may retrieve, as far as I can, those years which passed away so unprofitably in South America.

FINIS.

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