

Under the influence of such impressions, the Spanish government has always several regiments distributed through the Campo, which embraces Tarifa, Algesiras, San Roque, the Barrios, and the lines along the neutral ground. To this quarter Espartero, and his adherents in London, naturally looked, when they made their unsuccessful attempt in November last to recover their position in Spain. A trusty and unscrupulous agent—Nogueras—was despatched to Gibraltar, to reconnoitre the ground and prepare a revolutionary expedition. He was well supplied with money, and it is likewise said with arms; and how little liable was his zeal to be checked, diverted, or controlled, may be inferred from the fact that he was heard to express his regret that Espartero had not caused his now successful rivals, Narvaez, Concha, and Pezuela, to be shot, as well as Diego León, upon the failure of the attempt on the palace at Madrid, in November, 1841—a sentiment worthy the murderer of Cabrera's mother.

Nogueras' preparations were patent to all the world. The resources of the Spanish consul, Llanos, were devotedly at his disposal; the contrabandists, who swarm in Gibraltar, and are masters of the land and sea passages into all parts of Andalucía, were continually at his beck; the custom-house carabineros were early won over; and trusty couriers were seen hastening daily from the Rock to Tarifa and Algesiras. But an energetic man was there to counteract him—the second in command, Brigadier Córdoba—brother to the illustrious General of that name, who attained to such distinction in the Carlist

war. I met this gentleman at Cadiz last autumn, at which time he received the command which he now holds in the Campo; and rarely have I met a Spanish officer and gentleman more calculated to produce a favourable impression.

Brigadier Don Hernando Hernandez de Córdoba is an elegant man, in the prime of life, of stature rather tall, and extremely graceful figure; scrupulously neat and gentlemanly in his attire, of manners very courteous and refined, and combining military frankness with a touch of Hidalgo reserve and self-respect. He is well informed upon all ordinary topics, extremely fluent in French as well as Spanish, and enters with spirit into nearly every subject of conversation. He is evidently enthusiastic, almost to a fault—yet surely a generous fault it is, in an age when the positive and money-making spirit holds such sway over the human heart. The Brigadier is of a very noble name and lineage, and if it were his study to appear to the world like a Paladin, with a chivalrous openness of disposition, and an universal yet manly courtesy of bearing, he could not better succeed than through the promptings of his natural character. He was severely tried upon the occasion to which I refer.

It was during dinner at a Casa de Pupilos, or boarding-house, where some subalterns from Gibraltar, took occasion to bring some sweeping charges against the character of the Spanish army, attributing indirectly to cowardice the fact of their fraternizing, not fighting, and railing at them

for deserting their standard in consideration of a money bribe. It is impossible to deny the truth of all this; but the facts were so patent to the world, that the brightness of original genius displayed in the discovery, was certainly not Newtonian; and the taste was most questionable which introduced such a topic in the presence of a distinguished Spanish officer, known to them as such, and introduced to them by name. The very floundering French of these young and inexperienced men happily failed in conveying to Córdova's ear more than a portion of what was meant to be so very stinging; but enough reached him to rouse the lion in his breast, and without once departing from the language of courtesy, though the veins in his forehead swelled like whipcord, and his eyes sparkled with intensest fires, he started to his legs and administered to the youngsters a reproof so strong, and yet so politely conveyed, as entirely to silence them, and at the same time deprive them, by the total avoidance of rude words, of the opportunity of entering on a boyish quarrel. I never witnessed a more successful combination of enthusiasm, politeness, and vigour; and the Brigadier's management of the affair completely won my esteem. When the dessert was over, Córdova, like all Spaniards, retired, "being too much of a gentleman," in the words of Cervantes, "to be a drunkard," and left his opponents to digest their bile with their claret, which they continued to discuss all the evening, sallying forth at night in a condition to make hundreds exclaim, in words familiarly used by the Spanish peasantry when they

witness the tipsy pranks of Gibraltar subalterns: "*No es posible que sean caballeros!*"—"It is not possible that they can be gentlemen!"

