> And there exist the robber's joy,
> The good old plan,
> That, they take, who have the power, And they keep, who can.

In fact, we bardly met another human being, besides those men, until we arrived at Jaca, which is forty miles within the mountains. All this may be better attended to now, but then, the war was raging in the neighbouring provinces, and our route being through the centre of the mountains, was very unfrequented, for which reason it was chosen, by being thought the safest, as we thereby avoided the cholera, raging at Barcelona, and turned the flank of the armies, contending in Alava and Guipuscoa. Our number was at that time a little augmented, by the addition of a travelling tailor, going to Zaragoza on his mule, who
joined us in the morning, as we started from our wretched venta.

Our next halting place was Jaca, which was only a march from five to six hours, rather a short day's journey; and for this I was provided with another, a quiet mule, but the journey was through a most steril, mountainous country, excepting only one rather verdant valley, about a quarter of a mile broad; and it did not seem to extend far, but I remember, when having descended to the bottom of one, I saw no path or means of getting over another mountain, which rose perpendicularly before us. At last, I discovered an ascending line, (apparently far off,) rounding to the left, which, I was then informed, was to be our road; and narrow enough we found it ; for as the mules always march "sur les bords des précipices," to obtain smoother walking, and to avoid the
stones which fall on the narrow path from the mountains' sides; so, the traveller, whilst clinging on his mule to the side of the mountain, with one part of his body, has the other part almost, "en l'air," and unavoidably overhanging the precipice.

Well is it, that the mules are so sure footed; and we soon learn to depend entirely on them in those countries, rather than ourselves.

We were fortunate in our weather, and on arriving at Jaca, were conveyed to a decent fonda or venta, if the same had been in regular use, but the frequenters seemed to be most rare and far between; so much so, that on taking possession of the beds in two alcoves, which are the receptacles for beds in most of the houses of entertainment, I had not long lain down, when I was startled, by hearing my German companion exclaim,
"Sacre, sacre, oh! oh!"-"Qu'avez vous donc ?" I asked him. "Oh, oh!" dit-il, "il y a des serpents dans mon lit!" "Comment," jai dit, " des serpents?" "Oh! Oh! oui, oui, des scrpents," rèpon-dit-il. "Levez-vous donc, sortez, sortez, vite, vite!" I cried out, as well as I could, for laughing; for, I must confess, the sulky man and his odd exclamations, set my risible faculties in motion; and, besides, I could hardly suppose, that he would have remaincd in the alcove, if their was real danger. But at all events, for his justification, a nest of rats, or, "un nid de ratons," was, in the morning, found in the palliasse. They must have been rather awkward bedfellows ; and, what is extraordinary, he sulkily remained with them all night. Such was his German apathy. Jaca is but a small town, but being in
the midst of the mountains, thither many priests had fled at that time for safety, from persecution in the other parts of Spain. It has also a small fortress about a quarter of a mile from the town. We were to have quitted very early in the morning, for we had a long day's journey before us; and, when expecting to depart, I was informed, that we could not proceed, for the Spaniards pretended to have found some flaw in our passports. But myself, having reason, from their manner, to suspect that their purport was detention only, I inquired, who was the Governor or Chief, when they informed me, that it was the Commander of the Garrison, who was in the fort outside of the town, upon which, taking the master of the Fonda with me, I proceeded to the fort, and insisted upon the great gentleman being called up;

## 31

for he was still in bed, it being then about six, A. M.

