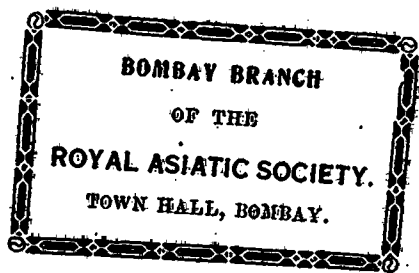


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THE
WORKS
OF
DON FRANCISCO DE QUEVEDO.
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TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH.
IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. II.

CONTAINING

CURIOUS HISTORY OF THE || THE LIFE OF PAUL THE SPA-
NIGHT ADVENTURER. || NISH SHARPER—BOOK I.

Illustrated with Beautiful Engravings.

EDINBURGH

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THE
NIGHT ADVENTURER.

DIEGO, the heroic subject of this history, was born at Talavera, a considerable town in the kingdom of Toledo, seated on the banks of the Tagus. He was of noble extraction, and blessed with a handsome fortune; subject, indeed, to some irregular fancies, but such as were only the effects of too much curiosity; and of a generous temper, which put him upon things uncommon among other men. Nothing but affliction had appeared in his house from his very infancy. His father was killed in a duel. His mother, more grieved for her loss than generally the widows are in our days, who make it a point to stay a year after their husband's death before they marry again, was so hasty, that there was scarce a week between the news of her widowhood and her being again tied in the bonds of matrimony.

Our hero was the youngest of three brothers ; the eldest so wholly addicted to fencing, that, by his continual handling of cold iron, he lost an eye ; which might have been no small advantage towards making him a good marksman. The second brother placed all his hopes on the air, for, being an excellent tennis-player, he reckoned to make his fortune that way ; but, among all the other faults in that game, he committed one never to be retrieved ; ~~for~~ ~~he~~ ~~having~~ overheated himself, he fell into a p~~er~~man~~ia~~, of which he died, leaving the poor balls and rackets destitute of a real friend, who loved them above his life. This youngest brother we are to treat of, in his tender years, was called plain Don Diego ; but, when grown up, some added the surname of Fly-Light, and others called him Don Diego Love-Night ; because he fled from light and only delighted in darkness. At ten years of age he was put to the Latin school, where, though he advanced but little, yet he had the good luck not to grow pedantic. This small capacity was highly favoured by Fortune, who took care of him from his cradle. Scarcely was he sixteen years of age before he was preferred to some church-livings, which obliged him to reside at Toledo ; a pleasing duty that compelled him to live in so weightful

a place. Four years he continued under this restraint; but as soon as he could reckon twenty years of age, neither his duty, nor the many charms of that beautiful city, which are such as would engage the most airy dispositions, could in the least prevail upon him. He so delighted in rambling, that, to comply with his wandering inclination, he parted with his benefices, ~~and~~ to himself some pensions out of them, which, together with his own estate, made up about five or six hundred pounds a-year.

He left Toledo to settle at Madrid, the usual residence of the Court of Spain; and made choice of that quarter of the town which best suited with his humour, being a blind corner, remote from the concourse of the people, where he bought a house that had two separate apartments. The one of them he made choice of for himself, fitting it up to his own extravagant fancy; without altering the other, which however he furnished very handsomely, to entertain his friends ~~on~~ occasion. The apartment he reserved for himself was contrived after a very odd manner. He pulled down the upper stories, and made it much lower than all the houses about it, that they might shelter it from the sun, which he mortally hated; he also stopped up all the windows that could admit the least

climber of day-light : The walls were hung with black banners, as condemned by him to perpetual mourning. In short, it was more like a tomb for the dead than a mansion for the living. He was a passionate lover of music, and delighted in nothing more than in singing to his guitar; so that, by continual practice, he was become a match for the best in that profession. He was satisfied with what he had, disdaining art of increasing it. His course of life was different from all the rest of mankind, turning day into night and night into day. He never went abroad till it was quite dark, and as soon as ever he discovered the first dawning of the day he hasted home.

When he went to ramble about the streets, though, in the darkest nights, he took nothing with him but his sword, a target hanging to his girdle, and sometimes a guitar in his hand. In these his midnight travels, Fortune threw in his way several adventures, which at times proved lucky enough to him; at least he never came off with dishonour.

ADVENTURE I.

ABOUT the middle of January, Don Diego Love-Night took a fancy, near eleven at night, to ramble the streets of Madrid, playing on his guittar, and at times singing some diverſing airs to his inſtrument. He had not gone far from his houſe before he put himſelf into a poſture to ſerenade a certain lady of his acquaintance; but calling to mind that he had given her that diverſion ſeveral times before, and conſidering that malicious perſons might perhaps miſinterpret his innocent intentions, and lay ſome blemiſh on the reputation of the perſon he deſigned to honour; he went on, moving as ſlowly as generally a man does who is going againſt his will. He paſſed on from one ſtreet to another, without any deſign but to uſe exerciſe for his health, and to divert himſelf with ſinging and playing on his guittar when the fancy took him. Having traversed a conſiderable part of Madrid, when the clocks of the monaſteries had juſt done ringing the religious to matins, which is always at twelve, he found himſelf in a part of the town he was yet a ſtranger to, and ſhould have taken it for the real manſion of the God

of Silence, had not he stumbled on a dog that began to growl at him. At the same time he heard a window open, and somebody hem, as it were, to invite him to draw near. His heart was too tender to withstand such a temptation, so that, stopping short, and listening with all his attention, he heard these words spoken with a whispering voice: "If it be you who yesterday left this place with such tokens of the satisfaction you had received, why do you come so late?" Don Diego was somewhat startled at this question, but, yielding to his natural curiosity, answered in the same tone, "I am he, open the door, and I will satisfy you." No sooner had he spoken these words, but he heard the door open, and somebody said to him, "Come in softly." He did so without hesitation, or considering what the consequence might be, concluding something must be ventured, rather than let slip so favorable an opportunity, as he fancied Fortune here offered him. He was taken by the hand, and having been led through several doors, instead of the loving embraces he expected, he found himself basely laid hold of behind, his arms taken away, and brought into a spacious room, where there were two candles burning on the table. Then he found himself in the hands of four able fellows,

who, by their countenances, promised him no good usage. Looking about, he spied a venerable old man, who, in an angry tone, directing his discourse to those who held our adventurer, said, "Why did you bring him before me alive?"

"Why did not you throttle him as he came in?"

Then turning to the prisoner, "Barbarian," said

he, "I can never believe you are of noble extraction. Wicked man! What wrong could this decrepit old age do you, that you should sully its honour upon the brink of the grave, where the most infamous persons desire to be laid without taint or blemish! If you had any cause to thirst after revenge upon me, why did you not exercise it on this remainder of life, which is now expiring, and not on my reputation, which ought to be everlasting? But your design was to treat me worse than an executioner would have done, depriving me of two lives at once. You were sensible, that in striking at my reputation, you stabbed my heart. Your lust has done me a wrong of such heinous nature, that though your life falls a sacrifice to me in this place, to atone for your offence, yet you will ever remain my debtor, and your death will rather serve for a terror to others than be a satisfaction to me. But away with him, let his throat be

“ cut immediately, and his heart ripped out to
“ be thrown in his face, as a traitor. Yet be-
“ fore you carry him off, call in that mad wo-
“ man, that we may celebrate their nuptials
“ and funeral together.”

Whilst the old man paused awhile, after speaking these words, in came a lady, whose eyes and countenance were so full of charms, that as soon as Don Diego spied her, all the terrors of death he had conceived by the dreadful decree of his ancient judge, were dispelled, and gave way to the satisfaction of admiring that beautiful object. On the other hand, the lady seeing that stranger in the hands of her brothers, was so surpris'd and concerned, that her blood, flying up to her face, added much lustre to her natural perfection. Her father and brothers were amazed, and the prisoner stood in a rapture. There let us leave them awhile in that perplexity, to discover whence it proceeded.

A certain gentleman, whose name was Don Frederick, so great a darling of Nature and Fortune, that they seem'd to contend who should heap the greatest favours on him; the latter having made him master of a most plentiful estate, and the former deriv'd him from a noble family, and endowed him with a generous soul,

virtuous inclinations, and a graceful person. This gentleman was passionately in love with the beauty, wit, and perfections of Fenicia, the lady we last spoke of, who, as she triumphed in the conquests she had gained over the most accomplished persons about the court, so was she herself subdued by the victory she had gained over Don Frederick; either that she had observed more worth in him, or that there was a greater sympathy between their souls.

They had managed this mutual affection with such secrecy, that her father and brothers, though they observed her actions most narrowly, could never discover the least token of their familiarity. But as it is a matter of the greatest difficulty to secure a happiness which is in the power of another, who only studies how to destroy it, so was this disappointed and cut off, when least expected, by the cunning and falsehood of Frederick; for after a long counterfeit show of constancy, attended with many specious expressions of a sincere affection, he obtained the last favour of Fenicia, under a verbal promise of marriage. No sooner had he gained this glorious conquest, and by its amorous wealth been plentifully rewarded for his many sighs and tears, but he made Fenicia sensible, by many signs, that he had not the value for her she

deserved ; and she perceived by his behaviour that she had but too much cause to repent of what she had done. In fine, she discovered so much coldness and so much impatience in him to be gone, after the accomplishment of his will, that she began to mistrust his performing the protestations he had made her. When he was gone, she began to reflect on the fault she had committed, and to apprehend she was deluded by Frederick ; despair seized her heart, and she was in a labyrinth of confusion. The remaining part of the night, and the next day, she was so troubled with the thoughts of this affair, that at night, when the time drew near about which Frederick was to return, she resolved, though not without much difficulty, to make known her misfortune to her father and brothers, to prevent more fatal consequences ; that in case Frederick would break his promise, and not stand to his word, they might advise together of the means to compel him.

They were no strangers to Don Frederick's name or quality, but they knew not his person. This both incensed and confounded them ; they lost not much time in consulting, or bewailing their misfortune, but considering the distemper was desperate, they resolved to apply a desperate remedy, and to treat Don Frede-

rick, as, through mistake, they were now going to use the innocent Don Diego. Fortune designing to make her sport of him, brought him under Fenicia's windows, just at the time she was upon the watch, expecting the approach of her ungrateful lover; her trouble, and the darkness of the night, made her incapable of distinguishing betwixt the true person and the false. As soon as she heard she thought it was Frederick, and upon that notion spoke those words which charmed poor Don Diego, and engaged him in the danger where we left him.

Fenicia's father and brothers were resolved to make Frederick marry her, either by his consent or by force; or at least to wash out the stain he had laid on their honour with his blood. However, for the better managing of the affair, and lest Frederick should take a prejudice to Fenicia, they agreed she should pretend not to have discovered the secret; and that as it were to excuse and rescue him out of the hands of her brothers, she should positively affirm, that was none of the person who was with her the night before; that so he might imagine their familiarity had been discovered by the indiscretion or falsehood of a servant, who was intrusted with the secret of their love.

Thus Fenicia, startled to see a person un-

known to her taken in the snare she had laid for Frederick, instead of the dissimulation and artifice concerted among them, delivered herself with all possible sincerity, saying, "Brothers, you are mistaken; this man you use so ill, and wrong so much, is none of the person you look for. This is not Frederick. Good God! what a prodigious scandal is this after so great a misfortune. I confess I transgressed most heinously the last night, and brought a great scandal upon your reputation; but now our shame will be made known, since we have acquainted this man with it, who will never fail to divulge it."

The brothers were amazed to hear her, and whispered one another, "How notably she dissimulates, she does it as if she spoke truth." She perceiving their double mistake, endeavoured all she could to undeceive them, by repeated oaths and protestations, till at last they began to gaze upon one another, without speaking a word, as not knowing what to think of that business. Don Diego, on the other hand, confirmed Fenicia's assertions, alleging they took him for another, for he had never been near their house before; that his name was Don Diego, and he belonged to the clergy, and therefore incapable of marrying; whereupon he pull-

THE NIGHT ADVENTURER.

ed out of his pocket some letters and other papers, which proved the truth of his words. The old man, father to Fenicia, was highly incensed at his daughter, as the cause of all these unlucky accidents.

Love-Night by this time began to breathe more freely, believing he might now expect to be restored to his liberty ; but fortune being resolved to make trial of his courage, charged him again with fresh terrors. Fenicia's brothers in a rage to be thus imposed upon, and at this unknown person's being made acquainted with their shame, consulted together how to remedy this inconveniency ; and their debate being near Don Diego, he could hear them talk of murdering him, the eldest making the proposal, and the rest consenting to it. " We are unfortunate," said he, " in all our undertakings ; we have discovered all our shame before this man, who will set it abroad everywhere as soon as it is day, to revenge the affront we have offered him. There is no stopping here, let us proceed : We will lead him out, now it is night, to some by-place near the town wall, and cut his throat at the door of some bawdy-house, it will never be known who committed the fact ; and thus we may secure ourselves against the disgrace our family might

“ lie under.” Some debates arose upon this bloody proposal, but at length they all consented to it.

Don Diego still spoke not a word, hoping, if they carried him out of the house without holding, he might either save himself by his heels flying, or by his hands defending himself; but the design being made known to the good old man by the most compassionate of the conspirators, he drew near Don Diego with his sword in his hand, and trembling, said to him, “ Sir, “ I repose more confidence in your discretion “ than my sons can do in your death. Be- “ gone, in the name of God; fear no more “ harm than what has been already done you. “ I beg your pardon, and heartily entreat you “ to pity my just sorrow, and to grant that the “ infamy of my house may ever lie buried in “ the secrecy of your generous heart.”

This said, he restored him his sword and guitar, both taken from him at his coming in; and leading him, without any noise, to the street door, offered to send somebody to wait on him as far as he pleased. Don Diego returned thanks, and promised he would never make known to any person the misfortune of his house. Having escaped this imminent danger, he made a vow to be less curious for the future,

and never to go into a place he did not know ; but he kept not his promise ; for when a man is once out of the mire, he never thinks of it again. He directed his course homeward, and finding himself still under some disorder, proceeding from the fright he had been put into, he thought fit to allay it with music ; and accordingly, after some harmonious discords struck upon his guittar, that instrument allowing of as many discords as concords, he seconded it with his voice, singing as follows :

S O N G.

I.

As soon as fair Aurora wakes,
And spreads her blushes red as fire,
His journey brighter Phœbus takes,
Your beauty to admire.

II.

Your eyes the glorious stars outline,
Their rays afford us warmth and light,
Your presence makes the day divine,
Your absence dismal night.

III.

No planet will pretend to show
His head, when once your beams appear ;
All then is here serene below,
And all above is clear.

IV.

The sun to Jove does oft complain,
 And at your mighty pow'r repines,
 For that your eyes light land and main,
 And breed the gold in mines.

V.

The heav'ns, which life to all things give,
 Admire their workmanship in you ;
 But th' envious moon in spite does grieve,
 And mourns in fable hue.

VI.

The lilies, touch'd by your fair hand,
 Do blush to think they're not so white,
 Roses look pale, when near you stand,
 And shame them with your sight.

VII.

All these perfections, all these charms,
 Ungrateful coyness will destroy,
 Unless you yield to Cupid's arms,
 And his delights enjoy.

VIII.

Then do not practise how to scorn,
 But all disdainful thoughts remove,
 The man to worship you was born,
 Him you were born to love.

As he concluded his song, he found himself
 at his own door ; and at the same time spied a
 man, who had followed him close at the heels

all the way from Fenicia's house, and, stepping up to him, said, "A word with you, Sir." Don Diego was somewhat surpris'd at this sight, believing it was one of Fenicia's mad brothers, who, contrary to his father's command, was come to execute the sentence there pronounced against him, and by that means to make known the dishonour of his family; because in all likelihood whatsoever pass'd betwixt them could not be done without noise. However, seeing but one single man, he would not rouse any of his servants, lest he might think he was afraid, or suspect he design'd him foul play. He went boldly up to him, with his sword in his hand, but not drawn, because the other had not yet declared himself an enemy; and asking what business he had with him, understood he was Frederick, that fortunate lover, who had triumphed over Fenicia's honour, and having been engaged in some business of high consequence, could not repair to her till just Don Diego was coming out. This accident had startled him very much, as believing that none but himself had admittance into that house, which occasioned a jealousy in him, and resolving to clear his doubts, he had followed Love-Night, to discover who he was; till seeing him just ready to go into his house, he called upon him to satisfy his curiosity.

Urged on by jealousy, he forgot all civility upon this occasion; so that as soon as Don Diego was turned to him, he urged him to draw with some abusive language. Love-Night, provoked by his insolent words, threw down his guitar on the stones, which returned a sound as if it complained of his unkindness. This done, he immediately put himself into a posture to chastise the rashness of his adversary, whom he soon made sensible that he was better skilled at his weapons than he, or at least more fortunate, for Frederick wanted neither skill nor courage. Don Diego pressed hard upon him, and gave him two home thrusts, which were a sufficient good proof of the strength of his arm, and made him drop, crying out, "I am a dead man." Love-Night seeing him in this deplorable condition, and almost speechless, took pity on his misfortune, called up his servants, had light brought out, and removed the unhappy gentleman into that apartment of his house he had reserved for strangers. There he was laid on a good bed, though then he seemed to be fitter for the grave. A priest and surgeon were sent for, who both performed the duty of their function almost at the same time. The wounded man coming to himself, owned his rashness, declaring he had been the aggressor, to clear his adversary. Don Diego, on the other hand, be-

ing willing to calm Don Frederick's thoughts, and remove the ill impresson he had received as to Fenicia's fidelity, gave him the whole history of the danger he had been in at her house, on his account, being taken for him, and in the utmost hazard of losing his life at the hands of her father and brothers. When he had ended his relation, he represented to him how perfidious an action it would be to deceive such a beautiful lover, who had suffered herself to be persuaded by his fair words, and to be conquered by his merit. In short, he charged it so home to his conscience, and spoke so feelingly to his soul, showing the wrong he did to so many persons, and the danger he run in having four brothers for his professed enemies, that he prevailed with him to protest, in the presence of all that were there, that he would perform his promise made to Fenicia as soon as recovered.

Heaven heard and seconded this just vow; for from that moment he began visibly to recover, and not long after was as good as his word. To this effect he desired Don Diego, with whom he had contracted a singular friendship, to go visit Fenicia from him, and give her fresh assurances of his fidelity; still reserving it to himself to give her an account some other time of

the encounter betwixt them, for fear she should be in trouble about his recovery. Love-Night thought it a great happiness that he was pitched upon to deliver so pleasing a message to the lady.

He went to her house, and found her labouring under the greatest affliction, because she had never heard of her Frederick since she resigned up her honour to him. She was sick a-bed, and her father in the same condition, both of them overwhelmed with grief, begging of Heaven, what was not in the power of man to grant, which was either death, or the retrieving of their honour. Fenicia's four brothers, enraged at the affront they thought all the world could read on their faces, hearing no news of the person who had so dishonoured them, believed he had absented himself, and upon this supposition resolved to disperse themselves, and to go to several places, in hopes to meet and take a bloody revenge for their wrong.

As Fenicia and her father were discoursing about their disaster, despairing of ever receiving any satisfaction, Love-Night entered their chamber with a joyful countenance, which testified the good news he brought them. No doubt but the two sick persons were amazed to see him, as not knowing what design could bring

him thither. To ease them of their pain and anxiety, he succinctly related the occasion of his visit, and gave them such assurances of the truth of his words, that Fenicia and her father, ravished with excess of joy, believed this was some miracle or enchantment, considering that the person, whom, but a few days before, they would have put to death, was now come to restore them to life. They received him as an angel, and returned thanks to Heaven for having pitied their misfortunes. From that time Fenicia recovered her former graces, which had suffered much by her afflictions, the good old man revived, and Frederick, being perfectly cured, went with Don Diego to ratify the promise he had brought from him. His presence gave Fenicia fresh life, and he saluted her father as a son-in-law, and her as his bride. Messengers were instantly sent to recal her brothers, who being summoned to be present at the recovery of their honour, hastened to Madrid. Frederick's kindred and friends were invited, and, by a general consent, their nuptials were celebrated, to the satisfaction of all parties concerned; where Don Diego was honoured as a principal guest, for having been the chief cause of that happy success.

ADVENTURE II.

THE memory of past accidents might have been a sufficient warning to Don Diego for the securing of his future quiet; but the dangers he had escaped could not restrain him from continuing his extravagant customs. The glory he had acquired by his late escape made him hope he should be no less successful in other adventures. After the marriage of Frederick he staid at home some time, indulging such commendable diversions as other men are wont to take; but soon gave way again to his unruly temper, Amazor's good advice being of no force to restrain him.