It was against the energetic and high-spirited Córdoba that Nogueras had to contend in his attempt to revolutionise the Campo, and create a diversion in favour of Espartero in the south. The General in chief, Montés, was not remarkable for activity; and the brains belonged to the second in command. I was in Gibraltar during the period of Nogueras' preparations, and being aware of the movement both there and in the neighbouring Campo, was present at Algeiras on the evening of the 31st of October, when the conspiracy exploded, and can therefore answer for scenes of which I was a witness.

The designs of Nogueras, which had taken three weeks to mature, were to be carried into effect that night. The Central Junta was to be proclaimed, as the most popular rallying-cry, the real object being to erect an Avatar for Espartero; troops of Contrabandists, and nearly all the sergeants, were won over by the potent agency of bags full of dollars—a useful sort of heavy luggage with which Nogueras came out liberally provided from London—and that valiant phlebotomist was to repair from Gibraltar with certain Ayacucho aides-de-camp, and place himself at the head of the movement, the moment the Central Junta was successfully proclaimed. Córdoba's resistance was anticipated, and the military conspirators were directed to commence by arresting him, the Commandant Don Juan Antonio Loarte, and the leading officers of the first battalion of Asturias,

together with the General-in-chief, Don Felipe Montés. The wolfish principle of slaughter was likewise, if needful, to be in operation, and the shooter of the woman Cabrera, directed that the man Córdova should, if troublesome, be shot to keep her company.

A simultaneous movement was arranged at Tarifa, on the cession of which important point the Ayacuchos reckoned as a matter of certainty; an influential Captain, named Campos, having been won over to their party. Campos commanded a company of Galicia, quartered in this garrison; he was one of those who had followed Espartero up to the latest moment, and his adhesion to the movement was not to be questioned. Superadded to the ordinary causes of disaffection existing amongst the troops, irregularity of pay and insufficiency of food and clothing, fertile seeds of discontent had recently been sown amongst the regiment of Galicia, which was just re-organized upon a severe footing, and subjected to new and stringent regulations.

It was to Algeiras, however, that their views were chiefly directed, as being the General's head-quarters, and the principal station in the Campo, in a civil as well as military point of view. The sergeants of the regiment of Galicia had been won over, and three of the first battalion of Asturias; and according to the programme of the movement, these were to raise their comrades in detail as nearly as possible together, and, in the act of rising, to isolate them from all their chiefs and officers. These sergeants were liberally paid with promises as well as gifts, and distinct

engagements were entered into, that, if successful, they were to be advanced to the post of captains in the same battalion, which the revolt would leave officerless; seeing that, with the exception of the two brothers Campos, all were known to be opposed to Nogueras' designs.

No part of the Campo was left unvisited by the spirit of seduction. A company detached at Los Barrios was to come up to support the movement, under the guidance of sergeants nominated for that purpose. The dépôt of arms of the Galicia battalion, which contained more than three hundred muskets, with a good store of ammunition, was to be opened by one of the accomplices, to arm the Ayacucho townspeople, who were affiliated to the conspiracy, and prepared to assist it. A great number of Contrabandists were to hover on the outskirts of the town, provided with the usual arms of their nocturnal expeditions, to enter at a given signal, give their aid to the military Pronunciados, and form a troop of three hundred horse, under the command of Capitan Buiti. No active co-operation was to be furnished by the Carabineros of the Hacienda,\* but their neutrality had been purchased, and the movements of the Contrabandists were thus left unmolested. Iriarte, in the contemporaneous rising in Galicia, obtained the aid of these custom-house Carabineros; but this was owing to special causes, that general having been Intendant of the force. Nogueras was not wanting even in worse devices, for the keeper of the Carcel or town-jail had been won over, and was to

\* Revenue Guards.

set at liberty the prisoners in his charge. So at least said the adherents of the Government, but the fact I must be permitted to doubt. The squadron of the regiment del Rey, not a man of which could the Ayacuchos succeed in winning over, was to be disarmed; and if the disarming could not be readily accomplished, they were to be besieged in their barracks; and houses in the town commanding the soldiers' quarters had been fixed on, to be occupied by the Pronunciado troops, who by their fire were to prevent the men from sallying forth to form in the square. All had been meditated, combined, and prepared, and even a supply of wine and brandy had been laid in to sustain the courage of the troops and Jaramperos.\*

But Córdoba, too, was prepared. All needful measures of defence were taken with the utmost energy, and in perfect secrecy, so as not to reach the ears of the conspirators. While the General-in-chief was picking his teeth, the second in command was all activity and foresight. A confidential officer was sent to Tarifa, and to San Roque an *ordenanza* with precise and specific orders. The Gefes (field-officers) and some confidential subalterns charged themselves with the constant observation of the several barracks, to meet danger on the first moment of its appearance; the plan for defeating in detail the project of the conspirators was agreed on, and no one slept at his post.