When, then, he arose, I of course apologized for the trouble, that I had been under the necessity of causing; and firmly, but in polite terms demanded justice on the parties, who had presumed to stop me, furnished as I was, from our Government with a passport from our Secretary of State; for to obtain respect in such out of the way places, where ignorance prevails, it is almost always necessary to ride the high horse; otherwise we should have been bullied and trampled upon, as in fact, was thent he case with the German, who despairingly lamented, that we were at a "fix," as the Americans would say; and that we should be shat up in the mountains. Which, it was very plain we should have been!-But upon this, my instance, the Com-
mander in his robe-de-chambre, understanding from his Aide-de-camp, who could speak a little French, that I wished to be forwarded on my journey, he instantly ordered him, the Aide-de-camp, to write to that effect on my passport, which, having signed, he civilly requested me to take a dish of chocolate; but, the morning advancing, I politely refused it and returned to the town; when, I remember passing a house, in which four or five priests were congregated; who hearing that I was English, and supposing me a heretic, grinded their teeth, and grinned at me most horribly, thus indicating the greatest rage by their gestures. This, of course, I thought it best, to treat with silent contempt, but, I shuddered at the time, and as their malevolence was most evident, I have since thought of the little mercy I might have expected at their hands, had I been in their power.

Such is bigotry, and such, it is lamentable to think, are and were the feelings of too many professed ministers of Christ's religion, who, for personal gain and filthy lucre, make and made the dispensations of God, an article of merchandize ; bartering, as much as they could, souls for money, and blindly thought, they did God good service, when they murdered his creatures, who differed with them on a tenet only, and thus they made Christianity, which is in itself, all meekness, charity, toleration, and forbearance, a plea, and a motive for priestly tyranny, murder, and extortion; most glad was I then, to get out of the town as quickly as possible, for we had from twelve to thirteen hours long march, before we could arrive at Ayerbe, the next halting place, a small town at the foot of the mountains, on the other side, for, in the whole distance,
there was bat one most wretched hat or venta; and there, stopping to refresh ourselves and mules, we had, with iron spoons, to try to eat blackish bread, swimming in hot hungry water, which was not tempered even with grease; and such was its desolation and appearance, that it was well, we were four in number.

Our journey was performed principally by zigzagging up and down mountains of slate, covered with heath or fern; or through paths, made by water courses, or the fallen torrents; and amongst the incidents, I remember there was a storm of wind so high, that the tailor of Zaragoza exclaimed, " he should be blown off his mule," and fortunately, or rather providentially, in ascending a mountain, the breeching or hind strap of my saddle broke-I say again providentially, for had this happened, in descending some
of the precipices, I must have gone to the bottom, over the mule's head, when it would hardly have been possible, that I could have escaped with life.

On ascending also another mountain by a torrent path, worn down and sunk five or ten feet in depth, I heard hallooing from above, as of something descending, when suddenly many loaded mules following each other passed by me most rapidly, impelled by their own weight, like a rushing mountain torrent; but, luckily, my intelligent mule poked himself into a lateral elevated interstice, wherein thrusting himself, and myself clinging by his mane, the avalanche of mules passed by us, and we escaped! But it was certainly rather an awkward predicament, especially as the mule was supported almost solely by his hind legs; myself clinging by the
mane. At another time, as the night was coming on apace, the arriero forced the mule up stones so steep, that it was like stepping first on a chair and then on a table; for he also obliged the mule, who hesitated, to descend a declivity or precipice so steep, so perpendicular, that by trying to contemplate the heaven and the stars on my back, as according to Ovid, "Os homini sublime dedit coelum que tucci jussit," could I alone hope to escape, as the more I was on my back, the less was my danger; and, owing to my lucky stars, with the strength of my mule's legs, I did then escape, and that I did so, "colum, et conscia sidera testor," as Virgil says, for it was by their aid also, that I am now able to tell the tale. Yes, the descent was indeed in some parts most seriously dangerous, and

I remember, that on commencing that descent and on the top of the last mountain, we had most extensive views over the plains of Arragon; views so extended, and the horizon so distant, that with the mind wondering, sight was magnificently lost in space. Yes, yes, it is then that religion calls. One mentally says, "Thus have I sought thee in holiness, that I might behold thy power and glory" Yes, it is on the mountain's top, and in the valley's abyss, as well as communing alone in your chamber, or on the bandit's bed, or on the bed of down, and not in churches and chapels only, that we look up, our minds mount up to him that gave them, and our thoughts ascend to worship, through the merits of his Son, that, great, omnipotent and all benevolent Being, who filling all space, and existing
everywhere, "sitteth upon the heavens, as it were upon a horse," and understandeth all our thoughts and all our ways. It is then our minds expand, they are enlarged, and we exclaim with the Poet,

Oh, not to earth's contracted span,
Thy goodness, let me bound;
And, think thee God alone of man, When countless worlds are 'round.