This Amazor was a person of learning and experience, under whose tuition Don Diego had spent some part of his younger years, and learned all he knew of literature and civil conversation. Nor was he to blame, though he had not been more successful in his pupil, as having never omitted any thing in his power to restrain him; but it is almost impossible for human foresight to gain the ascendant over a mind so much addicted to its perverse habits as that of Don Diego. Amazor nevertheless resolved to make another trial, and endeavour by

new persuasions to subdue that rebellious temper. He waited for a fair opportunity, and discoursed him after this manner :

“ Don Diego,” said he, “ you give me just
“ occasion to reckon myself the most unfortu-
“ nate of all men of my profession. After so
“ many years spent in your company ; after so
“ many admonitions and remonstrances as I
“ have made, and so many examples as I have
“ laid before you, I must still be reproached
“ with not having been able to correct the per-
“ verse inclinations of your infancy, as not ha-
“ ving led you in the paths of virtue. Must I
“ lose the just reward I could hope for my la-
“ bours in making you a good man? Shall I,
“ instead of that due reward, see myself exposed
“ to the reflections of all that either see or hear
“ of the unaccountable life you lead, who will
“ charge me with neglect in employing that lit-
“ tle skill I have in educating youth? But lay-
“ ing aside what concerns me, have not you
“ sense enough to perceive that you are the
“ sport of all companies, and the scorn of all
“ your equals? Do not you observe that every
“ body rails at the extravagant and ridiculous
“ way you have found of passing away your life,
“ so different from the rest of mankind? It may
“ truly be said you are of a black and dark dif-

“ position, since it makes you hate and shun
“ day-light, which is so pleasing to all the world.
“ Were there any pretence to excuse this mad-
“ nefs; had you any amorous intrigues to pre-
“ vail with you to love the darknes of the
“ night as you do, none would wonder at it;
“ nay, you would be thought discreet, as sup-
“ posing you made use of that time to conceal
“ your affections, and prevent the scandal they
“ might give; but to ~~sanct~~ yourself, without
“ any occasion, to be led away by so unreason-
“ able a humour, which is prejudicial to your
“ health, and hourly expose your life to dan-
“ gers, as appears by your last adventure, is too
“ visible a madness, and which cannot any way
“ be palliated. If you continue any longer
“ these extravagant night rambles, you will
“ soon be involved in some deplorable misfor-
“ tune, and perhaps lose both your life and ho-
“ nour, which is a double death. The affection
“ I have always bore you, obliges me to give
“ you this one admonition more, that, ~~if after it~~
“ you come to any disaster, as you are in the
“ ready way to it, none may have occasion to
“ say, you wanted advice and admonitions to
“ give over, but rather that it may be known
“ you were the only cause of your own calami-
“ ties. For my own part, I quit you and your

“ house ; I will not be a witness to the mischiefs
“ that threaten you, nor see my time, labour,
“ and instructions, so ill bestowed.”

This said, he made to the door to be gone, and leave the house ; but Don Diego interposed, endeavouring to stop him. Thus they struggled together through affection, not in anger. At last Don Diego promised to reform, and follow his advice. As a proof of his sincerity, he laid by his arms, and for two days led quite another sort of life than he was wont to do, like the rest of mankind, making use of night and day, according to the course of nature. But this method being a constraint upon his humour, the very third night he began to repent him of well-doing, and, being restless in his bed, to detest Amazor's severity ; calling him a frantic pedant, a tyrannic usurper over his liberty, and a thousand other opprobrious names. Thus was he diverting himself when he heard a coach in the street, which stopping near his house, gave him the opportunity of delighting his ears with the music of a lute. He got up and went to the window, and soon ~~heard~~ a charming voice, which seemed to be a woman's, sang to the instrument as follows :—

SONG.

I.

Go nimble thought, take flight
 To him that has my heart,
 Ask why he shuns my fight,
 To him my griefs impart.

II.

Fly thought, and quickly find
 The issue of my fate,
 Whether he still is kind,
 Or now begins to hate.

III.

See if he does not share
 That heart which should be mine,
 With any other fair,
 Whom now he thinks divine.

IV.

Then back to me again,
 And tell if false he prove,
 For 'twill not give me pain,
 But cure me of my love.

After these verses, the same voice sung others, but all of them so satirical and biting, that all who heard them were extremely scandalized, and particularly a courtesan, or woman of the town, that lived near Don Diego, to whom they were directed, and who listened to them,

or at least might have done so. She was a friend to, and under the protection of our adventurer, and therefore he carefully observed every word that might offend her. This put him again into another fit of cursing Amazor's advice. He dressed himself in a hurry, laid hold of his target and sword, made by the famous Hernández of Toledo, and without staying to button his coat, or tie up his garters, flew out of his house like lightning, to find out the person that had sung that scandalous lampoon upon his neighbour. He was so enraged, that though the coach was then got far off, he soon overtook it, all in a sweat. He never gave over calling out till he made the coachman stop, and then let fly such a peal of foul language against those who were in it, that had they not been lewd people, and used to such salutes, much blood must have been shed. They, instead of falling into a passion, laughed heartily, and broke many jests upon his person, his words, and the dress he was in, and bidding the coachman drive on, left Don Diego quite beside himself, and out of breath, his passion had so heated him. However, he had still strength and folly enough to run after the coach, and observe where it stopped, designing to take a more convenient time to seek his satisfaction, with less

danger to himself, and more disgrace to her who had done the wrong.

Let us now unravel this mystery, and discover who these persons were, for the better understanding of our story. The lady whom Don Diego protected, was Carcelia, and she who came to provoke her, Faustina, both of them so much alike in their life, customs and condition, that what was said in commendation or dispraise of the one might be fitly applied to the other. Don Diego, upon this occasion, showed his wit and art, for he found means to get a copy of those satirical verses, the contents whereof had so nettled Carcelia, and thought that changing the name of Carcelia into that of Faustina, they would be sufficiently altered, and she be abundantly mortified with her own weapons. In short, he had just cause to admire his project; for, reading the verses, he found them so pat to his purpose, that he suspected the author of them had given a good proof of his malicious wit; for, under pretence of falling foul on Carcelia, he abused Faustina in the highest degree, making her own tongue and voice the instruments to publish her lewdness, and other vices of her irregular life.

Don Diego imparted his design to some persons much better disposed to pursue any ita-

dalous undertaking, than to approve of such as was virtuous. They heightened his passion, magnifying the wrong, and offered to have a share in executing his revenge. In this grave council it was decreed, that they would give a serenade with all sorts of ridiculous instruments, which were two saw-gelder's horns, two tinker's whistles of several sizes, two cracked bells, two rattles of different magnitudes, two guitars, and two fiddles out of tune, without frets, and played on by unskilful hands, and some kettles, one bigger than another, to make the more complete set of music.

Item, That there should be a dialogue composed in verse, to be spoken by two young men, the one representing Faustina, and the other her sister Popea, clothed as near their ordinary habit as might be.

That the subject of the dialogue should be a falling out between the two sisters, by which means they might expose the truth of their scandalous life.

That this dialogue should be got by heart by such as had a strong voice, and could pronounce it distinctly.

That there should be several formal rehearsals of it, before the solemn day, for fear of being out.

That Don Diego should provide a comical triumphal chariot, of the nature of those used in Shrovetide, which was to be all beset with lighted flambeaux, the better to show the persons within; the said open chariot to serve for a theatre to recite the dialogue.

That the chariot should be placed before Faustina's windows, which she should be obliged to open by fair or foul means, that she might not pretend to be ignorant of the affront done her.

Amidst so many madmen met in consultation, there happened to be one wiser than the rest, who used a thousand good arguments to divert them from this folly, representing the scandal it would give; but there being nobody to second him, his good advice was rewarded with a general laughter, and he for ever banished their society. Next they made choice of the best poet in the company to compose the dialogue, which was stuffed with all the ribaldry and infamous abusive language his muse could inspire, to the great satisfaction of Don Diego and his associates.

This important and grave declamation requiring to be well conned, there were abundance of merry meetings, suppers and collations, to this purpose, at Don Diego's house, and at his

expenſe, wherein Bacchus was always preſident inſtead of Apollo. When all theſe choice actors had got their parts, and were prepared to play their droll, Don Diego would have them make the laſt rehearsal in the preſence of Carcellia, who, with many other nymphs of her own ſtamp, repaired to his houſe; where after a plentiful collation, ſhe preſided at this ſolemn act, and gave her advice where ſhe thought any thing might be added or left out of this insolent piece of revenge, which ſhe looked upon as a juſt puniſhment. The work having ſtood this wiſe cenſure, and being judged fit to appear in public, it was ordered to be performed the next night without any further delay, for fear the ſecret ſhould be divulged, and come to the knowledge of the parties concerned, who being backed by the power of their protectors, that were great and numerous, might not only diſappoint the project, but make examples of the contrivers.

- About midnight they began to provide all the inſtruments deſigned for this helliſh ſerenade, but without any noiſe, their intention being not to diſturb any body, but ſuch as had the ill fortune to live near enough the ladies mentioned in the dialogue, for whom the entertainment was contrived. The ridiculous machine

of the triumphal chariot began to move, being drawn by six stately coursers, commonly called porters, who, coming near the end of their journey, quite spent with toil and thirst, found all their labour was in vain, and their progress disappointed, the end of the street where their business lay being barricadoed. The case was, that a gentleman of the greatest quality, who lived in that street, being dangerously ill, had, with the magistrates leave, caused posts to be set up in the street with rails across them, to hinder carriages passing that way, and disturbing his rest. Don Diego and his gang made a halt; and after bestowing a plentiful peal of curses against the rails, resolved to force them, and go through with their enterprise. This was soon done; for every man putting his hand to the work, they had it all down in a moment.

The machine was now near the place where the scurrilous droll was to be acted, when the sick gentleman's steward arrived, attended by the chief of the servants, who had been at the apothecary's for some medicines they had been to see prepared, according to the doctor's prescription. They much surprised to find the barrier thrown down, and to hear such a dreadful noise in the street, went up to the likeliest persons in the gang, and very courteously ac-

quainted them, that their master was very sick, that he was such a man of quality, and therefore desired them to withdraw without making any more noise. Those who heard this account could return no answer till they had first consulted Don Diego as their chief; who being called to them, put them off with good words, which took no effect. As soon as the servants were got into their house, Don Diego's companions began to clear up their instruments, making such a hellish noise as alarmed all the street. The poor sick gentleman, who had his physician watching by him, inquiring what sudden storm this was, his servants told him what they had met. Immediately all the servants were called up, footmen, grooms, coachmen, and all the rest, who were very numerous; and understanding the insolency committed against the respect due to their master, and the regard to his indisposition, prepared to go lay those turbulent spirits by dint of swords, of halberts, and all other weapons that came to hand, and passion provided. In this posture they sallied out upon them, and the flambeaux being lighted, and the dialogue beginning, they made directly to the chariot, which they broke in pieces, overturning all that were in it. Don Diego and his guard came up immediately to their rescue, and

there ensued a furious fray, many heads broken, and limbs maimed on both sides. Having thus vented their choler, they parted by consent, and every one carried off the blows he had got.

Faufina and Popea, who were at their windows, being informed that this wonderful concert was provided for them, returned joyfully to bed, for having been so gloriously revenged, without knowing any thing of the matter. However, their joy was not lasting; for so great was the authority of the sick gentleman, their neighbour, that he, understanding that their infamous life was the cause of those night disturbances, complained to the magistrates, who banished them the court; and thus the second affront was worse than the first. Some of the combatants on both sides were secured and fined; Don Diego, who was the contriver of all this trouble, slipt his neck out of the halter, pretending he was to be tried by another court, and having powerful friends; for, excepting this extravagancy of night rambling, he was a pleasant companion. Thus he saved himself out of the clutches of some little griping officers of justice, who would gladly have had hold of him, or rather of his purse, to get a good squeeze out of it.

ADVENTURE III.

AMAZOR, vexed within himself at this second mad adventure of Don Diego, and finding he was delivered from the pursuit of the officers, though not without much trouble, and many weary steps, resolved to rid himself of all the vexation his pupil's extravagancy gave him. He apprehended the world laid all Don Diego's follies to his charge, as having been his tutor; and therefore to clear himself from that false imputation, thought himself obliged to withdraw from his company, that he might give a public demonstration of his dislike to that disorderly course of life. He acquainted Don Diego with his design, who was not now of the same mind he had been before, when he made the same proposal; but instead of endeavouring to dissuade, and oppose his departure, as he did the other time, now gave him his way, and told him very coldly, "That he was his own master, and might do as he thought fit." Amazor surprised to be thus taken at his word, was obliged in honour to do as he said; and went off accordingly. Very few days were past, before he perceived that his positiveness cost him

dear ; he knew not before what it was to live upon his own, nor was he sensible of being maintained by another ; whilst he enjoyed it, he thought nothing of it ; for we never truly understand the value of things till we have lost them.

Being weary of these burdens, and willing to be eased of them, he applied himself to some persons of note, who had an influence over Don Diego, to reconcile him to his pupil again, and get him restored to his house in the same condition he was before. It was a difficult matter to obtain this favour, unless to Amazor's disadvantage ; for it was upon condition that he should lose the authority of a tutor, that every one might live after his own fashion ; that there should be a liberty of behaviour, and that one should not find fault with what the other did. For the better performance of these articles, Amazor was to lodge in a different part of the

house from Don Diego. On these terms peace was concluded. Don Diego thinking it a great happiness that he had shaken off the yoke of this pedantic jurisdiction, as he styled the government of Amazor.

Don Diego's natural inclination to singing, and playing on musical instruments, and the continual practice of it, had rendered him a great

proficient, even among the best masters ; and it being a certain rule, that like inclinations produce friendship, he became familiarly acquainted with a young lady, so perfectly skilled in music, that she might be reckoned a tenth muse. He engaged himself so deep in her affection, and so entirely devoted himself to it, that he quite forgot all his other affairs. Whatsoever proofs he could give her of his passion, yet he never obtained any other favour from her than what modest conversation would allow ; and that always before other women. He spent a whole spring and summer in this pursuit, and yet the autumn afforded him no harvest ; he always hoped, but nothing came of it.

This lady, whose name was Sirena, a name suitable to her inclinations, was married to a man of quality and honour ; but so wonderful jealous, that whatsoever he imagined seemed to him most certainly true. A long journey which had kept him a considerable time from Madrid, gave Don Diego sufficient opportunity to make his addresses, and Sirena the opportunity of diverting herself as she thought fit ; but after her husband's return she was much abridged of her liberty. She gave Don Diego notice of it, desiring he would refrain from walking about her house, as he did continually, for fear her hus-

band should take notice of it; and appointed him to meet her the following night at ten o'clock, in the next house to her own, which belonged to a neighbour, her confidant, where they might discourse freely of the means of continuing their friendships; and that he might not mistake the place of rendezvous, there should be somebody in the street to direct him.

• Don Diego received this message with a great deal of joy, thinking what he had so long hoped for was at length come to pass, and that Sirena would now bestow on him the reward his long services had deserved. When the hour was come, the gallant dressed himself to the best advantage, that he might make the better appearance; and provided himself with defensive arms against all accidents. He walked out in a very hasty manner, for fear of coming last to the place appointed; but when he came thither, and saw nobody in the street to direct him what

he was to do, he was forced to arm himself with patience, expecting to hear from Sirena. Sometimes he walked, and other while stood still and listened, complaining of his fate, when one of Sirena's maids came to the door, and told him, that her mistress had been obliged to go abroad awalking, to take the fresh air, with her husband, she knew not whither, and therefore

desired him to come again two hours after. These words went to his heart, for he expected to have met with better entertainment; but after pausing awhile, he concluded that Sirena could not but comply so far with her husband, and therefore, like her, he must resolve to have patience, and expect her return, which to him seemed an age off. He endeavoured to divert his uneasiness, walking backwards and forwards, and at length discovered another man in the same sort of motion, waiting to speak to a lady in the neighbourhood of Sirena. Don Diego resolved to leave him a clear stage, for fear of being known, and giving scandal; for he was a discreet lover, and accordingly walked away to the Prado, or the meadows without the town, to wait the time appointed him. The air proving cooler than usual, and the night darker, made the place all hushed and solitary; for though that is the place to which all the gentlemen and ladies go a-airsing, there was no body in it then, because it was midnight. Here he had leisure to divert his thoughts, without fearing to be disturbed or incommoded by any passing by. He walked twice the whole length of the place, fetching large steps, and hastily, as if that had any way shortened the time set him to return; and when he was upon the point of

going off, he heard a woman complain not far from him, who spoke these words: "Can you be so false, thou dear better half of my soul, as to bring me hither to murder me?" Don Diego pitying her, observed from whence those doleful accents came, and without thinking of his appointed return, made up thither with his target in one hand, and his sword in the other, to succour the person that seemed to be in such danger. He had scarce gone twenty steps, before he met with a coach drawn by a pair of horses, shut on the one side, and open on the other, and at a little distance a man a-foot, and a woman kneeling before him. The man hearing somebody approach her, went to meet him with sword in hand. "Stand," said he to Don Diego. "Do you stand," replied Diego boldly, "and know that I come to punish you for your baseness towards that poor woman, who has no other defence but her tears, which are powerful enough against a generous heart, unknown to you, since her complaints do not move you." The man finding his honour concerned, returned the answer with his sword. Don Diego put by the point, and so they fell to it, each endeavouring to put an end to his adversary; but Diego proving rather more skillful or more fortunate, gave him two thrusts one

upon another, which laid him flat, crying, "Sweet Jesus help me, I am a dead man;" and so he fainted away. Don Diego immediately ran to take up the woman, who dropped down for grief, conceived at the last words she heard him utter that would have killed her, believing he was dead; for whether she apprehended some ill consequence of that accident, or that she really loved the man, Don Diego found her in a swoon, and quite senseless. He took her up, put her into the coach, and playing the part of a coachman, drove directly to his own house, where he beat up Amazor, who lay in his own apartment, made him rise and come out without a candle, for fear the neighbours should see any thing. They both together laid the woman on a bed, without calling any servant to their assistance, because there is no secret where such are concerned. Then Don Diego said to Amazor, "Here is a woman I know nothing of, but I have saved her life. I happened to be in a place where a barbarous fellow would have murdered her; she is still in a swoon with the fright; take care of her I charge you." This said, he went out again, got up into the coach-box, and drove to a very good churchman's house, whom he called aloud, desiring him to look out at his window,

which he did, and then Don Diego, without naming him, said, "Sir, Your reverence will be pleased to understand, that this coach was accidentally found in the street, without either master or coachman; I leave it with you, being fully satisfied that in your justice you will use all possible means to have it restored to the right owner. Farewell." He expected no answer, but made away immediately, leaving the good man full of confusion. Thence he took his way towards Sirena's house, very much disturbed in mind, as fearing he had slipt his time, it being an hour later than the time appointed him to return. Being come to the door, he found Sirena's maid, who told him her mistress was not yet come; that she must needs be gone to her mother's with her husband, she being a rich widow, from whom she never returned empty handed. That in case she was there, he need not expect her that night, or perhaps in a week; for she was so very fond of her mother, that whensoever she went thither, there was no getting her away. This long story raised some jealousy in Don Diego, who was sharp enough to suspect the maid might put upon him; but not knowing what the design of it might be, he would not ask any more questions, but pretended to believe her, and be gone.

Thus exercising his patience, he took a great compass about Sirena's house, in which he spent above half an hour, and passing again before the door, he found it full of officers, constables, and rabble, making a mighty noise. Drawing near, and asking the occasion of all that bustle, they told him, that they had just brought in Don Leander, husband to the beautiful Sirena, dangerously wounded, and that it was not known whom he had fought with. Hearing this, he thought it not convenient to stay any longer there, because being known to have made love to his wife, if he were found there armed, as he then was, he might be taken up, and it would be a hard matter to clear his innocence, as he really imagined; for he could not think he was any way concerned in that action. He hastened home to send out one of his servants to bring him a true account of what had happened to Sirena's husband.

By the way he much lamented that poor man's misfortune, wishing that he who had committed that crime might be severely punished, not that he had any kindness for Leander, but for Sirena's sake, because if he should die without issue, she would lose all she had, the next heirs coming in for the estate. But let us

go back, and see in what condition the unfortunate woman Don Diego carried home is in.

We left her half dead, in the hands of Amazor, who, desiring to relieve her in that distress, lighted a candle, and put a little composition of alkermes into her mouth, which revived her spirits. Opening her eyes, she was amazed to find herself in a strange place, and by an unknown man, being uncertain whether it was he that saved her from death. "Sir," said she, "if you are the person whose courage and valour saved my life, I conjure you, by that same generosity, to save me from scandal! and to that purpose, I beseech you, without asking who I am, if you know it not already, to conduct me, ere it be day, before the church of St. Jerome. That will be the greatest favour you can do me, in the miserable condition your charity has reduced me to. Alas! the man you killed was my husband. It is true he designed against my life, and you prevented him. I return you my thanks, but am not obliged to fate, for I could wish with all my heart our doom had been changed."

Amazor was much amazed at these words, and being discreet, concluded it must be Don Diego to whom the lady directed her discourse,

and that this was some unlucky business, from which it was convenient to extricate him. So that observing the woman's disorder, he guessed she did not know Don Diego, and that he ought to take the advantage of her ignorance, as he did very ingeniously. "Madam," said he, "I am unworthy of all those compliments you bestow on me, you must keep them for him that better deserves them; you may perceive by my mien and garb that I am better at my pen than my sword. In short, I am altogether a stranger to what you tell me. I know not who you are, unless you be an angel, for your beauty makes me think you so. But without inquiring any farther, or losing the time you count so precious, since you desire to be gone from hence before day, I offer to conduct you to the church of St. Jerome, upon condition, that before we go out of this room, you will give me leave to veil your face, and hoodwink your eyes, and that you swear you will not discover yourself till I leave you; assuring you, upon the word of a Christian, that it shall be done with all the respect due to your person, and that I am extremely concerned to be forced to use you so severely, and in such a mistrustful manner; but I must tell you, that it is absolutely necessary

“ so to do, for several reasons, which I desire
“ you will be pleased to inquire no more than
“ I do after who you are.”