At eight in the morning Córdoba mounted his horse, and accompanied only by his orderly, proceeded to the barracks of the squadron del Rey, commanded

\* Town gamins.

by Don Victor Garrigo, who did not delay more than five minutes in forming his troop of horse. With this he directed his steps towards the barrack of Asturias, where the small force of Galicia was likewise stationed, and ordered the *llamada* or call to be sounded, and the troops to form. The order was speedily obeyed, and the commandants of the two regiments, who with their respective officers had kept watch in the barracks, arrested the sergeants implicated in the conspiracy, while the companies formed were in the act of passing through the gate. Some murmurs were raised, but they led to nothing.

The entire garrison formed in front of the fort of San Felipe; the regiment of Asturias in close column, with the cavalry which could be entirely depended upon drawn up alongside of it, and the force of Galicia forming a rear-guard, flanked by the Carabintero horse. Córdova then commanded the banner of Asturias to be planted in front by his side, and commenced an energetic and impassioned harangue, which evidently took the soldiers by surprise, and which even upon me, who was prepared for the scene, produced an electric effect. So powerful is the influence of military eloquence, addressed before action, or under the immediate excitement of expected mutiny, amid all the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war." The enthusiasm of the soldiery was caught slumbering, but revived in all its force; their generous emotions were successfully appealed to, and their cheers for the Queen, the Constitution, and Córdova, were loud and repeated. In the noble



language of Spain, "*espontaneamente lo victorearon.*"\*  
Córdoba's address was as follows:—

"Soldados—The enemies of the Queen and Constitution spare no means to plunge our unhappy country once more in civil war. Abusing the credulity of some, and the evil disposition of others, they have put into play all their engines of seduction to separate these men from the path of duty, forgetful that the great bulk, the overwhelming majority, of those whom I am now addressing are the faithful soldiers of their Queen and country, and determined to defend the Constitution and the throne; the throne and the Constitution, soldiers, which the Spanish army has gloriously defended for so many years, and shed its precious blood in torrents to preserve those sacred interests triumphant and respected."

(Cries of "*Viva la Reina!*" "*Viva la Constitución!*")

"Some sergeants, unworthy of you, have listened to the promises of vile seducers, and conspired against your good reputation, and your loyal discharge of duty. These ill-advised men are already prisoners, and will suffer the rigour of military discipline. Their tempters shall likewise fall beneath the avenging arm of the law.

"Soldados—It is your glory to have been the first, led by your valiant officers, to take up arms in Granada to defend the Constitution and the Queen; both these objects are to-day assailed by traitors, against whom I know how to use your well-tempered bayonets."

\* They applauded of their own accord.

("Si, si; Viva la Reina!")

"Soldados—I have too strong a confidence in you to doubt for one moment your fidelity and courage. Yet still I wish to prove to the traitors, should any such observe us, that in your ranks lurk none but good Spaniards, and brave and disciplined soldiers. I desire to confound those who flattered themselves yesterday that they could separate you from your officers. (Here he crossed his sabre upon the banner of Asturias). Do you swear to defend with me the Constitution, the Queen, and the national representation?"

("Si, si, juramos!" exclaimed the astonished soldiers, the staunch delighted, and those who had been tampered with carried away by the ardour of their comrades; and yielding to the warmth of an unexpected enthusiasm, "*Viva la Reina y la Constitucion!*" burst from every side).