It is then we feel our own littleness, and looking up for mercy and protection, confess our insignificance, and with humility and gratitude exclaim, "Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitedst him." But, as you may think, that I am getting into the clouds, I will proceed with my journal, and say, it is on those and similar occasions, one cannot help,
remarking that the works of nature are far, very far beyond our imaginations, while those of art can never get up to them; the one being finite, whilst the others are infinite; and much beyond our comprehensions. I remember also, that the arriero got over some fence; when we had descended into the plain, (prior to our arrival at Ayerbe at nine, P. м.) and procured grapes for us, which were most refreshing.

Ayerbe, is a small town at the foot, and the first town on the Arragon side of the mountains; it has narrow streets, but the fonda or inn was good and comfortable, in comparison with those we had lately encountered. I was also much pleased at seeing in the reception room bunches of grapes, hung to dry, in festoons and ornamentally drawn across the ceiling.

There, we met a Spanish officer, on the staff of some regiment at Madrid, who was sent officially to ascertain the real state and condition of the country, it being, (as we were informed at that time) much disturbed; for the neighbouring village had been plundered the night before by the Factioso, from whom also we might expect a visit, but luckily they let us alone.

When then, we started on the following morning, I observed, that the officer was attended by two or three soldiers armed; I therefore thought it well to avail ourselves of his protection; but, the German prudently said, "Such as are in advance, will be aimed at, they will be picked off, and most likely shot, for they will receive the first coup de fusil."

I therefore took the hint, and kept at

## 41

such a measured distance, that our advanced guard might receive the first fire ; considering myself, as it were, the main body; still, I found it most difficult to keep up the rear guard; they lagged so behind, although it was composed at that time of four persons, the German and three others, who joined our convoy for protection; all having intended, I doubt not, to have given "leg bail," in case of need. But without any accident, we crossed some ravines or water-courses, impassable for carriages; and, in an hour or two, arrived at a spot, in the midst of the waste, inclosed by a wall, for no house was to be seen; and there we exchanged our mules for a covered cart, in which, with one horse, we proceeded; our baggage and legs supported by a matting, which sunk under the seats.

Thus, for two or three hours, we ad vanced through a most sterile, barren country, until we arrived at Ortilla, a small ruinous looking town, composed of little more than huts; at that time, also, it was much depopulated by the cholera, for I saw only one person, an old woman, who shewed us a deserted house of entertainment; deserted, apparently by human beings; but in fact, having more inhabitants, than I thought of; for, on entering the silent and close room allotted for reception, the windows of which were shut and apparently had been closed some considerable time, I observed there were two alcoves with beds at the bottom of this fusty room, and I saw some writing in pencil on the wall.-I went to it and found it English! "A testamentary document, a warning to all travellers;"-and it ran thus: "Oh
dear! oh dear! oh dear! Take heed! take heed! This, this is the most infernal place for Bugs, I have ever met with."

It was not signed-but-poor devil! I felt for the writer;-I sympathized with him ; as I doubt not, from the very touching expression of his feelings, that the Bugs had made a cruel meal upon him; upon him, poor devil; when exhausted with fatigue, he sought repose! I thanked him from my heart, for his benevolent valedictory warning to all others; and myself fearing-dreading-what must have been the thirsty, the voracious appetite of those animals, who had then been feasting on him, poor man; if I may be permitted to dwell on such a subject, and to compare great things with small, I thus expressed my thoughts, in saying:-
"Oh! Bugs, Bugs, ye blood-sucking Bugs,
"Ye're worse than all the Hindoo Thugs,
"They kill, they slay, yet do not eat ;
" But ye make men themselves your meat!
"Ye Canibals, who, without remorse
"As men eat sheep, or wolves a horse,-
"Ye eat men, ye murderous crew,-
"Oh! let me but escape from you!
"Grant, grant, ye Gods, my fervent prayer,
"As Ajax sought the light of day,
"And Hector for his son did pray,
"So prayed I."
Oh, what beautiful invocations are those in Homer, and especially that, where Hector prays, that, "his Son may transcend the Father's fame." Yes, Pope well felt those transcendent powers of Homer, and says advisingly,
"Let Homer be your study and delight,
"Think of him by day, and meditate by night."