The poor woman finding herself at the mercy of that man, and considering in what courteous manner he discoursed her, wholly resigned herself to his discretion, promising upon oath not to touch her face without his consent. Amazor presently made a Cupid of her; he bound her eyes, and led her out of the house. Every step he went with her he looked behind him; every little noise he fancied was the watch coming to lay hold of him; and in his fright he got to the church of St. Jerome. That being the place to which the lady had desired to be conducted, he put himself into a posture to leave her, and bidding her farewell, run away as swift as if he had flown, fear finding wings, and got into Don Diego's house, blessing God for having delivered him from that great danger.

The lady finding herself free, and that her guide had left her, unbound her eyes, and perceived she was by St. Jerome, it being then day; and thinking she had been in a dream, or come out of some enchantment, she took shelter in her mother's house, which was near that church.

Don Diego got home almost as soon as A-

mazor, and found him panting, and quite out of breath, after the race he had run. Though our adventurer was extremely melancholy on account of the many disappointments he had met as to his expectations, he did not omit to ask Amazor, whence all that commotion he saw in him proceeded. Amazor, in a very discontented manner, replied, "These are the effects of your rashness, which are the cause of much trouble to those who have more regard for your life and honour than yourself." Don Diego being amazed at these words, Amazor explained himself, telling him every particular from the time he left that unknown lady with him. He repeated the words she said to him, and declared how he had conducted her blindfolded, and what reasons he had for so doing. Don Diego considering what good office Amazor had done him, as being very apprehensive that he might be called to an account for what had happened in the Prado, embraced him, in testimony of being sensible of the obligation. Whilst they were discoursing together concerning the particulars of this strange adventure, they heard knocking at the street door, as if the person were in haste to come in. Don Diego and Amazor, in a consternation, as being before disposed to apprehend danger, looked

upon one another, and dumb as two statues. At length having heard the knocking repeated a third time, Don Diego went himself to the door, where he found a boy, who brought him a letter from Sirena. That charming name restored peace to his thoughts, and made his blood circulate freely. The messenger being brought in, he read the letter, which was to this effect:—

Sirena's Letter to Don Diego.

“ Don Leander, overcome by his continual
“ jealousy, and incensed by a perfidious servant,
“ who informed him our visits had been so fa-
“ miliar, that his honour was concerned, last
“ night used me after a most base and treache-
“ rous manner. He asked me to go abroad to
“ my mother's, a visit so unusual with him, that
“ I was fain at other times to court him long
“ before he would consent to it. I innocently
“ made ready to comply with his desires, for
“ fear he should suspect any thing, though at
“ the same time it troubled me very much to
“ fail of the assignation I had given you. We
“ went out, and at the end of the street found
“ a coach he had ordered to be there, and put-
“ ting me into it, said, we will go see your mo-
“ ther to-morrow, let us go to-night and take

‘ the fresh air in the Prado. I would not order
‘ the coach to come to our door, that I might
‘ not be obliged to bring our neighbours with
‘ us ; if it be not too late when we come back,
‘ we will call and bid your mother good night.
‘ What you please, said I. We took so great a
‘ compass about the town before we came in
‘ to the Prado, that it was almost midnight
‘ when we got thither ; and though the wea-
‘ ther was cold and cloudy, yet we alighted.
‘ He told me I should hear a page that sung
‘ delicately, and then ordered the coachman,
‘ being the only person that was with us, to go
‘ call him, at a gentleman’s house, who was his
‘ friend, and he said lived hard by there. The
‘ coachman went his way, and whether he had
‘ far to go, or was instructed by Don Leander,
‘ he came not back. No sooner was he gone,
‘ but Don Leander, speaking in a hoarse tone,
‘ denoting the great passion he was in, began
‘ to lay before me the wrongs he pretended I
‘ had done him, and without allowing me to
‘ make any defence, pronounced sentence of
‘ death against me, which having been already
‘ both party and judge, he resolved immediate-
‘ ly to execute. Finding him thus cruelly re-
‘ solved, I endeavoured, by all manner of sub-
‘ mission and tears, to mollify his heart, and

“ move him to compassion ; but instead of in-
“ clining to mercy, he grew more enraged.
“ Then Heaven, who protects innocence, raised
“ me I know not what man, who coming like
“ an apparition, stood before Don Leander, just
“ as he was going to bury his dagger in my
“ breast ; he called, and obliged him with sharp
“ words to engage him. Don Leander left me,
“ and made up to him with his sword in his
“ hand ; but being come within reach of their
“ weapons, the stranger gave him two thrusts,
“ which laid him on the ground, crying he was
“ a dead man. His cries struck me to the heart,
“ so that I fainted away. When I came to my
“ senses, I found myself in a strange house, and
“ saw a man by me, whom my disordered fancy
“ took for the same that wounded Don Lean-
“ der, but afterwards found he was no swordf-
“ man ; therefore dreading the great mischief
“ that threatened me, I entreated him, without
“ discovering my name, to conduct me to the
“ monastery of St. Jerome. He granted it upon
“ on condition he might blindfold me. What
“ he meant by it I know not, unless it were to
“ prevent my knowing the house I was in. I
“ was so earnest to be out of that place, that I
“ consented to that hard condition, and submit-
“ ted to him. He asked for my handkerchief,

“ and bound my eyes with it, and taking me
“ by the hand, led me like a blind body to the
“ place I had told him, where he left me, bid-
“ ding me farewell; which done, he vanished so
“ suddenly, that when I pulled off my handker-
“ chief, I found myself all alone. I had resol-
“ ved to go to my mother, but have since
“ thought it better to take sanctuary in a house
“ consecrated to God, which the bearer will tell
“ you. I will there expect farther news from
“ Leander, and your advice how to dispose of
“ myself as shall be most convenient. Farewell.”

Don Diego and Amazor gazed upon one another at every line of the letter they read, making many exclamations, and admiring such wonderful accidents. Our adventurer was in a rage to see that fortune had put into his power the blessing he so eagerly pursued without his knowing it, and that he had it in his house when he went abroad to seek it. He cursed his fate, and representing to himself the idea of the thing instead of the substance, “ Dear Sire-
“ na,” said he, “ how shall I dare to appear in
“ your presence? Will not you have just cause
“ to believe me unworthy of the favours Hea-
“ ven bestowed on me, as a reward for having
“ hazarded my life to save yours. But what do

“ I talk of, since I deserved nothing from you
“ on account of this action, as not knowing it
“ was for you that I performed it ; I may also
“ say, I have not been faulty in letting slip this
“ precious opportunity that offered to make me
“ happy.”

Amazor interrupted these chimerical excursions, representing to him how much better Heaven had ordered it, for avoiding the many misfortunes they might have fallen into by the severe search the officers of justice might make into that affair. He told him, they might perhaps have been both taken together, and been a disgrace to their families, and an example to posterity ; that he advised him to forbear such visits ; but that before he quite broke off with Sirena, he did not disapprove of his going to see her, in order to comfort and endeavour to do her any service, as far as his life and honour were not concerned. And forasmuch as mistrust is the mother of security, he offered to bear him company, though that action was not well becoming his profession, and to go to the monastery the messenger was to show, before him, to see whether this was not some deceitful contrivance to ensnare them.

Don Diego yielding to his wholesome advice, commended Amazor's discretion ; and so to the

In the same time, they both went along with the messenger. Sirena was all plain-dealing; they found her where she directed: Don Diego and she conversed a long time together, and discovered all the circumstances of that affair, from its beginning to that time. Sirena knew Amazor, and was so surpris'd, that she had like to have fainted away in her mother's arms; who was present at this visit. Night drawing on, Don Diego took leave of the company, and went away with Amazor.

In his return home, he met the good priest with whom he had left the coach the night before, who told him how that passage had befallen him. Don Diego listened to him as attentively as if he had known nothing of it. The priest told him farther, that he had found the owner of the coach, and that search was made for the coachman, in order to examine him upon the fact; besides, that the maid who had been the cause of that scandal was fled.

Don Leander, in the meanwhile, was in the hands of the officers of justice, the surgeons, and physicians, grievously tormented both in body and mind. He was kept under a guard, like a criminal, having of his own accord confessed, that when this misfortune befel him, he had

carried his wife into the Prado, with a design to kill her.

All that heard this relation were eager to know the brave person's name who had rescued Sirena out of such imminent danger, but Don Diego did not think fit to claim the applause, for fear of falling into the hands of justice; for he being known for an admirer of Sirena, it had been easily believed he was in the Prado by assignation, and not accidentally; therefore, to avoid these inconveniences, and to show Amazor what account he made of his advice, he resolved to stay at home, and not be concerned any more in such affairs. Not many days after, the news was brought him of Leander's death, who was said to have died rather of the wounds he had himself made in his soul, by destroying his own reputation, than of those he had received in the body by the unknown hand. Besides, he was informed that Sirena, infinitely afflicted for his loss, had left the world, becoming a religious in the same monastery where Don Diego had seen her, there to do penance for her own offences, and for those she had caused others to commit. Don Diego was so sensibly afflicted at this dismal news, that he fell into a dangerous distemper, which had like to have carried him off after Leander.

ADVENTURE IV.

DON DIEGO's sickness was tedious, though the pain and vexation of it were somewhat abated by Amazor's continual attendance. He never stirred from his side, endeavouring to divert him with pleasant discourse, intermixed with serious and facetious periods, and always tending to inculcate some wholesome advice, such as might be of use for our adventurer; for all Amazor's aim was to reduce him to reason, and break off his ill habits. His friends came frequently to see him, bringing the public news of the court, and any thing else that happened remarkable. At length he perfectly recovered, and every body concluded he had resolved upon a new life, seeing him entertain company by daylight, which before was so odious to him; but he soon relapsed into his former failings. The carnival or Shrovetide coming on, debauched him again; he made fresh protestations of enmity against the day, and by solemn oath confirmed a perpetual alliance with the night. On Shrove Sunday night he was at a grand entertainment; but there being some persons present who were not altogether acceptable to Don Diego, he slipped away to seek some more agreeable so-

ciety. Taking his sword and target for his guard, he made into a by-part of the town, where there was a house he knew to be an academy, not of virtue but vice, where they bred young cullies, whilst others stabbed for the rest honour to the heart. Don Diego was expert at this exercise, which is a thousand times worse than the other, though he made no scruple of it, because he ruined another without hazarding any thing of his own. He had not gone above half way to this place, when he found himself before a house unknown to him, the door whereof was open, and no light in it. He having a natural curiosity to pry into the actions of others, to divulge what he thought fit of them, took his sword in his hand, without drawing it, and went into the house, passed through a long entry, at the end whereof he came into a spacious large place, as dark as the rest. Here he made a full stop, imagining that this neglect was not without some design; and though he thought it a rashness to proceed any farther, yet he resolved to try his fortune. Gropping along the walls, and finding a door upon the jar, he thrust it open, and went in; where he found himself upon a trap-door, which let him down ten or twelve foot, yet so luckily, that he had no other hurt but the loss of his

word. At the same time he heard a voice, which seemed to come from some distant place, and asked, "Who is there?" Don Diego somewhat stunned with the fall, made no answer the first time; but as he was shuffling along, in hopes to find his sword, the same voice cried again, "Who is there?" He fearing to be attacked by surprise, answered, "A single man." "If it be a man," replied the voice, "he may come in." By this time our adventurer began to repent his running himself into that intricate labyrinth, where he could find no way out; but fate put him out of this confusion, to cast him into a greater. Being thus under a necessity of going on, he advanced towards the voice he had heard, and entered into a spacious room, where he saw four small lamps hanging in the four angles, giving such a dim light, that he had much ado to discern the other things that were in the place. Moving on further, he perceived a glimpse, as it were, of two men in black, like mourners, each sitting on a chair; one of them leaning his head on his hand, in a sleeping posture, and the other watching, seeming to attend a dead body that lay at their feet, clad in a Capuchin's habit, and stretched out on a shroud.

This dismal spectacle somewhat startled Don

Diego ; but when the first surprize was over, he called up his courage again. In the meanwhile the sleeper awaked, and both he and his companion began to examine our adventurer. "Are not you," said they, "the person they call Don Diego?" "I am the same," answered he, "but how came you to know my name?" "Do not you inquire into that," rejoined the other, in a haughty tone, "but only answer our questions, for thereon depend several things we are to do this night." Don Diego hearing these words, knew not what course to take ; he blamed his impertinent curiosity, but at last resolving to meet all that could happen with an undaunted courage, he spoke up again, and said to his examiners, "Well then, what is to be done? I am Don Diego, and you are devils." "He seems to know us," said one of the two to the other. "You must stay there," added they, "to guard this body, whilst we go elsewhere to attend other affairs we have in charge ; and whatsoever you see or hear, be not frightened." No sooner had they spoke these words, without expecting his answer or consent, they got up, and going out at the door, shut it upon him.

Being thus left alone with the dead body, he fancied this was some punishment from Heaven,

and concluded he ought to implore the Divine mercy upon this occasion ; which moved him to make the sign of the cross on the dead body, and to call upon the saints and angels to assist him ; for the advice those two spectres had given him not to be frightened brought a thousand dreadful thoughts into his head.

The two phantoms had been gone but a very short time, before he heard sad groans, and noise of irons, as if they had been dragging chains along the floor of the room, which was boarded ; and now and then such horrid noises, as if the whole house had been sinking. This put him into such an anguish, that he resolved to make his escape ; and going to the door, in order to open it, he heard an imperfect voice, as if it came from far off, which said, “ Whither do you think to fly, Don Diego ; turn, turn back, you cannot leave me yet ; come back, or I will follow you.” Perceiving he could not get out, he turned back, and saw it was the dead man that spoke to him, saying, “ Know I am the person you so rashly killed a few days ago, without having ever done you any wrong. Cruel, barbarous wretch ! do you think Heaven will not revenge me on you ? and that some dreadful disaster will not consume you for a punishment of your crime ?

“ Providence has brought you hither to listen
“ to my just complaints ; but draw nearer, that
“ you may hear me the better.”

These words struck a greater terror into Don Diego than he had conceived before, as certainly concluding that was the ghost of Leander, which came from the other world to torment him. However, he drew near, and the dead man proceeded, “ I own,” said he, “ you killed
“ me fairly, and that I had my sword in my
“ hand ; but it was easy for you to overcome
“ me, because I had not used myself to the art
“ of fencing from my youth, as you have done,
“ and therefore now you are to do me right.
“ Come, let us wrestle, upon this condition, that
“ if you throw me, I will not only never dis-
“ turb you myself, but will never suffer any of
“ my companions to do it. But if I get the bet-
“ ter, you shall be obliged to come every year,
“ on the anniversary of my death, to spend the
“ whole night in the churchyard, upon the
“ grave where I am buried.” Don Diego not believing this an equal match, answered, “ He
“ did not think himself obliged to accept of the
“ challenge, there being no likelihood that hu-
“ man weakness could prevail against a spiritual
“ power.” However, considering this was a pro-
per opportunity to give signal proof of his va-

four, he granted the combat, and set himself in the best posture he could to oppose his adversary. The dead man got up in his capuchin habit, and seemed taller than the usual size of man, and at the same time the four lamps dropped down, and went out.

Don Diego felt a cold sweat all over his body, with a mighty trembling; and was so astonished, that he stood as if he had been quite senseless. As soon as the lamps dropped down, the dead man fell so furiously upon our adventurer, that he threw him full three paces from him, as if he had no life left in him, for he lay in a swoon above an hour, what with the fright and what with the fall. When he came to himself, he knew not whether he was in this world or in the other. At length, being somewhat better recovered, he rose up, and perceived it was day. Looking about him, he saw nothing but the four walls, and getting upon his feet, endeavoured to find some footleaps of the former apparitions, but found no remains, nor so much as the four lamps he had seen fall down. The light increasing, and his courage with it, he had a mind to search the house; which he did from top to bottom, yet saw nothing but what he brought in with him, which was his sword that had failed him in time of need. He went out of that

haunted house to retire to his own, before the day came farther on, and would willingly have inquired in the neighbourhood whose house that was, and how it came not to be inhabited, but it was so early that he met nobody to ask of.

“ Doubtless,” said he, “ this house is haunted, and nobody dares live in it. I wonder that in Madrid, where the king usually resides, some care should not be taken to remedy this evil, which may be of dangerous consequence to the public; but who can I tell this strange adventure to, that will not laugh at it, and conclude it is the notion of a distempered brain? I must never speak of it, for I shall never be believed. Yet it is a great trouble to me to bury so wonderful an adventure in perpetual silence.”

Thus was he talking to himself, when he came to his house, and went in without knocking, as he was wont to do, having a master-key, and retired to bed, to rest him after his late fatigue. About four in the afternoon, Amazor came into his chamber, and awaked him. “ Good God,” said Don Diego to him, fetching a deep sigh, “ you have brought me out of strange confusion.” “ How so, Sir,” said Amazor? “ I was troubled in mind,” replied he, “ with a dismal dream, proceeding from a dreadful ac-

“cident that befel me last night.” Having given Amazor this occasion to inquire after it, he told him particularly all that had happened to him. Amazor, who was always contemplative, told him, these were merciful warnings from heaven to make him know himself; that he ought to take care how he slighted them, lest this loving admonition should be changed into an exemplary punishment, and God, who now treated him like an indulgent Father, should become a severe judge, to chastise the offences he daily committed; that the blood of the gentleman he had so lately killed, and whose honour he would have taken away, making him infamous in the eyes of the world, had cried to God for vengeance; that it was time to reform and forsake his follies; that he ought to open his eyes, and seek the light of reason by that of the day, if he would not for ever be reckoned as blind in his soul as he was in his body, since he was such an enemy to the light; that he ought to improve the talent God had given him; that he wronged both himself and the public, being of birth and capacity to bear any honourable employments, which might be advantageous to both; that he had given sufficient proofs of his valour, and for the future he ought to en-

deavour to give as good testimony of his prudence as he had done of his courage.

Amazor having delivered himself to this effect, remained very well pleased that he had been admitted to so long an audience; he fancied he had already overcome Don Diego, and regained the authority he once had over him. "My dear master," said he, "whom I may better call my second father, being no less obliged to you than to him that begot me; I own it is high time to lay aside my extravagancies, and leave the scandalous life I have hitherto led, that I may follow the paths of virtue. I am resolved to overcome all my evil inclinations, and from henceforward to put in practice all the good advice you shall give me; pardon the insolencies I have committed, which your prudence has tolerated, and your affection excused. It is true, I was last night in great danger, and considering how I ran myself into it, there is just cause to say that heaven has spared me, and that worse might have befallen me. O Divine mercy! how deeply am I indebted to you, and what praises ought not I to give you, for having delivered me from such wonderful danger, which I never thought to escape." These moving expres-

sions were attended with tears, which made Amazor believe that Don Diego was truly penitent for his past offences, and hoped that he would mend for the future.

Thus were they discoursing together, when they heard a knocking at the door. Don Diego would not have it opened, that nobody answering, whosoever it was might go away; by that means to avoid all temptations of breaking the good resolution he had newly made; for night then drawing on, he believed it was some of his acquaintance that came to debauch him. The more Don Diego kept back from suffering the door to be opened, the harder he without knocked, and not satisfied with the noise the hammer made, took up a great stone to be heard the better. At length Don Diego, weary of that disturbance, sent one to open the door, and in came a raking old companion of his, with a counterfeit smile, the better to disguise his resentment for having been kept out so long. They saluted one another in a more courteous manner than usual, the serious humour Don Diego was in obliging the other to use more ceremony than at other times.

Don Antonio, for that was the man's name, asked him how he had spent the Carnival, what company he had been in, and how he intended

to divert himself the remaining days before Lent. Amazor was present, and abhorred these questions, fearing lest he should again put Don Diego into the road he had so newly diverted him from. "For my part," continued Don Antonio, more attentive to turn up his whiskers, than regardful of what he said, "I narrowly missed last night catching one that you know in a snare I had laid for him; but I shall have him sooner or later, and will make my advantage of this disappointment." Who is that? said Don Diego. "It is a gentleman of Cordova," replies the other, "whom we call Don Diego the knight, both because he reckons himself of that degree, and to distinguish betwixt him and several other friends of ours, who bear the name of Don Diego, as you do, and therefore we call him the Knight. This spark giving too much way to his vanity, has declared himself a pretender to a young lady, who is very rich and beautiful, and daughter to a counsellor in the Court of Chancery, who, by reason he is an excellent orator, and in great vogue, has got the name of the Golden Mouth and Purse. And though he has never yet discovered his love to this lady, he follows her wheresoever she goes, pretends to be jealous and passionate, and boasts in all compa-

“nies, that he has grounds^d for what he does;
 “that he has encouragement to proceed, and
 “hopes for a happy event; for self-conceit is
 “the common failing of fools.

“You must understand that this lady’s win-
 “dows look into a churchyard, which has given
 “many occasion to say, that she lives there on
 “purpose to bury all those in one tomb, whom
 “the darts of her eyes shall kill. This knight
 “has a rival, much more fortunate in estate and
 “parts than he, and better looked upon by the
 “beauty we speak of. This gentleman, to put
 “a stop to the other’s continual haunting about
 “his mistress’s house, and be more at liberty to
 “to see her at nights, as is allowed him, con-
 “trived to put him into some fright, being in-
 “formed that he was somewhat cowardly, and
 “that being engaged in a quarrel, he had made
 “more use of his heels than his hands.