"Do you swear it, soldiers," he continued, "before this glorious standard, which has ever led you through the path of victory and honour? ("*Si, lo juramos! Viva el valiente batallon de Asturias, viva la caballeria del Rey, viva Galicia!*")

This very pretty specimen of drum-head eloquence, in which it is easy to trace such rhetorical artifices as prove the gallant Brigadier, "*tàm Marti quàm Mercurio,*" and in which the acted part was quite in place in Spain, was in the highest degree successful. The plans of the conspirators were at once destroyed, their hopes crushed in the bud. The large force of Contrabandists, amounting to full 400 mounted men, lurking in the vicinity of the town, and prepared to

enter upon a given signal, learning the utter failure of the design, departed precipitately from the Pueblo. Some of their leaders, more compromised than the rest, abandoned their horses in the posadas of the town, while others were pursued and made prisoners in the Campo by the lancers del Rey. All the sergeants, without exception, affiliated in the conspiracy, were arrested, tried by court-martial, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment: a fate which likewise fell upon several of the townspeople, who were amongst the leading conspirators and instigators of the troops, and whose names the sergeants valiantly divulged.

At Tarifa and San Roque Córdova's measures were equally well taken, and with the same success. At the former place, a shoemaker was designed for prime minister; and at the latter, Colonel Linares dispersed another auxiliary force of 200 mounted Contrabandists, whom Noguerras had enrolled at Gibraltar, and who were drawn up in a sort of battle array in the outskirts of the town. Brigadier Córdova was rewarded with the post of one of the Queen's Chamberlains, and the elevation was well deserved. Noguerras' squib fizzed prematurely in a ludicrous explosion, and his projects and plans were blown out of the water. The Ayacuchos were out-generalled first, and out-plotted afterwards. Córdova has since been appointed commander of the movable brigade which has been organised expressly by Narvaez for the suppression of insurrection.

Noguerras was made most uncomfortable during his subsequent stay at Gibraltar, by the contempt

with which all parties *cut* him. From the first, the English acted as became them, and shunned him as a pestilence; while even his countrymen, for the most part, regarded him with cold indifference. From the neighbouring fortifications of Cadiz came thundering denunciations of his new intrigues; and the fittest place for the man, who gave proof of his valour by causing a helpless old woman to be murdered, was declared to be in close proximity to the barbarians of Africa. For some time after his arrival, the post of Spanish Consul continued to be filled by Señor Llanos, a hot Ayacucho, and therefore an eager promoter of his designs. But Llanos was speedily dismissed by the Provisional Government, and Nogueras was thus deprived of his right arm. He had now no party but that which he could manage to keep together with the gold which he carried from London—a host of grasping Contrabandists, and a leash of abandoned schemers. His staff and his army were the rogues and vagabonds of the colony. He never emerged from contempt; and upon the defeat of his grand attempt by Córdoba's superior address, he subsided into mere derision. Every one remembered Cabrera's mother, and was anxious to get rid of him at any price—but *how* was the question of questions, his face being blush-proof. The Government demanded his removal; but Sir Robert Wilson replied that this was impossible, England having invariably given shelter to Spanish refugees of all parties.

## CHAPTER XV.

## THE SLAVE TRADERS.

THE relations of Spain and England, with regard to the slave trade, have been singularly changed. A century back, our highest ambition was to furnish her colonies with negroes! By the peace of Utrecht we had accorded to us the right of supplying the Spanish possessions *exclusively* with slaves, as well as of sending annually to the fair of Portobello a vessel of five hundred tons burthen, laden with European merchandise. By virtue of this agreement we established factories at Carthagena, Vera Cruz, Buenos Ayres, and Panama. Permission was likewise accorded to the Asiento Company to fit out, in the ports of the South Sea, vessels of four hundred tons burthen, for the transport of negroes to all accessible points on the coasts of Peru and Mexico. Our active slave traders of those days were exempted from all duties of import or export, and empowered to carry home the produce of their sales of human flesh, in gold and silver. What a wonderful mutation public opinion has undergone since then! No one probably regarded the execrable and murderous traffic as in the smallest degree criminal. Jamaica was then the head-quarters of the slave trade, and we now sweep from the seas what we then chuckled to monopolise. Our amended course has the sanction of earth and Heaven.