Yes, Pope, whose translation of the Iliad, was by Dr. Johnson named, "that gigantic effort of poetry;" whilst Voltaire said, that he approfondi'd, that which Boileau and Horace had only efleuri'd; so I thought; and mentally screwing up my courage to the sticking point, in exclaiming, "Bugs, Bugs, I defy thee!" I, then tucking my clothes under me, sat down, in the middle of the room, for hunger pressed, but of course I took also the utmost care not to be contaminated by the beds, and thus, we ate the provender we had brought from Ayerbe.

Excepting ourselves, a tit bit for those Bugs, the deuce a bit of provision appeared there in the place, to satisfy any other animal's bunger, excepting what we carried with us. Most joyfully then did I quit those close, those pestilential premises, and soliloquizing, said-
"Adieu! ye Bugs ! ye Buggy realms adieu!-
" Most happy am I, to depart from you, "Adieu! Adieu!"

And thus, meditating, I proposed walking forward, that the cart might overtake me; but was instantly cautioned against the danger; for, such was the want of police or municipal regulations then in Spain, that any person alone, might expect, or at least would run the risk of being cut off by the designing; although, in the immediate proximity of any large town.

We proceeded then to the river Setam, a branch of the Ebro, where a boat took us across to Luera, and arriving at a Posada or Venta, as the evening closed, palliasses or mattresses were placed on the floor, and we laid ourselves down, supperless. But, on the following morning, a cup of chocolate with bread was procured for us; and
we proceeded to Zaragoza, where we crossed the Ebro itself; and put up at the Fonda del Posta, which was very well kept up by a Frenchman. The Fonda also is well situated on the skirt of the town, airy and immediately opposite the splendid ruins of the convent of St. Ignatia, the front of which, being still nearly perfect, is a most beautiful specimen of architecture; but the interior of the convent is completely in ruins, having been battered down by the French, in 1809, when the town made such a noble defence.

Here then, the agreement with the mule contractor from Oléron terminated; terminated on his part as to distance; while on our part, we had completed a most arduous journey, which was made doubly arduous by the want of proper precaution in our original bargain with the contractor. For,
what with want of sleep, resting as it were, always with one eye open, and so many days of fatigue and excitement, I must confess, that $I$ found myself a good deal exhausted; but, a day and a night's rest set me up again; and, I remember, that writing to your sister from Zaragoza, a detail of our journey and difficulties, I jocosely wrote on the outside of the letter, lest she might think me much depressed-" Richard is himself again!" But our difficulties ended not here, for there was no other regular conveyance to Madrid, than that, which the diligence from Barcelona afforded, whilst that passed through only twice in the week, and in it the seats or places had all been previously taken for a fortnight to come, in order to avoid the cholera, which raged at that time most severely, in the latter place, the victims being from one hundred to one hundred and
fifty daily; so we were forced to find some other conveyance, when, luckily the officer from Madrid, and his brother, who was at Zaragoza, proposed joining our party, with his son and a Portuguese (making in all six persons,) in a private conveyance. One then was procured, very similar to the evaches in Queen Elizabeth's time, and exactly like one, that is represented in a picture, as having been plundered and robbed, and the travellers killed, in the "Adventures of Gil Blas." We had five mules and two men as drivers, one to hold the reins of the two mules at wheel, whilst the middle pair and the leader without reins, were under the superintendence of the other man, who urged them on by calling out their names, or in case of need, pelting them with stones, and actively jumping from the footboard to correct them. By the bye, the

Spanish mode of "Christening," as they say, their mules, is rather singular, inasmuch, as, when they mean to give a mule bis "nom de Baptème," several men with sticks put the devoted animal into a circular inclosed space, when setting him off with a blow, each man strikes him, as he passes, and calls out his Baptismal name-" Orlando,""Capitano," or any other: should then the mule, on being returned to the stable, start, when he hears the name called, they consider, that his education is complete; if otherwise, they repeat the lesson, or as the Physicians say, "repetatur haustus," till his wits are sufficiently sharpened.