“To this purpose he told him one day in my
 “hearing, that there was a man lately buried
 “in that churchyard, who having been a very
 “ill liver, walked there duly about three o’clock
 “in the morning, dragging chains, and fetching
 “such dreadful groans, that all who heard him
 “died for fear; and that most of the lodgers
 “and inhabitants of the neighbouring houses,

“ removed from thence as fast as they could, be-
“ ing no longer able to live in such dread; that
“ he had thought fit to let him know so much,
“ because, though his rival, he was willing to
“ show how much he was his humble servant at
“ the same time, and should be sorry any mis-
“ fortune might befall him for want of being for-
“ warned; in short, that he advised him to re-
“ tire home every night in good time, as he
“ would do himself, promising to take the ad-
“ vice he gave him, and for the future to live
“ more chastely and modestly than he had done
“ for the time past.

“ At the same time I used all the rhetoric I
“ could to fix these notions in his head; but the
“ spark, who was no such fool as we took him
“ for, made a jest of all we said, and of his ri-
“ val's contrivance; and thereupon fell a-telling
“ us stories of his imaginary, not real achieve-
“ ments, to let us understand that he feared no-
“ thing, and that no ghosts were able to fright
“ him. We left him in that good humour, and
“ went away looking upon one another much
“ out of countenance, because our project suc-
“ ceeded no better. The earnest desire I had to
“ make trial of his courage, and to put some af-
“ front upon that worthy knight, made me re-;

} solve to spend the Carnival in finding out some
} ridiculous invention to catch and make a jest
“ of him.

“ The trick I had a mind to play him was
“ easily contrived, but it was requisite to find
“ ingenious persons to put it in execution, for
“ fear lest the ill management of it should turn
“ to our shame. I have a house in the Apple
“ Street, which is a by-part of the town, in
“ which there are several apartments, and fit to
“ lodge three or four small families. About
“ eight days ago the people that lived in it run
“ away by night, and left it upon my hands,
“ cheating me of a quarter’s rent that was due ;
“ and though several have offered to take the
“ house and pay the rent beforehand, because it
“ is very convenient, yet I have still delayed
“ concluding a bargain with them, because it
“ was to be the theatre I provided for acting the
“ comedy I was contriving for Don Diego, the
“ knight, which was to be played this last night.
“ I will tell you my invention.

“ About one in the morning I carried into
“ that house, three young men newly come from
“ the university, lads of ready wit and good ma-
“ nagement. I told them, that a friend of mine
“ and I had a mind, with their help, to make
“ trial of the courage of a spark, who boasted

“ that he feared no spirits. Having thus ac-
“ quainted them with my design, I furnished
“ them with the clothes they were to put on,
“ and led them into the great room where the
“ farce was to be acted, which was deep in the
“ house. One of these three young men was
“ taller than I by the head ; by that you may
“ guess what a strapping fellow he was, for I am
“ none of the least ; he was every way propor-
“ tionable and well made, and as strong as Samp-
“ son. This man was to have a Capuchin’s ha-
“ bit on, and to lie along on a black cloth, re-
“ presenting a dead man. The other two were
“ clad in black, like mourners, their faces co-
“ vered, except their eyes ; and these two watch-
“ ed the dead man, sitting on two chairs. At
“ the four corners of the room hung four little
“ lamps, which gave a light more dreadful than
“ darkness itself.

“ Having ordered all things as I have de-
“ scribed, I told him that was to act the dead
“ man, and his companions, that I was going to
“ send them the person I had spoken of, and
“ that as soon as they heard him, they should
“ ask whether his name was not Don Diego,
“ and if he answered, yes, the two mourners
“ should go out, and shut him up alone with the
“ dead man, who should pretend to be a person

“ the knight had killed foully ; that he should
“ demand satisfaction for that wrong, and wrestle
“ with him. In fine, I told them, if they thought
“ fit to add any thing to the contrivance, they
“ might do it freely, being well satisfied they
} “ would perform it very dexterously ; but that
“ whatever came of it they must be sure to stun,
“ or amaze him so, that the dead man and his
“ companions might get away and leave him
“ there. Ill fate so ordered it, that all this pre-
“ paration came to nothing ; for as I was going
“ to seek out Don Diego to touch him in point
“ of courage, and dare him to go to my house,
“ which I was to tell him was forsaken, because
“ of its being haunted, I was taken up by four
“ officers, who carried me before a judge, to de-
“ pose what I knew of a crime a friend of mine
“ was in trouble about. I used all the argu-
“ ments I could to bring myself off, alleging I
“ could give no evidence in that affair, as being
“ wholly a stranger to it. The judge positively
“ persisting in the contrary, and justly provoked,
“ ordered me to be secured, and that I should
“ not be allowed to speak to any body, for fear
“ of sending advice to the party accused ; but a
“ certain great man, my benefactor, hearing of
“ my misfortune, has just got me released. Yr
“ are the first person I have seen since I came

“ out of prison, and I am now going to find
 “ those young men, who were to act the farce
 “ contrived against my knight, to know how
 “ long they waited. No doubt but they will be
 “ angry with me, for having made them spend
 “ the night in that mummery, and will believe
 “ the trick was designed to be put upon them,
 “ and not upon another.”

As Don Antonio went on with his story Don Diego discovered the original of his unlucky adventure, befallen him no less through his own curiosity, than the mistake of the name of Don Diego, and admiring the oddness of the accident, told Don Antonio all that had happened to him, with as much plainness and jollity, as if he had been no way concerned. Don Antonio blessed himself, and was amazed, as not believing that what he said was true; till Don Diego swearing to it, and calling Amazor to testify what he had said to him before, he stood mute for awhile, being much concerned that it had lighted upon a person he honoured as one of his most particular friends. Don Diego told him, he did not take it ill in the least, and was sensible that the plot was not laid for him. Don Antonio, the better to satisfy himself of Don Diego's sincerity, invited him to sup at his house, which he readily granted; and being come thi-

ther, they were informed that the person who acted the dead man was fled to an ambassador's house, believing the man he had wrestled with was dead with the fright. They presently sent to acquaint him that he might safely come away, and if he had a mind to laugh heartily, he should sup with them, where he would hear a pleasant story. He came along with the messenger, and they spent the rest of the night in discoursing of that strange accident. Don Diego went home in good time, to the great satisfaction of Amazor, believing it to be the effect of his good advice, and of the resolution Don Diego had made, to alter his course of life for the time to come.

ADVENTURE V.

THE public rejoicings of the Carnival being over, Lent succeeded it with a meagre countenance, hateful to those who love good eating and drinking. Don Diego thought it not so disagreeable; the mortifications he endured, whilst others feasted and made merry, and the resolutions he lately made of reforming his life, had disposed him to give Ash Wednesday a fa-

vourable reception. Amazor, who never stirred from him, used all his art and experience to moderate the violent sallies of his youth, and to banish his house all those he thought might rob him of the fruits of his labour. In short there appeared so great a change in Don Diego's behaviour within a few days, that his best friends had cause to bless heaven for working such a miracle. During the whole Lent he employed himself in acts of piety, sometimes he went to sermons, sometimes to hospitals, and sometimes to prisons, where he gave plentiful alms. He visited poor families, which were in great distress, and ashamed to discover their wants. In short, such was his course of life, that all men in him admired the virtues of a pious Christian, and of a worthy gentleman.

But perseverance in good actions being a virtue rarely practised among courtiers; when Easter came, and the spring began to draw company together, he was again visited by his familiar acquaintance, to the great grief of Amazor, who perceived they, by degrees, would inveigle away the bird he had so long kept tame. One day, they carried him a-walking, another, they invited him to a collation, and now and then to supper, yet so that he still came home at seasonable hours, and made use of day and

night like other folks ; but at length, by much keeping company with his associates, and continually rambling about, he fell back insensibly into his former course. His walks continually gained more and more upon the night, and at last exceeded the bounds of decency.

Having imperiously silenced Amazor, who endeavoured to stem the course of his perverse inclinations, he cast off all manner of deference to him, and returned more eagerly to his former practices. He took his usual guard of sword and target, and about ten at night went away to the Prado the place where those cheats in love, the ladies and courtezans of Madrid have settled their academy, or rather their exchange. Were there ever a philosopher in this age that understood the murmuring of waters, as once there was one who understood the chirping of birds, he might, by listening to the purling of the fountains in that plain, learn abundance of secret stories, and find matter enough to compose many volumes of curious romances.

Don Diego, having walked about two hundred paces, to see a coach pass by, which moved on as gently as if an empress had been in it, he drew near to it ; and spied a young man singing next the door of it, with such a voice, as seemed very disagreeable. . And to mend the mat-

ter, he at the same time play'd very scurvily on a guittar that was out of tune. This coach stopp'd right against a ring of gentlemen and ladies, who were sitting by one of the fountains where this savage Orpheus, siter to carry souls to hell than to bring them thence, very impudently set himself a-singing; but as soon as ever he began, he was requited with so many scoffs and hisses, that he was soon obliged to give over, and withdraw. This wretched singer was page to an unfortunate lord, to whom the coach belonged.

The company that had so shamefully put to flight that enemy to the sense of hearing, were still rallying on that ridiculous subject, when on a sudden they were diverted by the sweet sound of an angelical voice, which seem'd to proceed from the mouth of a woman, and made amends for the disagreeableness of the page. They all got up to draw near the coach she was in, and heard these following words:

S O N G.

I.

'Tis not alone the force of love,
 That makes my paleness and my grief;
 Fierce jealousy without relief,
 Does to my rest more fatal prove.

II.

But I myself alone may blame,
 Who durst presume to aim so high,
 My thoughts above my sphere did fly,
 And set me in this quenchless flame.

III.

Then how shall I be ever blest,
 Who cannot even comprehend
 The great perfections that attend
 The cause that robs me of my rest.

IV.

Though your disdain does pierce my soul,
 Such charms appear in your bright eyes,
 As do my fainting sense surprise,
 And all the pain I feel controul.

V.

I'm bound in such a happy chain,
 And burn in such a pleasing fire,
 That all I dread, or can desire,
 Is or to lose or keep my pain.

This harmonious voice charmed all that heard it ; and even those, whose harsh temper made them before insensible of the sweetness of this art, were enamoured with it. The coach was immediately beset by several persons, and among the rest, a certain gallant drawing near, was so bold as to lean upon the coach door, where this

Urania was. By his behaviour he seemed to have some peculiar privilege so to do, for neither the young lady nor her mother, who sat by her, were at all disturbed at that familiarity. Perhaps the mother, who before had grumbled, as most old women do, might have been greased, as well as her coach wheels, that she might make the less noise.

There were abundance of other young fellows, who would willingly have been no less familiar, if their modesty had not stood in the way. Whilst they were walking to and fro about the coach, another gentleman not so nice came up all in a heat, who being in love with the young lady, had followed her from her house to the Prado. Drawing near, he perceived she was talking with the other gentleman, who seemed to take a pride in it before the company that stood round, which disturbed the new comer, who looking about him spied Don Diego Love-Night, who was his friend. Having saluted him, he took him aside, and told him how envious and jealous he was of that man; that he did not like his behaviour, and had a mind to pick a quarrel with him. Don Diego, who was much better at giving advice to another, than at taking it himself, allayed the

fierce commotion of his hot temper ; and the other yielding to his reasons, contained himself for some time.

At length our adventurer saw three gentlemen pass by very leisurely, and as it were quarrelling among themselves, one of which, by his voice, he took for a friend of his ; and desiring to be satisfied whether it was so or no, that he might endeavour to serve him if he had occasion, he gave his guitar to the other that had accosted him before, to hold, and went after him. The other, who was wholly intent upon his rival's behaviour, did not regard what Don Diego did, but let him go without offering to bear him company.

But now the lady who had charmed all that heard her with the sweetness of her voice, was entreated by all there present to sing an air or two more ; and she, to show her breeding, took up her guitar, which, as ill luck would have it, had two strings broken. Don Diego's friend having the guitar in his hand well tuned, drew near to the coach, and offered it to the lady ; at the same time, he that leaned on the coach door, without any regard to the other, stood upright, and scornfully thrust away the arm and the guitar. Our adventurer's friend, who only wanted such an opportunity, and was like fuel

prepared to take the fire of passion, thought this an insolent action, and to revenge it, made use of the arm and the instrument that had been affronted, laying on twice furiously about the favourite's ears, who was bareheaded, and broke the guitar in pieces, which returned a sound less agreeable than when Don Diego handled it. At the same time he drew his sword, as did all the rest that were present, and among them several officers of justice, who are frequently at those hours in the Prado, because of the frequent quarrels that happen there, in which many brave men are lost. The aggressor finding himself alone among so many strangers, wisely took the advantage of the darkness, and winding himself into the midst of the throng, for fear of being known, slipped away without speaking a word.

The coach, which had been the occasion of all this disturbance, made off so swiftly by the help of six horses it was drawn by, that when the officers would have seized it to pay the cost of their disappointment, they could not find what was become of it. Every one made off a several way, when Don Diego returned from running after those three gentlemen, believing one of them had been his friend. He was much surprised at this sudden commotion, not

knowing who had been the cause of it. Seeking all about for the person he had intrusted with his instrument, and not finding him, he began to fear it had not met such usage as it deserved, for it was one of the rarest pieces of the age. Whilst he was lamenting its absence, the guitar was all in shivers in the hands of a supreme judge in criminal affairs, who was examining that matter, questioning the man that had been hurt, who could not say who struck him, because he knew him not. The darkness caused the confusion the officers were in, laying hold of the next that were in their way, without distinguishing betwixt the innocent and the guilty.

The surgeons being ordered to search the wounded man reported that the wound was very dangerous. They always make the worst of things to gain the greater reputation and to enhance their pay. Don Diego waited two days without hearing any news of his dear instrument, and perceiving no likelihood of its being restored, went to look for the person he had intrusted with it, and was told he had absented himself, and they knew not when he would come again. He could not unriddle this mystery, as being ignorant of the cause of his departure.

The loss of his guitar made him let slip some

nights without taking his rambles, which induced Amazor still to live in hopes; for he observed all his actions, endeavouring to discover some signs of amendment, but still could make no sound judgment by them. If he happened to live three days within compass, he spent three weeks in his usual extravagancies.

The wounded gentleman grew worse and worse, which threw him into a fever, so that the surgeons and physicians did not like him. The judge, though he used all his endeavours to discover the offender, could make nothing of it, which troubled him very much, because the person hurt belonged to a minister of state, whom he was desirous to oblige.

Every one striving to do something towards finding the criminal, among the rest one of the clerks of the court, as sharp as an old monkey, often viewed the remains of the guitar committed to his custody, hoping to find the owner's name upon it, because abundance of young men used to be guilty of that folly. However, he took so much pains in putting together the pieces, that he at length found the name of the workman that made it; and, as if he had found out the philosopher's stone, hastened away to that instrument maker's house, who being showed the ruins of the guitar, soon knew it, and said

it belonged to Don Diego, which was confirmed by his journeyman and apprentice. The clerk not satisfied with this verbal declaration, sent them all three in custody to the judge, where they confirmed what they had before deposed under hand and oath. This done, the judge forbid them, under severe penalties, acquainting Don Diego with what had happened; and thought he had now sufficient evidence for securing of the offenders, and putting them to the rack in case the wounded man miscarried. Search was immediately made for Don Diego, in order to secure him the next night, but the cunning instrument maker, who had made the guitar, and given his deposition against our adventurer, not regarding his protestations before the judge, found him out, and acquainted him what was in agitation against his person, and with the wretched condition of the guitar. He told him all the particulars concerning his unfortunate instrument, and how it had been beaten to pieces about a gentleman's ears in the Prado; so that by this account and his friend's absence, he might easily guess at the rest. He was extremely concerned that his guitar had suffered shipwreck against the rock of the wounded person's head, but was more troubled at his friend's

absence, concluding that if the patient died, he must lose him for ever.

Then bringing the case home to himself, and considering the advice he had just received, he cursed the clerk that had been the cause of his trouble. How durst you, false treacherous wretch, said he, as if the man had been by him, practise against my reputation? Have you the impudence to attack my honour, and to contrive to oblige me to appear and give an account of my actions before a judge? Must I be this day liable to the censures of such a pettifogging knave as you, who give crimes what turn you will, and magnify them according to your fancy or malice? Doubtless, this is a matter of such moment, I must advise with some person of discretion and experience, who may put me in the way how to shun the scandal I may otherwise undergo; but to whom can I better have recourse than to my faithful Amazor?

Thus was he talking to himself when Amazor entered the room, to whom he communicated the perplexity he was in. Amazor, without farther delay, called several porters, and in a moment removed the most valuable goods into an ambassador's house, who lived close by.

The ambassador's secretary, who was Amazor's intimate friend, took care of those goods, and provided a chamber for our adventurer. Thus did he secure himself against the first strokes of justice; for though he was innocent, he would have suffered much for the absent offender, being unwilling to accuse him, though it were to clear himself of all the foul circumstances that appeared against him.

Having thus disposed his affairs, Don Diego went with Amazor to the ambassador's house, where he was courteously received by the secretary; and having acquainted his master with the whole affair, prevailed with him to use his interest for him. Soon after the surgeons perceived that the wounded gentleman began to mend apace, notice whereof was presently given to the absent gentleman, who had been the author of all this mischief, and of the trouble he had brought his friend into. At length the patient being pretty well recovered, the other came privately to Madrid, where several persons of the greatest quality interposing, an accommodation was proposed, and the conditions were not long debating. The charming lady, whose singing had been the cause of all this disaster, had a hand in these proposals, and reconciled all differences, engaging her word to our adventurer's

friend, that she would by degrees break off the familiarity his rival had contracted with her. Thus the party offended suffered the penalty, because he was not so powerful as the other, had the lady been as good as her word.

Don Diego seeing his friend had now full satisfaction, thought of revenging himself on the clerk who had contrived to bring him into trouble. Our adventurer was very revengeful, and never undertook any but he endeavoured to make it as public as he could, that it might be the greater. To this purpose he made himself acquainted, by the help of several treats, with some bullies that resorted to the ambassador's house, whence he would not remove until he had been even with the clerk. When he thought it fit time to put his design in execution, he summoned all his instruments, being seven in number, and provided them a supper, in which he spared for no cost; and they all drank plentifully, remembering all their friends, some particulars whereof being remarkable, we will here set down.

The first health was to the ambassador's steward, who gave them sanctuary in that house against all the serjeants and other officers of justice. The second to the generous Don Diego, who treated them so often, wishing him increase

of health to defray those worthy expences. The third to solicitors and counsellors, because amidst all that have to do in criminal causes, they alone defend the criminals, provided they are able to pay for the lies and stories they invent to destroy truth, and make falsehood take place. The fourth to physicians, as being of their own profession, because their business is killing, though they do it with less danger to themselves, as venturing nothing, and never failing to murder a man when they have a mind to it. The fifth to the brokers, who so cunningly disguise the hats and cloaks they steal at night. The sixth to vintners and innkeepers, who treat and entertain them on the road, and assist them in all their frauds. In short, they drank more sorts of healths than can be here inserted; and to conclude with Don Diego's project, it was resolved that they would the next night torment the wretched clerk; and thus they performed it.

Four of the resoluteſt of the gang dressed themselves up as we represent devils, in the most frightful manner they could, and about midnight came to the house of the poor condemned criminal, which was in a lane. They got into the house, the door being open, by reason that several families lived in it; and a great

dog hearing them, fell a barking, and waked the clerk, who made his man rise to see what was the occasion of the disturbance. The man coming out, met those four frightful figures on the stairs, each of them holding a lighted link in his hand, which filled the place with a thick stinking smoke. The lad was in such a fright, that without being able to return to his matter, he dropped down in a swoon. The devils presently rushed in at the door he had left open, and went directly to the clerk's bed, where he lay with his wife, who being both just waked out of their first sleep, believed them to be really what they represented, which put them into such a fright, that they lay senseless as if they had been dead. Then the devils, without losing any time, took hold of the damned clerk, every one taking an arm or a leg, and senseless as he was, laid him down upon the floor; where they brought him to himself by virtue of a good whipping with knotted ropes, laid on so thick and sharply, that before he could speak a word he was half dead. The first word he uttered was the name of Jesus, at which the devils left him and fled, making a most hideous noise at the doors, to confirm the opinion he had conceived of them; so that when the storm was over, he absolutely concluded they were devils,

since they vanished at his calling upon that holy name. He lay stretched out on the ground half dead, what with the cruel flogging, and what with the fright. His poor wife lay quaking, all bathed in a cold sweat, and had shrunk down into the bed, not daring to put out her head ; so that the wretched fellow lay all night as the devils left him. When day appeared, and dissipated all terrors, the body was found in the midst of the floor in a high fever, and his wife in the same condition. They were long in the hands of the ablest physicians, and very narrowly escaped death.

The news of this accident was soon spread all over the town, and even from the mouths of some who had the story from the clerk himself. Every one talked of it according to his own fancy, and some said, he was certainly guilty of some heinous crimes, unknown to men, since heaven had punished him by the hands of hellish executioners. Don Diego hearing this discoursed about the town, after the account he had received from those that did the execution, thought himself sufficiently revenged. Our adventurer only pitied the poor wife ; but a good husband and wife are so closely allied and linked together, that there is no doing the one unkindness without the participation of the other. After

this noble exploit, Don Diego kept at home for some time, living in a very decent manner; but this humour lasted not long; for before many days were past, he fell again to his night rambles.

ADVENTURE VI.