Of the four islands which constitute the Great Antilles, Spain, which once had all, has now but two, Cuba and Puerto Rico; England one, her Cromwellian acquisition, Jamaica; the fourth, Hayti, after a frequent change of masters, is comprised within itself and independent. Here goes on the strongest conflict between freedom and slavery in the world—a conflict, not of the sword, as between Russia and Circassia, but of dexterous fraud with honourable vigilance. Cadiz has her eye upon this conflict, and contributes the secret weapons and her share of the covert supplies. Since the ports of Spain were closed, her commercial capital is in great part invested in the slave trade, in the furnishing of slave vessels, and the purchasing and forwarding of cargoes to be bartered for human flesh: a process at which Governor O'Donnel grimly smiles. I could name twenty houses which have their capital thus employed. Puerto Rico is coming nearly as much into play for the purposes of this traffic as Cuba, and the Portuguese convention with England has served but as a stimulus to the irregular enterprise of Spaniards. Their attention is strongly directed to the African colonies of Portugal, and they have taken chiefly into their hands the slave carriage to Brazil.

The Portuguese flag is now a most convenient cloak for the murder-traffic, since, in consequence of the treaty lately concluded with that country, and the decree pronouncing the slave trade piracy, vessels under their flag are but little suspected; and the Spanish wolf goes forth in sheep's clothing. The Portuguese colonies in Africa are inveterately infected

with the slave trade taint, and of these, Mozambique is the worst.

A sea-captain, whom I met at Cadiz, informed me of some strange doings there. A man high in authority, named Rodrigo Luciano de Abren e Lima, effected an arrangement last year, twelve months after the slave trade treaty with Portugal was signed, by which no vessel laden with slaves was to leave Quilimane, the chief port of Mozambique, without paying down in hard cash 9,000 dollars, to be divided amongst the Portuguese authorities. He added that the colonial officers of Portugal laugh at the home government, which never makes any energetic attempt at controlling their malversations; that there is evidently no sincerity amongst them, either at home or abroad, as to suppressing slavery; and that all who have place in the colonies regard it only as a means of plunder—making napkins of decrees and treaties.

The slave-mongers of Cadiz complain that, as England monopolises all the regular trade of the world, she would monopolise, likewise, the irregular trade, which she herself professes to condemn. That bodies of immensely large volume should, by their enormous force of gravitation, attract the little particles of matter floating around them, is only natural; but they bitterly feel—these virtuous men do—that Spain, which, as a country, has never “pronounced” against the slave trade, should be *choused* out of its advantages by London merchants, supposed to concur in the national verdict, which declares it felony. If France has her groundless sneer at “perfidious Albion,” the Spaniard has his fling at British hypo-

crisis, and you cannot persuade him that it is groundless. In the eyes of nearly all mankind, the right of search is but another name for the empire of the sea; and absurd as is the supposition that the allocation of a portion of our fleet to a particular and dangerous service upon the African coast can strengthen that naval power which is thus, in fact, weakened; it is the sincere or professed creed of nine-tenths of Spanish politicians. Upon the same principle it would be a great addition to the muscular force of the arm to tie up some of the sinews; and if you desire to strike like a Hercules, you must lop off a few of your fingers!

The blinding power of prejudice was never so strongly manifested as on this question. Mouthing does not prove sincerity, professions do not prove it, declarations, asseverations, oaths, do not prove it; by the common consent of mankind, solid acts are taken to be the test of sincerity, and the most unequivocal of these is admitted to be the payment of money. Be mute and confounded, slave-mongers of Spain, for the falsehood of Belial could not gainsay the irresistible fact, that we paid, to prove our hatred of slavery, two thousand millions of reals!

The slave dealer, you will suppose, is a sort of buccaneer—a piratical, dare-devil, swaggering, vulgar fellow? So wide from the truth is this supposition, that the slavers of Cadiz are amongst the most elegant men in Spain! They are the only successful merchant adventurers; their profits are many hundreds per cent., and enable them to live in refinement, magnificence, splendour: *bonus est odor ex re quâlibet!*” At



a tertulia in Cadiz, where I chanced to be present, I was struck by the superior appearance of one individual in the company, a man in the prime of life, of very handsome features, and exquisite neatness of attire, gloved and booted to a perfection that would have excited envy at Paris, moustached in a demi-military style, and collared with linen of spotless whiteness, turned down upon a black satin neckcloth, most gracefully tied.