Another custom also, I observed, which was, that the mules were only halted once in their usual daily journey, of thirty-five or forty miles; the stages purposely being long, that hunger may induce them to go

## 51

the faster. The Spaniard judging, contrary to our saying, viz. "That there is no reasoning with an empty belly."

From Zaragoza, we started early in the morning. But I cannot leave that celebrated place, formerly the capital of the kingdom, but now only the chief town, of the province of Arragon, and of late so famous for its defence under Palafox, against the French, without remarking its present dilapidated, and in general unrepaired state, except as to the bridge and two of its churches, those of Nuestra Signora del Pillar, and del Zeo, they were in the best condition; and in some of the narrow streets, there are some houses strongly indicating the " tristes reliquiæ," but not the " beaux restes," of Moorish supremacy, and in fact, only the sad reminiscences of former and better times; whilst, the once celebrated convent of St. Ingracia,
remains in ruins, having been battered down, as already mentioned, by the French artillery. I think we were four days and a half on the road to Madrid, travelling each day the distances above mentioned. At many places, we were guarded by the mignones, or district soldiers; and our first halting-place was Epila, where we met the diligence from Madrid; and in messing with the passengers, an elderly gentleman, General Santa Cruz, who had been lately minister at war, hearing, that I had just crossed the Pyrences from France, put many questions to me, as to accommodations on the route, etc., which of course I answered very candidly, and informed him most plainly, that nothing but friendship or duty would induce me to encounter another such a journey. He wished to ascertain the particulars of that route, being desirous, as I have since
heard, to escape with his family, from the then government and troubles of his country.

We slept that night at Alamida ; and it was there that the Jaca endorsement on my passport was of much service, for, when the civil authorities, in league apparently, with the innkeepers, sought to detain us, the Spanish officers, my travellers, put my passport forward, and shewing the order expressed thereon to expedite me, the authorities allowed us to proceed.

Our next halt was at Calatayud, quite a Moorish town, such as you would expect in Algeria or Morocco, and the inhabitants were like our Gipsies. The walls were likewise perforated with cannon shots, and the holes unrepaired, that the visit of their Gallic neighbours might not be forgotten; and that Spaniards should bear in mind the plundering invasions, and Bellicose propensities of those

Gallic neighbours, who have always kept up the character, Cæsar gave of them, in his Commentaries nearly 2000 years since, where he says, "Nam ad bella suscipienda, Gallorum alacer ac promptus est animus, sic, ad perferendus calamitates mollis ac minime resistens, mens eorum est." Our road skirted the side of a river at the base of mountains or hills, which in different parts were picturesquely cut, and shaped like towers and castles, w̧ilst on the sides of the hills were caves, and apparently human habitations, but, when we attained the more open country, we were alarmed by reports of the Factioso or robbers being in the neighbourhood, in fact, so much so, that although it was awkward in some respects, still, it was amusing to me, to observe the countenances pale with fright, and the frequent false alarms of some of
my fellow travellers, conjuring up fears at any distant tree, or any object of a doubtful appearance, whilst the German notwithstanding my philosophy, "Qu'il falloit faire face aux circontances," as Marshal Macdonald said to me, and my trying to encourage him with the old lines of Horace,
" Aquam memento, rebus in arduis, "Servare mentem;"
and,
" Sperat infestus, metuit secundis,
" Alteram sortem, bene preparatum
" Pectus:"-

For he was from the University of Gottingen, and was pleased to give and to take classic quotations, himself well remembering what Cicero said in favor of such repetitions, that " Juventutem alit, Senectutem delectat." Yes, we old men live upon re-