THE sun had now run his course, and day shut in, when our noble Don Diego, whom experience made never the wiser, resolved to seek new dangers, or rather to meet them, for they too often presented themselves to him; but before we enter too far upon this adventure, it will be requisite to make a short digression.

There was at this time at Seville, a man of a genteel presence enough, who kept himself in decent apparel, and passed for a gentleman; but might be properly enough compared to an eagle, for by day he looked the sun in the face, and by night he followed his prey, stealing whatsoever came in his way. At the beginning of his reign he took the name of Don Diego, until time having discovered what profession he followed, he had the surname given him of Love-Night; so that there were two men of the

same name at once; for, as has been said, our adventurer was sometimes called Fly-Light, and sometimes Love-Night, these two additional names signifying almost the same thing, though proceeding from different causes, some more scandalous than the other.

It seemed to be fatal to our Don Diego, to be brought into trouble by the mistaking of names; but that which he met with among the pretended sprites was no more than a flea-bite in comparison of what he endured in this new adventure; for as much as among persons of a generous disposition, their honour is much dearer than their life. This Don Diego at Seville, perceiving that his practices were discovered, and that there was a talk of calling him to an account, gave out that he was going away to Madrid, the Theatre of Wonders, and the loadstone that attracts both the good and the bad; but the day he left Seville, instead of making towards the Court of Spain, he went away to Granada, hoping he might play his cards there, and live a considerable time before he was discovered, that city being very kind to strangers.

The news of his journey to Madrid being spread abroad among all that knew him, the son of a jeweller of Seville had notice of it, who being deceived by common fame, a wonder that

a tradesman should be imposed upon, resolved to follow him immediately, and with all possible speed, to the great detriment of his buttocks, which were miserably galled; and of his stomach, that often returned more than it had received, being grievously shaken by the hired mules that are on that road. The cause of his enduring all these hardships was, that this sharpening Don Diego had taken away some jewels and diamond rings of his, of value, which he had trusted him with. As soon as he came to Madrid, he delivered printed bills in all the goldsmiths shops, describing those jewels, and in the meanwhile insinuated himself into all companies, in hopes to meet with his man.

The second night after this jeweller came to Madrid, our primitive and legitimate Don Diego Love-Night, taking no warning by his past misfortunes, set out again, exposing himself in defiance of fortune. The occasion of this sally was to divert himself with a young beautiful townswoman, wife to a solicitor, who was reckoned a sharp witty woman, and very good dancer, ready to receive any thing that was offered her, and consequently easy to be bribed. In order to gain admittance to her, Don Diego made use of a sly old woman, well versed in carrying on amorous intrigues, and who, under co-

hour of promoting chastity, only contrived to destroy it. The bargain was struck up, and Don Diego had leave to go visit the solicitor's wife that night betwixt twelve and one, upon condition that he should give her two diamond rings she had seen on his fingers, and which he had a great value for, because they had been his mother's; but what is there that lust will not sacrifice when its insolence is not checked? Besides, he was to lay aside the habit of a gentleman, and disguise himself like a servant, to the end, that if her husband should happen to meet him going in or coming out, she might tell him it was a man her mother had sent to inquire after her health. For the better carrying on this plot, the solicitor's wife sent him by the old woman, a letter she had received that very day from her mother, which she had sealed up again, and wrapt in another paper, that it might serve a second time, as occasion might offer: Furthermore, that he should come in the back way, going along under an old mud wall, and open the garden door with a master-key she sent with the letter: Thence he was to go into a parlour, where he should find his mistress ready to receive him.

Don Diego submitted to all these conditions, left his house about the appointed hour, dressed

as was ordered him, with the rings, the letter and the master-key. Being come into the street where the solicitor's wife lived, he heard a noise in a house, as if people were in a passion, which his curious temper obliged him to inquire into. He went in, and presently spied a man in a court writing upon the end of a cask, and another lighting him with a candle in a lanthorn, for fear the wind should blow it out. About these two stood many more, some half-dressed, and some half-naked; some without stockings, and slipshod; others in their shirts, with only their cloaks wrapped about them, muffling up their noses, and most of them with their swords under their arms. Our adventurer stood still behind them, listening to their discourse, without being discovered by them, and by that means understood that there had been a robbery just then committed in the house; that he who writ was a notary, and the other that lighted, a serjeant, who were taking the depositions of the neighbours, some of whom had suffered their share in the robbery.

Don Diego having thus satisfied his curiosity, was for making off fair and softly, to go on with his intrigue; but, as ill fortune would have it, the damp of the night had given him a cold in his head, which made him sneeze three times.

and so alarm all those people, who cried out, "Who is there?" Don Diego unwilling to be known, doubled his pace, without speaking a word, which raised a jealousy in the others, and made them pursue him as they did, crying out, "Stop thief." He finding himself pursued, and so foully affronted, faced about, drawing his sword, replied, "You lie, ye scoundrels;" then letting them come on, gave the boldest of them a great cut over the head; but whatever he could do to get out of their hands, they secured and carried him before the notary, who had staid in the house.

There was nothing about him but what seemed to testify he had been concerned in the robbery committed there; his mien and his habit did not agree; it was easy to guess he was disguised. Being searched, they found in his pocket a little casket, in which the rings were, as also the master-key, all dangerous circumstances against him. The notary divided the booty very equally, taking the rings for himself, and giving the key to the serjeants for their good service; which done, they led him away to gaol.

Finding himself so roughly handled, he began to declare he was a gentleman; that they were mistaken in him, desiring to be carried before the Lord Mayor, whom he would acquaint with

his name, and make known his innocency before him. But whatsoever he could say, they made no account of it; he was put into a dungeon in the prison, as a night-robber, a shop-lifter, and a breaker of the peace. He was immediately confronted with two real thieves that had committed the crime; they hearing him say that he was a gentleman, and had a sufficient estate to live according to his quality, without robbing another, resolved to own him for one of their gang, not doubting but that if he was of that rank he pretended, their cause would be long depending, and, in the meanwhile their friends making restitution, would procure their liberty; besides that, they might happen to get off by his interest, and, if it came to the worst, they would be condemned to some easy punishment. Don Diego perceiving that these men deposed quite contrary to what he expected, having thought himself sure that they would clear him, and that consequently he should be set at liberty, and discharged of all that was alleged against him, began to rave, and behave himself like a madman. Let us leave him a while in that frenzy to make him the forger.

As soon as it was day, the news of his imprisonment flew all about the town; his friends were acquainted with it, who came immediate-

ly, offering to be bound body for body for him, affirming he had no hand in the crime laid to his charge; but they were not allowed so much as to see him, and went their ways astonished, and out of countenance, to hear it affirmed, that a man of his quality should be taken in a robbery, disguised, and with a picklock in his pocket.

This rumour being handed about, it came to the ears of the jeweller at Seville, who, overjoyed with the conceit that he had found his jewels, and that our adventurer was the same Don Diego he was in search of, went hastily to the prison to enter his action against him, and to the notary's to seize the rings he had taken, as belonging to him. The many examinations and depositions, on account of this last accusation, helped to swell the bulk of the writings in this process, in which the solicitor, husband to our adventurer's designed mistress, who had been the cause of all this confusion, was employed by the jeweller of Seville, to manage his cause. He coming to inquire into the fact, knew the master-key to all the locks in his house, and understood that the party accused had been taken in his street. This made him suspect his design had been to rob him as well as his neighbours, and therefore finding himself particularly con-

cerned in this matter, he declared himself a party, and followed the business so hotly, that he had Don Diego examined again upon fresh circumstances and articles, which he alleged against him; but our adventurer being discreet and ingenious, answered so cautiously, that he no way dishonoured the party who provoked him, sparing him for her sake.

This was the posture of affairs, when, through the solicitation of his friends, Don Diego was taken out of the hands of the criminal judge, as not subject to his jurisdiction, and turned over to his own proper court, where the solicitor declared himself the principal prosecutor. Don Diego finding himself so hard pressed, sent the old woman, that had been messenger of love to the solicitor's wife, to advise her ingeniously to persuade her husband to desist from his violent prosecution, or else he should be obliged, in his own defence, to expose them both, and divulge that which would make them infamous. The jilt, who thought of nothing but her pleasure, and how she might secure the rings rather than her honour, took no notice of this admonition.

The judges and parties were strangely perplexed about the circumstances of this process, because none of them knew the secret; till at

length Don Diego finding he was daily drove to greater distress, by the obstinacy of the solicitor, resolved to clear himself of what he laid to his charge, to his own shame and confusion. He gave a full account of the whole intrigue to a gentleman of his acquaintance, who was very intimate with the judge, and expounded the riddle to him; and having diligently weighed all the circumstances, he resolved to expose the whole naked truth in public, to save the honour of Don Diego, at the expence of the impertinent solicitor's reputation. The old woman privately deposed what she knew of the affair; the letter from the solicitor's wife's mother was produced, which she had sent to Don Diego. The jeweller of Seville was summoned, and being brought face to face with our adventurer, stood amazed, as if he had been thunder-struck, and frankly owned that was not the man he sought after. Hereupon the judge discharged the process, ordering the rings to be restored to Don Diego, as being his proper goods; the master-key to be put into the hands of the solicitor for the same reason; and the letter to be delivered to his wife, as a token of her mother's affection.

This just judgment being pronounced, the Jeweller and solicitor stood gazing upon one

another like two statues, not knowing what to say, or how to look, and at last went away muttering; the jeweller vexed that he had travelled so far, and been at such expence to so little purpose; and the solicitor in a rage, for having been the instrument of his own disgrace. Don Diego, whose courage was cooled by the railery of his friends, got off with his rings safe, valuing them much more than the sport he was going to lose them at, had he not been prevented by the misfortune he met with. Thus we conclude this adventure, observing the truth of the proverb, which says, "It is an ill wind which blows nobody good."

ADVENTURE VII.

THOUGH the unaccountable Don Diego was discharged out of prison, and cleared of the crimes laid to his charge, yet was he resolved to impose a penalty on himself. He had been so much put out of countenance by his friends ripping up all the extravagant actions of his life, that it went to his very heart, and therefore he resolved to banish himself for a time from Madrid, and endeavour to reform, rather in compliance to those who wished him well,

than for his own satisfaction. He set out for that city in Spain which is reckoned to abound in learning above any other in Europe; and in reality, sciences are so common there, that they are not only taught by day in the schools, but at night in the cellars. This is the city of Salamanca, seated on the river the Spaniards call Tormes, which they reckon more fruitful than the Nile, because its banks are covered with infinite plenty of several sorts of delicious fruit, fit to please the most dainty palates.

This voluntary banishment was the more acceptable to Don Diego, because the principal motive of it was to recover two thousand ducats, become due to him as the only heir of his family, by the courtesy of his brothers, who were pleased to die out of kindness to him. He had substantial creditors to deal with, who brought him the sum in lawful money, as soon as they heard of his arrival. This made him not return the sooner, the wonders he had heard of Salamanca prevailing with him to make some stay there. Having satisfied his curiosity, he set out from thence doubly enriched, carrying away abundance of books, though perhaps principally out of ostentation, like many others in this age, who have great numbers of valuable books, finely bound, but without ma-

king any other use of them than as hangings or pictures.

Being come back to Madrid, he locked up his ducats in a curious cabinet, with his rings and jewels, resolving they should not see the sun, but lie buried, till he had some sufficient occasion to show them the world again. The two first nights after his return home were dedicated to repose, and he diverted himself in turning over his new books; but when that short term was expired, growing weary of this confinement, and fancying he forfeited the liberties and franchises of his natural inclination, he resolved to go to take the air next night, and that earlier than usual, that he might have more leisure to walk the streets of Madrid.

However, he could not put his design in execution, on account of the visits he received from his friends, who, being informed of his return, came to welcome him. The forwardest in this point of civility was a gentleman called the Miraculous Knight, because, though he had no estate or income, he made a very good figure at court, keeping a handsome retinue, and dressing as well as any man, which made many suspect he had some underhand way of cheating; but they did him wrong, as will appear in the sequel of this story. Don Diego gave him an

account of the success of his journey, and to confirm what he said, opened his cabinet before him, and showed him his ducats and jewels; for he was so full that his satisfaction overflowed. After much common discourse of what had happened at Madrid during Don Diego's absence, the Miraculous Knight took leave of him; and though he would fain have stayed him to supper, the Knight excused himself with much ceremony.

When he was gone, our adventurer received two or three visits more, which kept him at home till near midnight, much against his will, because they were people of no consequence; but such things must be often borne with in this world. At length they departed; Don Diego took a light supper, as if he had been upon earnest business; and about one in the morning set out from his house, yet somewhat uneasy in his mind, for having been so open-hearted with the Miraculous Knight, fearing lest he, or some other by his instigation, should plot against his ducats. Being disturbed with these thoughts, he turned back to go home again, designing to remove his cabinet out of the lower room upstairs, as believing it safer there; and passing by a churchyard which was near his house, he heard a doleful voice, intermixed with many groans,

which seemed to come from the charnel-house, where the bones of the dead were laid up, which made his hair stand up an end, his eyes to flare, and his ears to give more than ordinary attention. He stopped short, and heard the groans redouble; whereupon he began to consider that it was one of the most heroic adventures that could befall a walking knight errant, and that if he did not attempt to see the end of it, he should ever after have a worse conceit of his courage.

He called to mind the adventure in the Apple Street, which was only a representation by persons disguised, but concluded, that this being the real habitation of the dead, there could be no deceit. He drew near, and perceived a small glimmering through a cranny in a board, and going round it, found a door, out of which there came more light. Being about to go in boldly, he trod on a dead man's dry rib, that snapped under his foot, at which noise a manly voice asked him, "Who is there?" At the same time out came a handsome man, with a sword in one hand, and a dark lanthorn in the other, so that there was no seeing him that held it. Don Diego perceiving the glittering of the sword, drew his, and immediately the man that made towards him cried out, "Don Diego, my

“ dear friend.” He knew him by his voice, but not by his person, by reason of the shade of the lanthorn, and perceived it was the Miraculous Knight, who had been to visit him that evening.

Don Diego amazed to meet him in that manner, asked what he did there? “ Alas, Don Diego,” said he, “ you come at a time when I am full of trouble ; but, in short, I must tell you, I have been married almost these two years to a young lady of quality, and yet no creature knows of it but only two friends, and the priest that married us. This young lady has ever since continued at her father’s house, without being the least suspected by any body, either at home or abroad. Immediately after I left you, she sent for me, and told me, that her time was up, the pains began to come fast upon her ; that fearing her father’s severity, who would certainly murder her, if he discovered her offence, she desired me to take her away from his house, and convey her to some place where she might be delivered with less dread. Being altogether surpris’d at this accident, and considering your house was clear, you not being married, I was going to put myself into your protection, and to commit my secret and this young lady’s honour to

“ your discretion. But as we were passing by
“ this churchyard, I conducting her with this
“ lanthorn, the throws came so fast upon her,
“ that she could go no farther, and I was for-
“ ced, as fast as I could, to bring her into this
“ charnel-house, which, by good luck, I found
“ open.”

The knight was just come to these last words, when the woman gave notice of her being there, crying out, Jesus, Jesus, and then fetching up a long sigh, God be praised, said she, it is over. The knight ran hastily to her, and so did Don Diego, and found she was delivered of a beautiful child, born under most inauspicious circumstances, had they been superstitious, as entering into life in the very mansion of death. It was a strange spectacle to see the poor lady stretched out upon so many dry bones, and the infant born amidst the dead. The father took up the little babe, and wrapping it up in his cloak, recommended the mother to Don Diego, and went away with the child to a midwife's he had in see several days before for that purpose, and ordered her to provide a nurse.

Don Diego was left there by himself, with the lanthorn in his hand, comforting and encouraging the poor lying-in lady. There was so little candle in the lanthorn, that as soon as the



The knight ran hastily to her and so did Don Diego,
and found she was delivered of a beautiful boy.

knight was gone, it went out, leaving them in that dreadful darkness. I am in the wrong to call it dreadful, at least to our adventurer, who most delighted in it. Whilst he was taken up about this work of charity, one of the notablest thieves in Madrid had got intelligence of his ducats, and understanding he had left them desolate that night, he made to his house with a good pick-lock that opened all the doors. Having searched all the rooms, he met with the cabinet the treasure was committed to, broke it open very dexterously, and seized the bag with all the jewels. Not so satisfied, he opened a trunk, whence he took two suits of clothes, and making all up into a bundle, with the gold in the middle, and the jewels tied up in a napkin, he laid it on his back, and made away with all possible expedition.

He was not gone far from Don Diego's house, when he spied the watch going the rounds, and before they could discover him, he fled towards the churchyard we last spoke of. The watch hearing him run, suspected he must be some malefactor, and made after him; but he being light of heels, got to the charnel-house, where he dropped the bundle at the lying-in woman's feet, which struck such a terror into her, not knowing what it might be, that she forgot all

her pains. Don Diego little thinking that he was put into possession of his own goods, stepped out with his sword in his hand, to know what was the occasion of the noise he had heard. The thief hearing him walk over the dry bones of the dead, which crackled under his feet, thought it had been some evil spirit sent by providence to punish him for his crime; for a wicked man fears every thing; and considering they could not find the theft upon him, chose rather to fall into the hands of human devils, than of the infernal.

Coming out of the churchyard he meets the watch, who had pursued him full butt, they having laid in ambush to catch him; but the thief being strong and skilful at his weapon, drawing a good back-sword, laid about him so successfully, that he made way through them, and got safe off.

In the meanwhile Don Diego coming out to the entrance of the churchyard, without meeting any thing, and hearing no more noise, thought it a rashness to go any farther, and an indiscretion to forsake the poor weak woman he was intrusted with, and therefore returned to her, whom he found full of grief, and complaining heavily against the Miraculous Knight, blaming his stay with such words and expres-

fions, as testified they came from a woman of family. Don Diego perceiving she was somewhat recovered, offered to conduct her to a married man's house, who had been his servant, and lived close by there. She consented to the proposal, he helped her up, gropping, and letting her rest on his arm, led her gently to that house, where she was courteously received, as well out of respect to him that brought her, as for the regard due to her beauty, which charmed all that beheld it. Had not Don Diego's thoughts been then wholly taken up with the care of his ducats, I cannot tell but he might easily have given way to be in love with that lady, for when he saw her by the light, he perceived beauty enough to enamour him. A midwife was sent for to assist her in all that remains to be done after delivery, and in the meanwhile she was put into such a delicate neat bed, as might have stilled the thoughts of a jealous man, and lulled him asleep. Let us leave them both there in this condition, and go see how the Miraculous Knight was spending his time, for he very well deserved that name, fortune having in him given wonderful instances of her unaccountable favours.

He being very solicitous to have the child taken care of, because it was indisposed, and

considering the mother would be in trouble for his stay, desired the nurse's husband to take a lanthorn, and go make his excuse to Don Diego and the lady he would find with him, and to beg he would make provision for the unfortunate woman, putting her into some safe place, where she might be furnished with what was necessary in her condition. When the man came to the churchyard, Don Diego was already gone to fulfil his request, though he had not heard it. The nurse's husband coming into the charnel-house, where the knight had told him he should find Don Diego and the mother of the child, and seeing nothing but the horrors of death, was going out backwards, not daring to turn his back upon all those dreadful spectacles, for fear they should rise and fall upon him unawares. When he was near the door of the charnel-house, he happened to set his foot on the bundle the thief had dropped there, as he fled from the watch, and finding it sink under him, cried out, fancying he had trod on some corpse newly brought in, till drawing near it with his lanthorn, he found his mistake, and perceived it was only a bundle of clothes. He considered with himself whether he should carry it away or no; but concluding that the dead could lay no claim, he resolved to lay it on his

back, thinking it very strange that he should be so well clad, where all people are left naked.

Don Diego having left the lady in safety, and being anxious for his treasure, hastened home to see if all were safe, and coming to his house, went directly up stairs to the room where he had left his cabinet, and found it broke open, which touched him so to the quick, that he had like to have dropped down; but recovering himself, he perceived the mischief had been done, his cabinet rifled, and his trunk open. Not knowing who to charge this upon, he concluded it was the Miraculous Knight had played him this game, whilst he staid to guard his lady; for his long stay gave occasion to suspect he might be guilty of this foul action. To lose no time, he returned to the churchyard with more haste than he came, fancying that the knight would not fail to be there to look for his wife, the better to counterfeit innocence. By good luck Don Diego came to the charnel house, just as the man sent by the knight was going out. Our adventurer in a rage for the robbery, and fully concluding that was the knight, as he had before conceited, fell upon the man so furiously, that he dropped the bundle, calling him thief, and threatening to make an example of him. At the same time an officer

of the watch happened to pass by, going home discontented for having spent the whole night patrolling about with his companions, without lighting on any booty. He bid them both to keep the peace, and answer his questions, which they immediately obeyed; for in Spain the meanest officer of justice is much respected. L

The day then began to break, and the heat of Don Diego's passion being somewhat over, he had leisure to observe, that the man he had taken was not the knight, and the unknown person finding himself at liberty, and wisely considering, that, though innocent, being found with the bundle upon him, he might be brought into trouble, he thought fit to make the best of his way, and trust to his heels to bring him off. In short, he vanished in a moment, leaving Don Diego to answer for both. Whilst the officer was putting himself into the posture of an examiner, up comes the real thief, who having made his escape from the watch, had waited till it was day to come and carry off the bundle he had stole from among the dead, with whom he had left it in trust. He discovered, at some distance, two men, which were our adventurer and the officer contending together; however, he by degrees drew near them very impudently, with hat in hand, listening to their discourse,

and at the same time squinting upon the bundle. At last the officer touching Don Diego with his rod, commanded him, in the king's name, to follow him. The thief seeing them in motion, took up the bundle, by silent consent of Don Diego and the officer, and followed them, each of them thinking he had been the other's servant.