Like Cortés, the ornaments which he wore were few but priceless; and his manners, the connecting link between courtesy and freedom, were characterised by a profound devotion to the fair sex, which sits like a waving plume upon the Spanish cavalier. I soon became engrossed in conversation with this admirable, yet by no means rare, specimen of his countrymen, and found in him the notorious slaver, Don Antonio Vinente, formerly a captain in the Spanish navy, whose slave ship, known (like a more vulgar thief) by the *aliases* of the *Gloria*, the *General Marinho*, and the *Grande Antilla*, was seized three years since at Mozambique, condemned, recovered by a juggle, and now figures as a corvette in the navy of Spain. From this handsome pirate I learnt that the principal slave-traders of Cadiz were present, and a long discussion ensued upon that engrossing topic.

Vinente was inveterate and invincible in the obstinacy with which he urged the argument that England was proved hypocritical in her violent declamations against slavery, by the fact of her permitting its existence throughout her Indian possessions; and that

her design in putting down the slave-trade was doubtless sincere so far as other countries were concerned, with a view to the destruction of their commerce; but that, with a truly accommodating morality in reference to her own interests, she transported thousands of Hill Coolies annually from India to the Mauritius, who of course were said to be free labourers, but in reality were miserable bondsmen.

It was useless to point out to him and to his eager circle of listeners the impossibility of England introducing European opinions, customs, and manners, instantaneously and by the magic of a proclamation, amongst the countless millions of India, or establishing social equality by a formula, any more than Republican principles or the spirit and forms of Christianity. Suttees, the honours paid to Jugger-naut, and the solemn transport of the Gates of Somnauth, were topics on which the fine sarcastic powers of Vinente dilated with extraordinary eloquence. I had indeed one clincher for him—the disuse, discountenance, and general condemnation of all these practices, and the impossibility of avoiding occasional malversation in the vast extent of the British dominions; but above all, in the recent order issued by Lord Ellenborough for the extinction of slavery throughout our Indian territory. Vinente smiled incredulously, proclaimed his little reliance on *on-dits*, and urged the staring fact, that for ten years after the boasted Slave Emancipation in the West Indies we retained the branded institution of slavery within the largest portion of our dominions. Not slavery alone, but the slave trade, he averred, existed in our

Eastern empire to an extent far exceeding what was commonly supposed ; and referred to the results of his experience as a captain in the royal navy of Spain, who had made numerous voyages to the Philippines, and to whom the seas from Manilla to Singapore, from Borneo to Bengal Gulf, and from Matapan to Bombay, were as familiar as the waters around those Balearic Isles of which he was a native.

The fluency of the man was overpowering. The kidnapping of Coolies he averred to be a more flagrant juggle than the open purchase of slaves on the coast of Africa, where they were brought to the market and hard dollars paid for them ; while the Cooly was merely cheated and crimped under false pretences. He likewise supposed, that, as the result of our victories in the Celestial Empire, we should immediately proceed to the crimping of Chinamen ; a prediction which has been to a certain extent verified : not, indeed, in Viciente's dishonourable sense, but in one both equivalent and objectionable, since the project recently started for promoting emigration from China to the West Indies will be universally interpreted by foreign nations as a dishonest approximation to that slave trade which we are persuading them to condemn. Onerous contracts for labour, entered into before reaching the colony, will not fail to be regarded by the asperity of our continental critics as merely another phase of slavery ; and it is impossible to deny that they amount to a substantial bondage.

The benefit of the importer, and the reduction of the wages of labour, are here, as in our unhappy exportation of free labour from Africa to our West

Indian colonies, most obviously aimed at; and Don Antonio made himself exceedingly merry in demonstrating how much less enviable, in his estimation, was the condition of the free African kidnapped by our countrymen, than that of the *boná fide* slave transported by the Spanish dealer. All my bile was roused by his contrasts of the slave, whom it was the interest of his master to feed and clothe well, and the free negro, from whom all the work that could be extracted for his wages, even though death should ensue, was a positive gain to his employer. I spoke of humanity and justice, but Vinente and his listeners laughed with unusual loudness, and contended that humanity consisted in feeding well and clothing comfortably (not like the pauper labourers of England and Ireland), and justice in seeing to the preservation of life and health, which the slave-owner's interest compels. It may thus be seen in what opposite lights the same subject may be viewed and estimated; with what difficulties an Englishman has to contend abroad, when he finds himself in the midst of a perverted community, by whom neither slavery nor the slave trade is regarded as an abomination.