Whilst all these things were in agitation, the Miraculous Knight was fretting with impatience, expecting the return of the man he had sent to Don Diego. Being tired with waiting, he went out to seek him, and coming to the churchyard, found neither the messenger, nor those he had sent him to. Thence he went on to Don Diego's house, where he heard the dismal news of the robbery, but nobody could tell where he was. This was a mighty trouble to him, being at once concerned for the misfortune befallen his friend, and because he knew not where the lady was that he had committed to his charge, though he did not question but she was in good hands, and that he had too much courage to forsake her.

In the meanwhile Don Diego going along with the officer, came to the justice's door, and looking about for the man that had taken up the bundle, whom, as has been said, he took to

be the officer's man, and the officer concluded to be his, and not seeing him, he asked the officer where he was, threatening to make him accountable for it. The officer resenting his words, answered him boldly, That he was not now in a place where he could play his knavish pranks. This expression put Don Diego into such a heat, that he laid on the officer several strokes with the flat of his sword about his head, at whose cries the justice came out, and having heard both parties, and understanding Don Diego's quality, he ordered him to be confined to his house, and two officers to guard him.

The Miraculous Knight being tired with running up and down, without hearing any news of those he sought after, returned to his child's nurse, whom he found unfit to suckle it. Her husband flying from justice, had called there in a mighty fright, telling her, he was obliged to be gone, and abscond for some time, because some stolen goods had been found upon him, and therefore he must get out of the way for fear of being thrown into gaol; and, without explaining himself any farther, he scampered off, leaving his wife in such a consternation, that her milk immediately went away. This new accident put the Miraculous Knight into such

confusion, that had he not been a man of great temper, it would have gone near to distract him. He had the charge of a child, and was deprived of the means of giving it necessary sustenance to support life. In this perplexity, heaven put it into his thoughts to send for a hackney coach, into which he went with the infant, carrying it to a village near Madrid, called Xetafe, designing to have it bred there very privately. The thief, who had again so boldly possessed himself of the bundle before Don Diego and the officer, and seemed to follow, had dropped them at the first turning of a street; and to prevent being followed by the tract, thought it best to depart Madrid, to enjoy the fruit of his wicked success with more safety, disguising the clothes and jewels, with the assistance of some knavish brokers and goldsmiths, who made it their business to metamorphose stolen goods. The lying-in woman was infinitely afflicted, being in a manner forsaken by her lover, and by him who had brought her into that house among people that were altogether strangers to her, who nevertheless attended her with all possible care, in pursuance of the orders given by Don Diego.

Her father and mother missing her, left no stone unturned to hear what was become of her, but all in vain. In short, there was nothing

but trouble and confusion among all the parties concerned, each had their affliction and sorrow, as well as the other.

The Miraculous Knight came to Xetafe in the evening, where he found all he had occasion for to his heart's content; he had put the infant into a good nurse's hands in less than an hour, and was preparing to return to Madrid. As he was getting into the coach, he heard a mighty noise in the inn; he turned in again, and spied a man, who held another by the collar, and tugged him about, as if he would have throttled him. "Have I got you," said he, "thou villain, thou thief; you are the man that robbed me about a year ago at my house in Toledo; I am resolved I will cut your throat, that your blood may make satisfaction for my goods you stole. This bundle you bring is certainly some fresh robbery you have committed at Madrid, for which it is likely several as unfortunate people as myself are now at their wits end."

The house was immediately filled with people at the cries of this passionate man. The Miraculous Knight broke through the throng, came up to the person impeached, examined him, and by his answers perceived he was the thief that had robbed Don Diego, who, as providence

had ordered it, took up his lodging in that inn with a merchant of Toledo, whom he had robbed some time before. The mayor of the town was called, the bundle opened in his presence, and an inventory taken of all there was in it, which was left in the custody of the master of the house. The criminal was put into gaol, and the knight returned to Madrid, to carry Don Diego the good news, which was very acceptable to him; and in return, he carried the knight to see his lying in lady, who was no less overjoyed at this visit.

Don Diego was much troubled in his conscience, for having suspected the Miraculous Knight to be guilty of so foul an action, yet he was in some measure excusable, having grounded this conceit on the common received opinion, that the knight could not live at so high a rate without being concerned in some base employ; but now Don Diego understood that he was maintained by the lady that fed his amorous flame, she being the only daughter of very rich parents; and having for four years last past supplied him plentifully with as much as kept him handsomely at court. Don Diego being eased of the care of the young lady, applied himself in the next place to recover what

had been stolen from him. He got an order from court to fetch up the thief, to have him tried at Madrid; where, as soon as he came, he confessed all his crimes, and for his ingenuity was rewarded with a halter. Don Diego was again put in possession of his goods, not but that his purse paid for it, because justice is a precious thing, and must be purchased at a dear rate. The first nurse's husband was recalled from his voluntary banishment.

In the meanwhile the Miraculous Knight being desirous to deliver the lady's father and mother from the great pain and trouble they were in, applied himself to several persons of note, as prelates, religious men of known piety, ministers of state, who being prevailed upon by the continual submissive entreaties of that beautiful creature the knight's mistress, or rather bride, took the matter in hand with such zeal and discretion, that in a few days they prevailed on the father and mother, and persuaded them not only to forgive the daughter and her lover, but to approve of their marriage, as if they had been really consenting to it. Love, which had been the cause of the offence, was now the chief pleader in this cause, and so entirely gained the hearts of both father and

mother, that upon making the reconciliation, they demanded the infant to entail their estate upon him.

All their relations were invited to the celebration of the nuptials; for all the ceremonies of the church had been performed before. Don Diego took particular satisfaction in his friend's good fortune, and contracted a more intimate friendship with him than before. On the other hand, the knight studied nothing more than how to find opportunities of expressing how sensible he was of his obligation to him, for his care, and the signal services he had done his beloved, who owned herself no less indebted to him for his kindness.

Most people thought that Don Diego having had so much experience of the many troubles and misfortunes the life of man is subject to, his own having been so often in danger, would for the future have lived within some bounds, and endeavoured to employ his time better, but the world was much deceived in him. He was so highly pleased with the success of his adventures, that it emboldened him to look out for others still more dangerous. Besides, he fancied that the night adventures, befallen to other men, which parents tell their children by the fireside, as wonderful and prodigious accidents,

were nothing but mere cheats and fables to scare fools ; because those men being frightened at the first show of danger, and wanting courage to see the utmost of it, have imposed their wild notions upon others for wonders. In short, they are generally weak people that tell us stories of spirits and hobgoblins ; for there is no churchyard so frightful as a timorous man's heart.

ADVENTURE VIII.

THE vanity which had filled Don Diego's heart, for having come off so advantageously in so many perilous adventures, made him despise all sorts of dangers. He thought himself now proof against any accidents, and believed that fortune could not control his resolution. Upon this conceit he still sought new perils, to give the greater proofs of his valour, and gain the reputation of a hero, but instead of purchasing that good name, he was reckoned a rash man of an extravagant temper ; for whosoever aspires to be singular, draws upon himself either the envy or the scorn of others.

Don Diego was informed, that the travelling

waggons, which pass through the sea of dust in summer, and of dirt in winter, that is, betwixt Toledo and Madrid, performed their journey by night. For this reason, and that he might have the opportunity of conversing with darkness, not to delight his eyes with seeing Toledo once more, though a place the sun itself beholds with pleasure, he resolved to undertake that great progress, which is just twelve leagues. He was also moved to it by an earnest desire he had to hear the railing and ribaldry there is betwixt the mean sort of people who travel that way. For this purpose, he put on the servant's habit the solicitor's wife had before persuaded him to wear for her sake, lest being clad according to his quality, he should happen to give a check to the freedom of those sort of people, and be disappointed of the satisfaction he expected to receive in their Billingsgate and Lonsense. Having armed himself with sword and dagger, he left Madrid about eight at night.

The company he had in the waggon consisted of some country fellows, such as contract friendship over a pot of wine; for in Spain they drink no ale. Don Diego took his place as it fell to his lot, for no compliments are used there. As soon as the wheels were got off the stones, every one began to let his clack loose, making

a hideous noise, like a clock when the spring breaks, and all the wheels run off in confusion out of their ordinary course. Our adventurer was amazed at this Babylonian confusion of tongues, and no less at the barbarous expressions he heard; but was pleased, that though the discourse was not rhetorical, yet to him it was new. One told how he had paid his foy at taking leave; another, how he had been treated by his friends on that account; another, that he had picked his father's lock to get money; a fourth, that he bid nobody farewell, for fear of being stopped by his creditors. In short, it was a mad medley of open confession of all their exploits, and scarce three words of sense to be made out of it.

With this pleasant discourse they came to Illescas, where being at the inn door, before any of them alighted out of the waggon, they fell a brawling about a leather bag, which served one of the company for a cloak-bag and port-manteau, and being now missing, the owner would have the waggoner to be accountable for it. They all set up the cry against him, and from foul words came to blows, so that the poor waggoner was knocked down before the inn, much hurt, where the maid of the inn then was, who shed salt tears upon the body of her

unfortunate driver ; but he was soon revenged, for he that struck him, halting to get out of the waggon, to make his escape, hung his foot in a rope, and fell headlong upon the stones, where he lay for dead. The officers of justice, who are much of the temper of surgeons, that wish for nothing so much as wounds and broken bones, came in readily to keep the peace, being as nimble with their feet as with their hands, when they see they have their prey in their nets. They presently examined, took depositions, and sent some to gaol ; and for the more security, they seized the waggon and mules ; all which they rather do, to serve their own turn than the public good.

Don Diego, who stood aside, as not concerned in the quarrel, was nevertheless taken up for being one of the company ; and had been infallibly committed to prison, but that he happened to be known by some of the country inferior gentry, who prevailed with the mayor of the town to discharge him. His disguise was the occasion of his being put to that trouble ; and therefore when a man goes where he is not known, it is necessary his habit should recommend him, because by that most people guess at his quality, and sometimes at his humour. He staid seven or eight days at Illescás, diverting himself with

the agreeable frankness of a travelling damsel, that was going from Toledo to Madrid, to present the courtiers with a fresh treat. She lay in the same inn with Don Diego, who falling into a love-sick fit, she endeavoured to apply the cure, not by administering potions or cordials, but by bleeding his pulse, whence she drew some ounces of gold. But this metal being the very blood and spirit that supports life, a few of the first evacuations put him into such a condition, that he resolved to make use of no more of that physician's prescriptions, but to dismiss her, or rather discard himself. To this purpose, he hired a mule, as unlucky a jade as the other he had quitted; only that being used to the pranks of the former, he thought the latter more tolerable.

This mule having been hard wrought, and ill fed, had much ado to move, though the rider did not forget to put her in mind with his spurs. She stumbled every step she went, which seemed to forbode that he would not go far without a fall, and so it happened; this might have been more fatal to him than it was, had he not been so frequently forewarned of what he was to expect. It was a blessing he was so well upon his guard against his fall, for he must have broken his neck, or not much short of it, being like

tumble into a quarry, had he not thrown himself off on the other side. Getting up, like a good Christian, he used charity with his neighbour, helping his steed upon her legs, but renounced riding any more. He led her for a good league to an inn, to which he came just with the dawn of the day, having set out of Illescas about midnight, and travelling all the rest of the night, in compliance with his old humour. Here he made a plentiful breakfast, or rather a supper, for he inverted times and seasons, breakfasting when others supped, and went to bed.

About four in the afternoon he was waked out of his sleep, by a post-boy's horn, who came along with a messenger, sent by order of council, and reckoned a most sharp-sighted fellow at knowing a thief, though it is likely he was not so well skilled as imagined, since he knew not himself; but it is the surest way to set a thief to catch a thief. This man was come post from Madrid, in pursuit of a parcel of cunning knaves, well skilled at making other men's goods their own; who had now given a sufficient proof of their abilities, at the cost of one of the richest persons of quality about the court. He alighted at this inn, searched it narrowly, and then examined the host and all his guests very severely. Don Diego was raised to be present at this

examination, and being in disguise, had paid for all, but that the messenger happened to know him.

Having made a thorough search and inquiry in the inn, he was very much concerned that he could hear no news of the criminals, nor so much as find any body to bring into trouble; for those men desire no more than to find a subject fitly disposed, and they know how to give it a form. Not knowing whether he had better go on, or turn back, he stood at the inn gate, inquiring of all comers and goers; Don Diego bearing him company, and treating him with much complaisance, in requital for the favour he had showed him. Just as the day was shutting in, they discovered at a distance, a funeral coming towards them, attended by four religious and four laymen in mourners habits. These came about a bier, carried by two lusty mules, on which was a coffin covered with rich black baize. The four religious men who came foremost, stopped as soon as they came into the hamlet, telling the others, they must rest a little, and say there a short prayer for the dead, that they might preserve the living. The officer blessing himself when they came up to him, asked, Whether they had not met such and such people, so and so habited, who had committed a notabl

robbery at Madrid? "We have seen nobody," replied one of the religious men, "but here is a robbery committed by a famous female thief, she alone was concerned in it." "Where is that robbery," answered the officer full of concern, "and who is that female robber?" "Alas! Sir," said the religious man, "the robbery is in the coffin, uncovering the bier, and she that has committed it is death. This is a noble body, and as precious as gold." Then taking the officer by the hand, and dragging him roughly towards the coffin, for he was very strong, "Come, Sir," said he, "come and see this unaccountable robbery; come and see what mortals are subject to." The officer, who was not used to converse with the inhabitants of the other world, not liking that sort of invitation, answered him in a very angry tone: "Pray let me go, father; I am not come hither to call in question the actions of death; besides I have no stomach to look into a coffin; the finest creature in the world stinks within four-and-twenty hours after it is dead; and though you compare that body to gold, I do not think it as incorruptible as that precious metal, which alone has that privilege by nature." This said, he mounted a-horseback, and went his way.

Don Diego continued in the inn with this funeral retinue. The drivers unloaded their mules under a great portal, they were carried into the stable, and a table covered near the coffin, which they watched very carefully, and there they supped, inviting our adventurer to keep them company, because they saw he was alone. He sat down among them without any ceremony, and they soon fell to downright drinking of healths upon healths, which must have proved everlasting, had they received any addition by their frequent hearty draughts.

The hostess somewhat surprised, as well as Don Diego, to see those mourning companions, so little mortified, whilst they were attending death, very innocently said to them, "Cheer up, gentlemen, cheer up, make much of yourselves, and be merry, for I dare say, there are others that lament for that poor body you bring, God give it rest." He that sat at the upper end of the table, and dealt about the cups as he thought fit, answered her, "You have spoke such a sentence, sweet heart, as I little expected would drop from that barren mouth. It is very certain, the house from which this rich body came, for it is no poor one, as you call it, is now under very extraordinary affliction; and what grieves them the more, is, to

“ consider that this person was taken away sud-
“ denly, to their eternal sorrow : He died in my
“ arms, and my hands buried him. Pray to
“ God that we may carry him safe to the place
“ appointed, and be not scandalized to see us
“ take a little refreshment ; the trouble of at-
“ tending him a-foot, requires good nourish-
“ ment.” This said, he drank to the hostess’s
health, and clapping a great glass of wine into
her hand, desired she would pledge him ; for
men call the complying with their extrava-
gancies doing them honour. Amidst this mul-
titude of healths, one of the mourners found
his indisposition, his head proving too weak for
the fumes of the wine he had drunk. He be-
gan to stammer, and talk an unknown tongue,
and at last dropt down in a trance, that made
him look like the departed person, for he fell
into profound sleep, the perfect image of death.

It was about ten at night, when such of the
company, as were most in their senses, thinking
it time to depart, because they would not lie
there all night, laid the bier upon the mules,
which had been as well fed as their masters,
and paid the hostess very generously, who gave
them a thousand blessings, and made as many
prayers for the departed. They desired her to
take care of the man that was asleep, who would

follow them when he awaked ; and considering that the mourner's habit he had on was of no use for him to stay there, they stripped him of it, seeming desirous to hire another man in his stead to complete their number.

Don Diego prompted by his hellish curiosity, for we may well give such a name to that which pretends to dive into those things it is no way concerned with, and being very desirous to be particularly informed whither that funeral was going, and who the dead person was, offered them to fill up that vacant place, and put on the mourning robe. They having found him to be a good companion at the supper, took another view of him, observing that he had the looks of a man of courage, and a good guard, and therefore received him with open arms, instead of the other that lay entranced under the power of Bacchus, and so they set out of the inn merrily.

No sooner were they out of the village, but they left the highway, striking across the country, at which our new mourner was not a little surpris'd, not knowing whether they did it through inadvertency or designedly, but durst not ask. They travelled in this manner about two hours, till they came to a very uncouth mountain, all rocks and woods, the habitation

of wolves, wild boars, and other savage creatures. When they were got far into the mountain, they halted, and one of the gang, a very ill looked fellow, in a very haughty tone, said, so far good, brethren, it is now time to divide this body. Well said, answered the rest, you are in the right, this is a convenient place to divide it. Our adventurer was never so startled in his life, as at the hearing of this proposal, not able to imagine to what purpose they would use that body so barbarously. He drew a little aside, and presently perceived they were all falling at variance about sharing the limbs of the dead body. From words they came to blows, drawing out short hangers and pistols they had under their long robes, as well the religious as the seculars, which Don Diego had not discovered before. They grew to such a heat, that after much clattering of their swords, and many wounds given, they fired their pistols, which put the mules into such a fright, that they fell a snorting, braying, and running as fast as their legs could carry them. Don Diego run after to stop them, but they were so swift, that before he could overtake them they were got into a hollow way, and so narrow, that it was impossible to pass by, and come before them; so that he was forced to follow them with much

trouble ; for besides that it was dark, there was scarce any sign of a road, so that he stumbled at every step, and very often fell down upon tufts of briars and brambles, which would have torn his legs, but that he had boots on. However, still hoping to get out from among those bushes, he travelled about a league, with the horrors of death always before his eyes, and thinking on the strange and sudden conversion of those religious men into soldiers, wearing swords and pistols about them instead of beads and breviaries. He was amazed at their wickedness and barbarity, in designing to cut in pieces a body, which, if of the quality they represented it, deserved to be preserved entire ; for this he thought was a practice altogether unusual among Christians, who allow of the opening of bodies to embalm them, but not of quartering them like cattle.

Whilst he was taken up with these thoughts, he found himself near a shepherd's cottage, where providence ordered it, that the mules stopped of themselves, which if they had not, they would have fallen into a precipice with the dead body. The shepherds alarmed by the barking of the dogs, came out of their cottage with light, and were somewhat startled, seeing this dismal funeral pomp. Then Don Diego

muffled up in his mourning weed, in as few words as he could, informed them that he had lost his way in the dark, and was carrying a dead body, inquiring whether there was not some village hard by where he might rest him till day. Those good people being willing charitably to assist that wandering mourner, conducted him to the village, where he found a reverend curate, who had formerly had his swing in the world, and was now by the frowns, or rather the kindness of fortune, brought to this place, where he spent his days happily in his studies and peace. He lodged the living in his own house, and the dead body in the church; and it was very good luck to meet with such an host, as had lodging both for the living and the dead. The sexton and others belonging to the church were called, who carried the coffin and the travelling corpse into the chapel belonging to the patron of the church, who was lord of the village. Don Diego took leave of the shepherds that had conducted him, and contented them both with good words and bounty, a sort of payment not common. Being left alone with the good curate, he gave him a relation of his strange adventure; and his host having given him a glass of wine, and some preserved quinces, conducted him to a bed so neat, that it

added much to the inclination he had before to sleep; so that though he had thought to have lain there only the remaining part of the night, he stuck by it so long, that when he got up he could go no farther a journey than from the bed to the table, living that day like a true courtier. The good priest was very well inclined to make much of Don Diego, who was a very pleasant companion, and therefore desired him to stay there till next day, to see whether any body would come to inquire after the corpse. Don Diego liked his proposal, and consented to it. After dinner, the curate, to divert our adventurer, carried him out awalking about the village, which was agreeably seated; and sitting by a pleasant spring, they fell into discourse of news, by which Don Diego perceived that the curate had not been bred among peasants. This observation, together with his own natural curiosity to inquire after every thing, moved him to desire the priest to tell him how he came to settle his abode in that country dwelling. The other being of a complaisant temper, to comply with his guest's request, addressed himself to him as follows:

“ I was born at Seville; the only kindness fortune would have me indebted to her for, that I might not call myself altogether unfor-

“tunate; but since it is below the character of
“a brave soul to blame the stars, let us proceed.
“My father was of noble extraction, and more
“famous for his virtue than for wealth. He
“caused me to be instructed in human and di-
“vine learning, that he might leave me a never
“failing inheritance; and my genius suiting
“with the employment my father had chosen
“for me, I outstripped most of my fellow stu-
“dents, and soon took my degree of doctor of
“the civil law. The fame of this being spread
“abroad throughout the city, made many am-
“bitious to marry me into their families. I
“had some beautiful maids, with good fortunes,
“proposed to me, sufficient baits to allure sen-
“suality and covetousness; but having as yet
“no inclination to confine myself to the bonds
“of matrimony, I could not approve of any of
“the proposals; so that having rejected so much
“wealth and so many beauties, as might have
“moved the most insensible to pleasure and
“avarice; and having so often withstood the
“persuasions of all those that endeavoured to
“engage me in matrimony, it was generally
“concluded that I had some secret aversion to
“women; but the charms and perfections of a
“certain lady banished the notion conceived of
“my being a woman-hater. Her personal

“ beauty, and excellent wit, were irresistible
“ weapons, and indissoluble spells, that conquer-
“ ed and enslaved all such as could gain admit-
“ tance to her. Among the many that aspired
“ to this honour, she admitted of my addresses,
“ and not many days after, with the joint con-
“ sent of her friends and mine, the knot of per-
“ fect union betwixt us was tied in the church.
“ I lived with her two years in a happy condi-
“ tion ; and considering the mutability of world-
“ ly affairs, I may say that was a long time ; but I
“ must not dwell upon those thoughts, the remem-
“ brance of them would but refresh the wounds
“ which the loss of her has made in my heart.

“ This dear better half of me had a brother,
“ whose youthful gallantries grew into such
“ scandalous extravagancies, that he became
“ odious to all the inhabitants of Seville. He
“ often fell into the hands of justice, and went
“ through the disgrace of a gaol, whence my
“ care, or rather my purse, still delivered him ;
“ for it is certain money is the surest friend upon
“ all occasions. A scandalous disorderly course
“ of life was become so habitual to him, that
“ instead of being restrained by the considera-
“ tion of such shameful punishments undergone,
“ since virtue had no power over him, he still
“ gave himself up inordinately to vice. Per-

“ceiving that whatsoever course of mildness or
 “severity I took, it was impossible for me to
 “overcome his vicious inclinations; I forbid
 “him my house, and ordered all my servants
 “to keep him out if he came; but my orders
 “were in vain. A lawgiver must proportion
 “the power the subjects have to obey, to the
 “laws he enacts; for if they cannot be obser-
 “ved, they make the lawgiver contemptible,
 “and are sometimes the cause of disturbing the
 “public peace, and the source of many troubles.
 “This was my case; and when I call to mind
 “these things, I cannot forbear shedding tears.
 “I should be ashamed to expose my weakness
 “before you, were I not convinced that you
 “will think me excusable, when you have heard
 “the cause.

“My wife loved this young man, as nature
 “obliged her, and as her only brother, so that
 “his debauchery and lewd life no way dimi-
 “nished her affection, and therefore she counte-
 “nanced his coming into my house, and suffer-
 “ed him to visit her in my absence. He had
 “spies that followed me continually, and care-
 “fully gave him notice of my return, that he
 “might be gone, or at least hide himself before
 “I came home. But when ill fate pursues us,
 “it overtakes us in those very ways we take to

“ avoid it. They used to hide him in my
“ chamber, in a corner behind the bed where
“ my wife and I lay ; and this contrivance ha-
“ ving often proved successful, they still made
“ use of it whensoever they had occasion. It
“ happened that going home one evening, and
“ entering that chamber without thinking any
“ thing, the young man having been failed by
“ his spies, was surprisèd, and thinking to hide
“ himself hastily, his foot hitched in a table, and
“ he fell flat on the ground. I hearing the fall,
“ without seeing who it was, for day was shut in,
“ ran in swiftly and laid hold of him, as he was
“ rising to get into his hiding place. Unhappy
“ haste ! I clapt my hand unfortunately on a
“ dagger he wore by his side, and thinking he
“ had been a thief, stabbed him three times with
“ it, and he dropt down. At the same time I
“ was sensible of my mistake by his voice ; and
“ being struck with horror at this misfortune,
“ let him go, and drew back. He having still
“ strength enough, got up with his sword in his
“ hand to revenge himself, and pushing at ran-
“ dom in the dark, thrust my wife, who was
“ come running in upon the noise, through the
“ body, and then dropt down dead. If he de-
“ signed that thrust to kill me, he well knew
“ where to give me my mortal wound, since I

"lived more in his sister's life than in my own.
 "By this time my servants came all in with
 "lights, to increase the grief and horror of see-
 "ing one that held me so dear, die in my arms.
 "As soon as she was dead, my sorrow prevailed
 "so far upon me, that to make some amends
 "for my inconsiderate offence, I went to deliver
 "myself up into the hands of justice, like one
 "in despair, accusing myself of the murder of
 "my brother-in-law and wife. I was cast into
 "prison till the business came to a trial; but
 "my affliction swelled to such an unlimited ex-
 "cess that it distracted me; so that from the
 "common gaol I was removed to the mad-
 "house; where, for a long time, I was the ridi-
 "culous diversion of my enemies, who came to
 "see me, for the satisfaction of making me their
 "scorn. However, through God's mercy, I re-
 "covered of that distemper, though it seemed
 "incurable. I was then set at liberty, having
 "sustained a considerable loss in my estate,
 "which had been consumed both in suing out
 "my pardon, and defraying the charges of the
 "law, amounting to a considerable sum.

"At that time an uncle of mine, threescore
 "and ten years of age, who was curate here,
 "fell sick of a hectic fever, and being willing I
 "should succeed him in this place, as knowing

“ I was well enough disposed for this profession,
“ he obtained of his holiness to take off the ir-
“ regularity I had incurred ; after which I re-
“ ceived holy orders, and so became capable of
“ holding this benefice, which he resigned up
“ to me. This is the occasion of my coming
“ to settle in such a solitary country mansion, so
“ agreeable to my temper, where my only care
“ is to fulfil the duty of my function to the best
“ of my power. What spare hours I have are
“ spent in reading good books, the better to
“ enable myself to instruct those souls commit-
“ ted to my charge. Thus do I spend my days,
“ expecting till it shall please God to call me to
“ give an account of my actions.”

Don Diego admiring that reverend curate's
strange fortune, commended his resolution of
spending the rest of his days in that solitary
place. Thus discoursing together of the hap-
piness of a country life, they came to the cu-
rate's church, which they found open ; and that
being unusual at such a time of day, the curate
went in, and found several persons there in
mourning, who had just brought the body of
the patron of the church, and lord of the vil-
lage, lately dead, and were in deep contest with
the vicar and sexton, because they had laid a
coffin and strange corpse in the chapel, which

was reserved only for that family. The curate discreetly pacified those people, and Don Diego, coming in at the same time, concerned that his dead body could find rest nowhere, and that they were for turning it out, desired those gentlemen to allow him the term of eight days, in which time he offered to make out that his corpse belonged to the person they had then brought, and in case of failure, he promised to remove it. His request was granted, upon the condition by him proposed. I know not whether it was an enthusiastic fit of prophecy or madness that made him talk so, for they say that madmen speak prophetically sometimes; the event will decide it. The truth is, he told the curate he had made use of that stratagem, believing that those people would be gone the next day, and then they two might consult where to bury that stray corpse that was left upon his hands, and on which he would bestow that last charitable act of Christian piety.

All the people of the village were concerned at their lord's death, which they said was through too much grief, conceived on account of a robbery committed upon him, to the value of twenty-five thousand ducats in ready money and jewels. This being a robbery in which several persons must have a hand, all that

were any ways concerned, in hopes of being heirs to the family, took special care, for their own ends, to have all possible search made after the robbers; so that having sent out officers and other people several ways, some of them at the entrance of a wood found a man whom they took upon suspicion, as well on account of his ill look, as because upon examination he gave no good account of himself. They presently searched him upon the spot, and found about him sufficient circumstantial proofs for a farther trial; for in his pockets they found hooks, picklocks, &c. They that took him carried him to the next village, which happened to be the same where Don Diego was, and being put to the rack, he soon owned as much as they desired, and discovered strange secrets.

He confessed he was the eighth person concerned in the mighty robbery committed at Madrid, of a cabinet full of jewels and gold, of a very great value. That for the better removing it out of Madrid without danger, they had contrived to disguise themselves, some in the habit of religious men, and others in the apparel of mourners that attend at funerals; then to put their booty into a coffin, upon a bier carried by two mules, all covered with black varze; and to pretend it was a dead corpse they were

attending to the place of burial. That this contrivance had succeed-d well enough, carrying them off at their ease, and even in sight of such as might be concerned in the loss. That he the deponent falling asleep through weariness at Xetase, where the whole gang refreshed themselves, they had left him behind, and taken off his mourner's garb ; but that when he awaked he run after them, knowing whither they were to go, to get his part of the booty. That before he could come up with them, his companions had fallen out about dividing the robbery, and had fought so furiously at sword and pistol, which they had under their habits, that he found two dead upon the spot, and the rest mortally wounded. One had lost an arm, another was ham-strung, a third had his head cloven, a fourth half his face sliced off. In short, they were all so mortified, that every one had left some of his flesh and much blood on the field of battle. That besides, he left them half mad, and cursing one another bitterly, because, whilst they were in their fury, murdering one another, a stranger taken instead of the deponent had drove away the mules with the theft, so that they knew not what was become of it, and he was then going to hear some news of them.

By this ample confession, the examiner plainly perceived this was the robbery committed on the lord of the village, for grief whereof he was dead. He run immediately to the curate, and told him all this wonderful news in the presence of Don Diego, at which both he and his guest were so surpris'd and astonish'd, that for some time they could move nothing but their eyes and hands, so much were they overjoyed at this strange adventure. Being recovered from this transport, they went together to the church, and to the chapel where the two coffins were, the one of the lord, and the other of his treasure, which Providence had ordered he should follow when dead, as well as living, since his heart was in it. They presently opened it in presence of several witnesses, every one admiring how ingeniously those thieves had distributed their prize, consisting in three sorts of things of value, silver, gold, and precious stones.

Then Don Diego plainly understood the riddle of the false religious man, when he told the officer, who met them at Xetase, that it was a precious body, as noble as gold and silver from head to foot, &c. He might also boast that he, once in his life, had the gift of prophecy, when he said before, that his dead corpse was near akin to the patron of the church, which he

sufficiently made out; and might have added, it was the relation he loved best, since he died for love of it. The news was immediately sent to the gentleman that was heir to the party deceased, who came with the messenger to take possession of that treasure. He being willing to show mercy to the thief that was taken, as the cause of his recovering so much wealth, ordered the gaoler to contrive that the malefactor might escape, as if it had been by want of care in securing him, which was accordingly put in execution.

All the gentleman now wanted was to satisfy the earnest desire he had of being acquainted with our adventurer, that he might make him a present, or at least to return him thanks, for that through his means, and the good fortune that attended him, the robbery was conducted to such a place of safety; but Don Diego, who had a generous soul, desiring no acknowledgment of this sort, shunned all occasions of meeting that gentleman, who paid all the charges very nobly, and gave the two mules to the curate, who durst not refuse the present coming from his lord, though they were none of his. This done, he returned to Madrid, taking along with him the precious corpse, to be buried in another tomb.

Don Diego was satisfied with his intention of going to Toledo, without proceeding any farther, and, at the request of that good man, the curate, staid a week longer with him, passing the time in discourse of man's sovereign good, and the peace and tranquillity of such as are free from worldly passions, and the true blessings of this life. When our adventurer took his leave, he was forced to admit of half the present the lord had made the curate, that is, of one of the mules, in regard he had been the cause of that bounty. Don Diégo, whose heart was haughty, could scarce be prevailed on to take it, but was constrained at length to submit, rather out of complaisance than covetousness. They embraced, and parted with sincere affection, Don Diego promising to write to him often, and to send to him the news of the court, as the most diverting present to those that have known the world. The hopes of the correspondence alleviated the curate's trouble for this separation; and the desire of returning to Madrid made our adventurer try whether his mule had any share of heels.

ADVENTURE IX.

It had been happy for Don Diego to have made a longer stay with that reverend churchman, whose pleasing and virtuous conversation might have in time produced some change in his extravagant manners. The company of good persons often excites us to follow their example; but Don Diego's libertine temper was not to be contained within the bounds of society, though he behaved himself well enough when he was in it; for, besides some little learning he had, his excellent memory and good sense made his conversation agreeable. However, he only loved to keep company with wild young fellows like himself, who had no other employment but ranging the streets at midnight. As soon as he returned to Madrid, he sent to acquaint all his gang, desiring them to meet at a certain usual place of rendezvous, to renew their acquaintance, and drink a glass together. Eight of this mad gang, who loved to grope out their fortune in the dark, met at the place appointed, where they supped together, by way of club, ~~that~~ every man might be at his full liberty, not obliged to one another, and have no occasion to make any compliment at parting.

When they had performed the solemnity of his welcome home, and offered sacrifice to Bacchus and Comus, the two deities they particularly honoured, they all sallied out in a body with their guitars, to serenade their mistresses, and found a reveillé to some, that had rather have devoted their eyes to Morpheus, than their ears to Orpheus. Among these was an apothecary, whom they made their sport, only because they unexpectedly found themselves by his shop, and Don Diego remembered he owed him a good turn. He had lived very near our adventurer when he fell sick, after the death of Leander, and Sirena's becoming a religious; and because he made use of another apothecary, this man, out of envy to his brother tradesman, or to be revenged on Don Diego, never ceased rattling his mortar, and made more noise with flourishing his pelle, and chiming on the sides of the mortar, than with pounding his powders; and the shrillness of the sound gave sufficient cause to suspect that there was nothing, or but very little in it; so that sick Don Diego being very much disturbed with this ringing, sent several times to entreat him to make less noise; but he answered, that he might do what he pleased in his own house, since he paid for it; that he must work for his living; that if he

wanted a dinner, Don Diego would not give it him; and much more to this purpose; so that Don Diego was fain to make use of all his interest, friends, and money, to make him remove from thence, as he did at last, because he was but a quarterly tenant, and yet he had not this satisfaction till towards the end of his sickness, after he had endured very much by him. So that not thinking himself sufficiently revenged of him for his impertinency, being then accidentally upon the spot, he had a fancy to play him a prank.

Our brave adventurer being at this time highly inspired by the fumes of Bacchus, whence most of those wonderful conceits proceed, which we commonly attribute to Apollo, desired his companions to halt. Then advancing eight or ten paces, he fell a knocking furiously at the apothecary's door, who was going to bed, and held the following dialogue with him:

Apothecary. Who is there? Who is it that knocks at my gate so late? Sure they are some lunatics, or night magistrates, for no others durst do so at such an unseasonable hour. How now!

Don Diego. Pray, Sir, do me the favour to tell me whereabouts lives a certain apothecary and half-doctor, whose name is Master Robert?

Apothecary. Master Robert? He is certainly

a whole doctor; and as for you, Sir, he lives here, in this very place, and is the same that is talking to you in person; speak what you would have with me, for I have more mind to sleep than to talk.

Don Diego. Sir, I beg your pardon with all my heart. Is it possible you are the very man? Pray, good Sir, let me entreat you, do not deceive me, I am in more haste than you imagine, and I must needs speak with himself. Alas! poor gentleman, he'll die this bout, if he has not help immediately. Pray, good Sir, open the door, for God's sake.

Apothecary. I know you not; I will not open my door at unseasonable hours, but tell me what it is you want; speak in plainer terms, for I do not understand half what you say.

Don Diego. O good Lord! Why must he die then without help? I perceive you have not prepared that medicine the physician said he had prescribed, and left the bill here.

Apothecary. God-a-mercy, thanks to my stars, now I begin to comprehend. Is it for the Neapolitan gentleman, that is troubled with the pain at his stomach?

Don Diego. The very same.

Apothecary. Why, is he in such danger? My servant told me the physician had not ordered

it till Thursday, which is not till after to-morrow.

Don Diego. For Thursday! Lord, Sir, what do you talk of? Your man is mistaken, and the poor gentleman will pay for it, at the expence of his life and health.

Apothecary. My friend, be not impatient, do not fret, I will put on my clothes directly, and assure yourself the composition will be ready in less than a quarter of an hour, which will be time enough to ease the distemper, if God so pleases.

Don Diego. Make haste then in the name of God, but not with so much precipitation as to mistake *quid pro quo*; you know the gentleman is a person that will requite your trouble. Adieu, Sir; I am going to tell them you are coming after me.

Apothecary. Go, go; no man questions my ability besides yourself; but I pardon your ignorance.

Don Diego making as if he were going home very hastily, and trampling hard on the stones to be heard, went off five or six paces, and then returning softly, drew near the shop, and heard the apothecary calling his man, and saying, "Hey boy, where is that laxative potion I made the day before yesterday, for the patient that

“died as I was carrying of it; that fume may
 “be good for this man, the disease is almost the
 “same, you need only pour it out into a little
 “mortar, and here make an infusion of a little
 “*granus simplicissimus*, and a dram of *cerebro-*
 “*sion*, then *fiat mixtio*, &c. Quick, quick, let
 “us have done.”

Don Diego hearing this discourse, was fain
 to quit the place for fear of spoiling his design,
 for he could no longer forbear bustling out into
 the night. He returned to his companions, who
 had been listening to his dialogue, admiring what
 sudden fancy it was that took him, without
 speaking a word to them, to go beat up the
 apothecary, and banter him; wondering at his
 readiness to lay hold of the apothecary's own
 words to put the trick upon him. Don Diego
 told them, what orders the apothecary had gi-
 ven his man, about the composition of the me-
 dicine, and the terms of art he used, at which
 they blessed themselves a thousand times, and
 bestowed as many curses on him.

To see the event of the jest, they resolved to
 watch his coming out at the corner of the street,
 that they might follow him, and know the un-
 fortunate person the potion was designed for,
 to be sacrificed to their frolic. They had not
 watched above half a quarter of an hour before

they saw that executioner come out of his house, with the viol of the poisonous potion in his hand, and a dish to drink out of, charging his man to take care of the house. They followed him close at his heels for a considerable way, and saw him go into the Neapolitan gentleman's house he had spoke of, after knocking a long time before they heard him. That gentleman was of a very weakly disposition, above sixty years of age, and wholly in the hands of the doctors and apothecaries; but though sickly; he was worse in conceit than in reality, which was a great trouble to those that had him in cure. He was of a melancholy temper, which had so far the predominancy over him, that it led him into superstition, so that he did not stick to seek ease by charms and spells. His friends desiring to divert him from so great a crime, prevailed with him to have one more consultation of two able physicians besides his own, where it was resolved that he should take a purge three days after, which was on the Thursday following. The patient was so eager to be cured, that he followed all their prescriptions; and the implicit faith he had in the medicines, hoping in them to find ease from his misery, made him relish the most loathsome and unfavoury potions, as if they had been

and ambrosia. And being extremely nice in observing all rules prescribed by the physician, and in taking the medicines exactly at the hours appointed, he kept a valet de chambre, in whose care and fidelity he confided, and who had no other business but to take the doctor's bills, and carry them to the apothecary; so that the other servants had nothing to do to concern themselves in it. This man perceiving that the last consultation of physicians gave his master some small respite, and that he was to take nothing in three days, made use of that time to go visit a young maid he was in love with; and it fell out unluckily, that the apothecary brought his choice medicine, just after this nursing-servant was gone abroad; so that the other servants, and the patient himself, believed the physician had thought fit to give him some potion beforehand, to prepare his body for purging, and that the servant had gone to acquaint the apothecary with it. So the courteous Neapolitan, without inquiring any farther, took the cup, and poured down the drench.

All this while our adventurer and his gang were in the street, full of different thoughts. Some laughed at the action, whilst other were much concerned, as foreseeing the ill conse-

quences that might happen; infomuch, that the wisest of them prevailed upon the rest to withdraw, and rest satisfied for that time, referring it to the next day, to inquire after the success of that hellish purge, which vented Don Diego's revenge upon the life of an innocent person. As they went out of the street, they observed their number was not complete, there being but seven left of eight that were at the apothecary's house, which somewhat perplexed them; but one of them, who was better acquainted with the absent party's secrets, told them they need not be concerned, for he was gone to a place where there was no need of a guard.

The reader, for his better information, is to observe that Master Robert, our famous apothecary, had a daughter so beautiful, that she might vie with the most celebrated ladies in Madrid. The knowledge of these favours heaven had bestowed on her, made her so vain and conceited, that she valued herself much above her quality; for though but of mean parentage, yet she had a haughty spirit, and aspired to some great fortune. She scorned the addresses of such as were not above her rank, though they were very rich, and only delighted in being courted by gentlemen, still retaining such an absolute command over her passions, that with-

out wronging her, none of all her admirers could boast, that he had gained the least upon her inclination. She maintained herself in this freedom a long time; but at last Riordan, that companion of Don Diego's, who had slipped away from the rest of the company, being overcome by her perfections, was so dexterous, or rather so fortunate, that he gained admittance to Dorothy, so this beauty was called, by the means of Master Robert's maid, whom he had gained, by the presents he continually made her. The truth is, he was so well qualified, speaking after the manner of the world, as might excuse the amorous frolics a maid might be guilty of for his sake.

This man being one of the persons invited to the meeting made to welcome our adventurer, was in complaisance obliged to go a-walking with them after supper, as he did, but with a resolution to leave that insipid diversion, and slip away from the company, to repair to that which was much more delightful to him. This was the beautiful Dorothy, whom that maid he so bountifully rewarded, had put him in hopes of enjoying that very night; so that seeing them make towards that quarter of the town, where his business lay, he followed them with the better will. He was overjoyed when Don Diego

fell upon that frolic against his mistress's father, and accordingly gave the greatest commendations of any in the gang to our adventurer, for his wit and contrivance. In short, it looked as if that whimsy had been put into his head, on purpose to favour his good fortune, and the medicine he asked for so earnestly, designed to cool his amorous flame.