Amongst numerous instances of "British hypocrisy" narrated by Vinente, many of them probably apocryphal, was one to which undoubtedly parallel cases have occurred of recent years, and which, from his earnest protestations of truth, and circumstantial accuracy of detail, it was difficult not to believe. Whilst lying before Calcutta in the *Cristina* frigate, and smoking his after-dinner cigar (for, unlike his countrymen, he limits his fumigatory

processes to after-dinner), he observed a human being, evidently drowning, floating rapidly down the Hoogly. He directed two of his men to follow the body in one of the boats.

The drowning man was speedily picked up, but greatly exhausted by his lengthened struggles, and on being lifted into the boat, lay motionless on its bottom until he was subsequently lifted on board the frigate. Here animation was before long restored; and the man observing Vinenté's epaulettes and sword, crawled up to him with difficulty, clung to his feet and kissed them, and with expressive signs implored his protection. It was soon ascertained that the wretched man was a Cooly, who had jumped overboard from a ship lying in the neighbourhood, and bound for the Mauritius, from a forced emigration to which, he took this mode of escaping. The local chief magistrate was immediately applied to, officers were sent on board the vessel indicated, an effective search was instituted, and the result was, that no fewer than seventy persons were liberated from the horrors of a compulsory transportation. With very few exceptions, they all expressed their reluctance to proceed with the ship on her voyage, and one of the number was a woman in the prime of life, but of delicate constitution, who said that she had been persuaded to go on board under the pretext of being carried for the good of her health no further than Balbasore! The generality were told that the Mauritius was only four days' sail from Calcutta.

Many were decoyed from Benares, Gyah, and

Midnapore, others crimped in Calcutta and the surrounding villages, huddled on board ship, and fed there on miserable *chooral*, and sometimes two or three months elapsed in this state of confinement before the vessel sailed. I asked whether there was not an emigration agent in Calcutta, to which he replied in the affirmative; but added that there were obvious means of mystifying both the agent and the authorities, and that the Duffadars or kidnappers were commonly provided with printed documents signed by this agent himself, and addressed to the various functionaries in the interior, including the police, requesting that the bearers might be neither molested nor hindered in their search after individuals who might choose to proceed as labourers to the Mauritius. When the fruits of this forced conscription reached Calcutta, they were too often kept away from the observation of the emigration agent, or that gentleman yielding to the indolent habits of the climate, interfered but imperfectly with the money-making propensities of the Duffadar. He added, that two of these Coolies had thrown themselves overboard at the same time, and that one was never seen more! I must observe that subsequent inquiries confirm Vinente's statement with reference to the treatment of these unfortunate natives of India, which is continued up to the present hour. May the stain be speedily removed, and the sneering of slave-dealers everywhere silenced, who say that we have peopled the Mauritius with upwards of 40,000 slaves in the guise of Coolies.

Don Antonio indulged in a well-bred smile of

triumph, when he perceived that I did not deny the truth of his latter statement. "Come, come," said he, "*en la cuestion del trafico de negros mas es el ruido que las nueces.*" "The slave-trade question is more noise than nuts—more crack than kernel."

"No, no, Señor Vinente," I exclaimed with irrepressible feeling. "The voice of conscience is not to be so easily silenced—the yearnings of the heart so lightly lulled. You may gild the shackles, but they eat as far into the flesh—you may paint the lash of a roseate hue, but it cuts no less deeply to the bone. The fan which you have now borrowed, and use so gracefully to cool your delicate face, is no relief to the African bondsman as he gasps in the middle passage. The insufferable odours of the low-roofed slave deck are not less productive of disease and death, because Cologne water sprinkles the snowy cambric that courts your throbbing temples. Better sackcloth, the fruit of free toil, than silken gauds that spring from human suffering. Sophistry may gloss over many things, may distort many things, but cannot alter one atom of eternal Truth. Slavery, by heaven! will yet go down; crushed in no propagandist war, shattered by no hostile cannon, but crushed by the mightier weight of opinion. Excommunications now are spiked artillery, yet it is Moral Power that rules the world. Yes, Slavery will soon go down!

'El anima feroz en lazo eterno

A unirse con Mahoma en el inferno.'