He seeing the apothecary go abroad, let his companions follow him, and staid behind upon the watch, expecting the signal the maid was to give; for to add to his good fortune, the assignation made him was just at the very time the master went out, as if he had contributed towards completing of Riodan's felicity. He was scarce got to the corner of the street, before the confident, by the consent of the amorous Dorothy, came to the door, and taking Riodan by the hand, led him, as if he had been blind and dumb, into her mistress's chamber, observing strict silence, for fear of awaking her mother. There Riodan found a candle burning, and Dorothy sitting at the foot of her bed, half undressed, At his first coming in, she pretended to be surpris'd, fell a railing at her maid, and starting up designedly, let fall her night-gail, which covered her breast, and showed her lover wonders of beauty, though she pretended to clap

her hands before her, to hide them. Riordan was not so much a stranger to these affairs, but he could see through her artifice, but she did it with so good a grace that it charmed him. He drew near in the most respectful manner, endeavouring to excuse his boldness, and oblige her to grant him some favour; but she acting much coyness and reservedness, desired him to be gone the same way he came, telling him, her honour was too dear to her to part with at so easy a rate, and that whatever he thought of her, he must expect nothing of her but, in a lawful way.

Riordan seeming to approve of her virtuous resolution, made her all the most obliging compliments that could be imagined, for he had a ready wit, offering to give her what assurances she could desire of the sincerity of his affection; and if promise of marriage would satisfy, he was ready to make it. Dorothy, being well disposed towards him, and wanting only a good pretence to give way to her inclination, took him at his word, and laid paper before him, to perform what he had said. The maid, at the same time, set a great, heavy, leaden standish on the table, which seemed to prognosticate the heavy burden he was going to lay on his shoulders. He readily took the pen, and with his own hand

writ the sentence of his condemnation, and being just ready to sign it, he looked upon Dorothy, who smiled for joy to see him so forward; but as he turned his head towards her, he laid his hand on the standish, which unluckily fell down on a great brass mortar, that stood by the leg of the table.

This was a stab that pierced Dorothy's heart, giving a sound like the clapper of a great bell, which waked her mother, and made her sit up in her bed, to observe whence it came. Seeing a light in her daughter's chamber, she called to her, and at the same time got out of her bed with much difficulty, for she was disabled with age. Dorothy fearing she should see Riordan, was thrusting him out of the room just as her mother was coming in, which put the old woman into such a fright, that she dropped down, crying, Help, Help! Her daughter disturbed at this accident, and fearing her father's return, whom she dreaded more than death, immediately resolved to quit the house, and relying on Riordan's fidelity and discretion, to put herself into his custody, and run all hazards with him.

The maid, who had carried on the intrigue between them, fled in their company, leaving her mistress on the ground, crying out, till she was hoarse, for help, which was all she could do.

At length she awaked all the neighbours, and among the rest, a crony of her husband's, who was the first that came in, representing Adam and Mars, quite naked, with his sword in one hand, and his target in the other. He searched and peeped into all the corners, holes and crannies of the house; but all the pains he took, only served to fright the cats, and tear the cobwebs.

Dorothy's father having drenched the Neapolitan gentleman with his cursed potion, came home and found all in confusion, his wife half dead, and his friends standing about, endeavouring to comfort her. Being told the cause of these strange alarms, it touched him so near, that he stood a while as if he had been senseless, and void of motion. Let us leave them a while to recover themselves in the arms of their kindred and friends, and go see what was the effect of the extravagant purge, composed by the malicious ingenuity of Don Diego, and so innocently taken by the poor Neapolitan gentleman.

It happened that the medicine being stale, made up of decayed drugs, and administered before the body was any way prepared for it, besides that the patient's stomach was loaded with the supper he had eaten at night, it put the poor gentleman into such anguish, as if he

had live-dogs within him, tearing his bowels. He cried out incessantly for mercy, and sometimes added, " O my God, this false dog has murdered me ! " He continued all the remaining part of the night in that grievous anguish, and about eight in the morning in came his valet de chambre, who was to look to him in his sickness. He found his master groaning in a most dismal manner, and all the servants condoling him ; and inquiring into the cause of it, the whole blame was laid at his door, for having sent the apothecary, who put him into that condition. He swore and protested he knew not what they said ; that certainly this misfortune had happened either through the malice or ignorance of the apothecary, who always condemned the physicians, saying, they did not prescribe proper medicines for the patient, and that it was likely he had prepared this medicine of his own head, without the advice of the physician ; fancying he might work some wonder, in hopes of a considerable reward. This notion was thought to be well grounded, and whilst they were discoursing of it, in came the physician, who often visited this patient, because he gave better fees than others. They asked, whether he had given any new prescription for the sick man ? he answered, He had not, felt his

pulse, and being told what had happened, was in a strange consternation. He presently gave the gentleman something to carry off the poison he had in his body, and by degrees eased him of his pains. This done, he went with the valet de chambre, and acquainted the college of physicians with the apothecary's offence, who complained to the magistrates, representing to them how much the public was concerned, whereupon they instantly issued out a warrant for apprehending of the unfortunate apothecary. Let us now go back and see what condition he is in.

When the first violent pangs of his affliction were over, he began to take heart, and resolved to use the utmost means for retrieving of his honour, and revenging the affront he had received. After seriously reflecting on the whole affair, he concluded that Agrimont had done him this wrong; this was the name of the Neapolitan gentleman's valet de chambre; and that the better to compass his design, he had sent him word to make haste and carry the medicine, to get him out of his house; whereas it ought not to have been administered that day. He called to mind that he had often heard him commend his daughter, declaring he had a great mind to offer her his service; besides that he was not at his master's when he gave him the medicine,

contrary to the duty of his place, and the care he always had at other times, so that upon all concurring circumstances, he could no longer doubt but it was Agrimont who had done him this wrong.

Upon this conceit he went away to a lawyer, to whom he told the whole matter, and what strong presumptions he had against Agrimont, and it being natural for those people to make a mighty crime of a small conjecture, and to conclude those guilty against whom there is but a slight suspicion; this lawyer represented the story so lively with his bloody pen, and interspersed with so much show of scandal, that upon view of it, the judge issued out his warrant for apprehending of the party accused, to answer the crime laid to his charge. Master Robert followed his business so close, and bestowed his money so freely in the pursuit, that before many hours were past he had served his warrant. He employed several officers after Agrimont, and had him seized with a great deal of noise and disturbance, though he could not imagine the cause of this hard usage. However, he had his revenge at the same time; for the physician, who had informed against him, took no less care to see his warrant served, and he knowing as little as Agrimont why he was secured, imagined

they took him for another; he made his protestations, and threatened to sue all that were concerned against him; but all availed nothing, for he was clapped into gaol. His friends came to see him, and told him the cause of his confinement, and at whose suit he was imprisoned, whence he concluded it was only a piece of revenge of the Neapolitan's, to clear his valet de chambre, and get him out of prison. The poor glisterpipe broken with so many disasters in his old age, and having such a powerful adversary to contend with, was cast down, and fell into a burning fever, which had like to have turned his brain, as it wasted his body.

In the meanwhile Agrimont finding himself accused of housebreaking, and ravishing a virgin of reputation, was in as fair a way to run mad as his adversary. His master was much concerned at his troubles, which went the nearer to his heart, because he knew not how to live without him. He spared no money to get him at liberty, and to punish the apothecary at the same time. In short, for four days they were in strange confusion and trouble, during which time, madness and death were struggling whether should lay hold of their persons; but at last all these riddles were expounded by one of those that were the contrivers of them.

The amorous Paris, ravisher of the beautiful Dorothy, was with her at Toledo, where he had generously performed the promise he left behind him unsigned, when the unfortunate fall of the standish happened; he had given his hand and heart to Dorothy as her husband; and having notice sent him by a friend he confided in at Madrid, how many were in trouble upon his account, he writ to Mr. Robert, calling him father-in-law, and gave him an account of the happy success of his rape, and how great a value he had for his daughter, whose beauty and discretion made him love her more than himself, and honour her as if she had been a princess; and to conclude, that in a very few days he hoped to bring her to his presence, to beg his pardon, and, at the same time, his approbation of what she had done.

The apothecary was so overjoyed with this letter, that as the grief for the loss of his daughter, had like to have been the death of him, so was he now in no less danger of losing his life, through excess of pleasure for having found her. He presently discharged Agrimont, stopped all proceedings against him, offering to pay all costs and charges, and to make him such amends for his reputation as he should require. This done,

Agrimont came out of prison ; but Mr. Robert still continued to be responsible, as a false cook, for the dangerous mess he dished the Neapolitan gentleman. Yet, after much examination, his simplicity was made to appear, and there having been too many witnesses to Don Diego's action, he was discovered to be the contriver of all that disorder. Riodan came soon to town in the interim, and having been a party concerned in all the offence, made use of all his interest, and laid out much money to clear his father-in-law, and at the same time put a stop to the proceedings against Don Diego.

He soon got off the apothecary, by virtue of a little ointment of Peru, wherewith he greased the physician that prosecuted him ; but he found more difficulty in delivering our adventurer from the hands of justice, for it was a hard matter to excuse him, after so many follies and extravagancies as he had been accused of, to the disturbance of several persons. So that all the favour he could obtain, through the mediation of powerful intercessors, and the much greater authority of many double pistoles bestowed among the officers, was to confine him to be at home at seven o'clock in winter, and at eight in summer, with a strict prohibition not to go abroad

before day, under pain of being looked upon and punished as a night-walker, common felon, and disturber of the public peace.

Thus our adventurer was compelled to endeavour to grow wiser, and to obey this decree for fear of farther shame ; and this order being yct but of a fresh date; he hitherto observes it exactly ; but it is to be feared he will not be long kept within bounds, but that he will be led away by his natural inclination, and inveterate ill habits, which may perhaps afford matter for a second volume of his life and wonderful exploits.

THE
PLEASANT HISTORY
OF THE
LIFE AND ACTIONS

OF
P A U L

THE SPANISH SHARPER,

The Pattern of Rogues, and Mirror of Vagabonds.

BOOK I.

CHAP I.

Giving an Account of his Birth and Country.

I WAS born at Segovia, my father's name was Clement Paul, a native of the same town; I hope his soul is in heaven. I need not speak of his virtues, for those are unknown, but by trade he was a barber, though so high minded, that he took it for an affront to be called by any name but that of a hair-cutter. They say he came of a good stock, and his actions showed it.

He was married to Aldonza Saturna de Rebillo, daughter to Octavio de Rebillo Codillo, and grandchild to Lepido Ziuracontt. The town foully suspected that she was of a Jewish race, though she strongly urged the names of her progenitors, to prove herself descended from those great men that formed the triumvirat : at Rome. She was very handsome, and so famous, that all the ballad rhymers of her time made verses of her, which were sung about the streets. She run through many troubles, when first married, and long after, for there were scandalous tongues in the neighbourhood that did not stick to say my father was willing to wear the horns, provided they were tipped with gold. It was proved upon him, that whilst he was lathering the beards of those he was to trim, a small brother of mine, about seven years of age, rifled their pockets. The poor child died of a whipping he had in the gaol; and my father was much concerned at the loss, because he was such a hopeful forward boy. He was himself a while in prison for some small trifles of this nature; but I am told he came off so honourably, that at his first walking abroad one went behind flapping the flies off his back; all the mob of the town followed, huzzaing and saluting him with turnip-tops and rotten oranges,

and the ladies stood at their windows to see him pass by; for my father always made a good figure, either a-foot or a-horseback. I do not speak it out of vanity, for every body knows I am not guilty of it.

My mother, good woman, had her share of troubles. An old woman that bred me, commending her one day, said, she was of such a taking behaviour, that she bewitched all she had to do with; but they say, she talked something concerning her being too familiar with a great he-goat, which had like to have brought her to the stake, to try whether she had any thing of the nature of the salamander, and could live in fire. It was reported that she had an excellent hand at foldering cracked maiden-heads, and disguising of grey hairs. Some gave her the name of a pleasure broker, others of a reconciler; but the ruder sort, in coarse language, called her downright bawd, and universal money-catcher. It would make any body in love with her to see with what a pleasant countenance she took this from all persons. I shall not spend much time in relating what a penitential life she led; but she had a room, into which nobody went besides herself, and sometimes I was admitted on account of my tender years; it was all beset with dead men's

skulls, which she said were to put her in mind of mortality, though others in spite to her pretended they were to put tricks upon the living. Her bed was corded with halts malefactors had been hanged in; and she used to say to me, D'ye see these things? I show them as remembrances to those I have a kindness for, that they may take heed how they live, and avoid coming to such an end.

My parents had much bickering about me, each of them contending to have me brought up to their trade; but I, who from my infancy had more gentleman-like thoughts, applied myself to neither. My father used to say to me, "My child, this trade of stealing is no mechanic trade, but a liberal art." Then pausing and fetching a sigh, he went on, "There is no living in this world without stealing. Why do you think the constables and other officers hate us as they do? why do they sometimes banish, sometimes whip us at the cart's tail, and at last hang us up like stiches of bacon?" (I cannot refrain from tears when I think of it, for the good old man wept like a child, remembering how often they had flogged him.) "The reason is, because they would have no other thieves among them but themselves and their gang; but a sharp wit brings us out of all

“ dangers. In my younger days I plied alto-
“ gether in the churches, not out of any religi-
“ ous zeal, and had been long ago carted, but
“ that I never told tales, though they put me
“ to the rack ; for I never confessed but when
“ our holy mother the church commands us.
“ With this business, and my trade, I have made
“ a shift to maintain your mother as decently as
“ I could.” “ You maintain me !” answered my
mother, in a great rage (for she was vexed I
could not learn to be a wizzard), “ it was I that
“ maintained you ; I brought you out of prison
“ by my art, and kept you there with my mo-
“ ney. You may thank the potions I gave
“ you for not confessing, and not your own
“ courage. My good pots did the feat ; and
“ were it not for fear I should be heard in the
“ streets, I would tell all the story, how I got in
“ at the chimney, and brought you out at the
“ top of the house.” Her passion was so high,
that she would not have given over here, had
not the string of a pair of beads broke, which
were all dead men’s teeth she kept for private
uses. I told them very positively I would ap-
ply myself to virtue, and go on in the good way
I had proposed, and therefore desired them to
put me to school, for nothing was to be done
without reading and writing. They approved

of what I said, though they both muttered at it a while betwixt them. My mother, fell to stringing her dead men's teeth, and my father went away, as he said, to trim one, I know not whether he meant his beard or his purse. I was left alone, praising God that he had given me such ingenious parents, and so zealous for my advancement.

CHAP. II.

How I went to School, and what happened to me there.

THE next day my primer was bought, and my schoolmaster bespoke; I went to school, and he received me with a pleasant countenance, telling me I had the looks of a sharp lad, and witty. That he might not seem to be mistaken in his judgment, I took care to learn my lesson well that morning. My master made me sit next to him, and appointed me a monitor every day, because I came first, and went away last, staying behind to run on some errands for my mistress, and thus I gained all their affections. They favored me so much, that all the other boys were envious. I made it my business to keep company with gentlemen's sons,

above all others, but particularly with a son of Don Alonso Coronel de Zunniga: I used to eat my afternoon's luncheon with him, went to his house every holiday, and waited on him upon other days. The other boys, either because I took no notice of them, or that they thought I aimed too high, were continually giving of me nicknames relating to my father's trade. Some called me Mr. Scrape, others Mr. Tickle-Béard. One to excuse his envy would say he hated me, because my mother had suckled two little sisters of his in the night; another, that my father had been sent for to his house to frighten away the vermine, for nothing was safe where he came. Some, as I passed by, cried out, Cat; others, Pufs, Pufs, to signify my clawing descent. Another would say, I threw rotten oranges at his mother when she was carted. Yet for all their backbiting, I praise God my shoulders were broad enough to bear it; and though I was out of countenance, yet I took no notice, but put all up, till one day a boy had the impudence to call me, son of a whore and a witch; he spoke it so plain, that though I had been glad it had been better wrapped up, I took up a stone, and broke his head. Away I went, running as fast as I could to my mother to hide me, telling her all the

story. She said, "It was very well done of you, and like yourself; but you were in the wrong that you did not ask him who told him so." Hearing what she said, and having always had aspiring thoughts, I turned to her, and said, "Mother, all that troubles me is, that some of the standers by told me I had no cause to be disturbed at it; and I did not ask them what they meant, because he was so young that said it." I prayed her to tell me, whether I could have given him the lie with a safe conscience, or whether I was begot in a huddle, by a great many, or was the true son of my father. She smiled, and answered, "God a-mercy, lad! are you so cunning already, you'll be no fool, you have sense enough; you did very well in breaking his head, for such things are not to be said, though never so true." This struck me to the heart, and I was so very much out of countenance, that I resolved, as soon as possible, to lay hold of all I could, and leave my father's house. However, I dissembled; my father went and cured the boy, all was made up, and I went to school again. My master received me in an angry manner, till being told the occasion of the quarrel, his passion was assuaged, considering the provocation given me. Don Alonso de

Zúnniga's son and I were very great all this while, because he had a natural affection for me; and besides, I used to change tops and gigs with him, if mine were better than his; I gave him any thing I had to eat, and never asked for what he had; I bought him pictures, I taught him to wrestle, played at leap frog with him, and was so obliging in all respects, that the young gentleman's parents observing how fond he was of my company, would send for me almost every day to dine and sup, and sometimes to stay all night with him.

It happened one day about Chrillmas, as we were going to school, that a counsellor, called Pontio de Auguirre, passed by; little Don Diego seeing him, bid me call him Pontius Pilate, and run away when I had done. To please my friend, I did so, and the man was so affronted at it, that he scoured after me as hard as he could, with a knife in his hand to stab me, so that I was forced to take sanctuary in my master's house, crying out with might and main. The man was in as soon as I; my master saved me from his doing me any mischief, promising to whip me, and was as good as his word, though my mistress, in consideration of the great service I did her, interceded for me. He bid me untruss, and every lash he gave me, cried, "Will

“ you ever call Pontius Pilate again ? ” I answered, “ No, Sir, ” every time he put the question ; and it was such a warning to me, that dreading the name of Pontius Pilate, the next day, when we were ordered to say our prayers, according to custom, coming to the *belic* (pray observe the innocent cunning) instead of saying he suffered under Pontius Pilate, believing I was never more to name Pilate, I said, He suffered under Pontio de Auguirre. My master burst out a laughing at my simplicity, and to see how I dreaded the lashing ; and embracing me, promised to forgive the two first whippings I should deserve ; which I took as a great favour of fortune, and kindness in him.

To be brief, twelfth tide came, and our master, to divert the boys, and make sport, ordered that there should be a king among us, and we cast lots for that honour among twelve he had appointed for it. I was the lucky person it fell upon, and spoke to my father and mother to provide me fine clothes. When the day came, abroad I went upon a starved poor jade of a horse, that fell down upon his knees at every step, his back looked like a saw, his neck like a camel's, but somewhat longer ; his head like a pig, only it had but one eye, and that moon-blind ; all this plainly showed the knavery of

his keeper, who made him do penance, and fast, cheating him of his provender. Thus I went, swinging from side to side, like a jointed baby, with all the rest of the boys after me, tricked up as fine as so many puppets, till we came into the market-place, the very naming of it scares me; and coming to the herb-women's stalls, the Lord deliver us from them, my horse being half starved, snapped up a small cabbage, which no sooner touched his teeth, but it was down his throat, though, by reason of the length of his neck, it came not into his belly in a long time after. The herb-woman, like the rest of them, was an impudent jade, set up the cry, the others of the trade flocked about her, and among them abundance of the scoundrels of the market; all these fell a pelting the poor king with carrot and turnip tops, rotten oranges, and all the offals of the market. Considering the enemies fore- were all foot, and therefore I ought not to charge them a-horseback, I would have alighted; but my horse received such a shot in the head, that as he went to rear, his strength failing him, we both came down into the kennel. You may imagine what a condition I was in. By this time my subjects, the boys, had armed themselves with stones, and charging the herb-women, broke two of their heads. For my part,

after my fall into the kennel, I was good for little, unless it were to drive all from me with stink and nastiness. The officers coming up, seized two of the herb women and some of the boys, searching them for their weapons, which they took away, for some had drawn daggers they wore for the greater show, and short swords. They came to me, and seeing no weapon about me, because I had taken them off, and put them into a house to be cleaned, with my hat and cloak, one of them asked me for my arms; I answered, that in that filthy condition, I had none but what were offensive to the nose alone. I cannot but acquaint you, good reader, by the by, that when they began to pelt me with the rotten oranges, turnip-tops, &c. my hat being stuck with feathers, as they do the bawds in Spain when they cart them, I fancied they mistook me for my mother, and thought they threw at her, as they had done several times before. This foolish notion being got into my young head, I began to cry out, " Good women, " though I wear feathers in my cap, I am none " of Aldonza Saturno de Rebillo, she is my " mother;" as if they could not perceive that by my shape and face: However, the fright I was in may excuse my ignorance, especially considering the misfortune came so suddenly upon

me. To return to the officer; he would willingly have carried me to prison, but did not, because he could not find a clean place to lay hold of me, for I was all over mire. Some went one way, and some another, and I went directly home from the market place, giving all I met by the way a most hellish perfume. As soon as I got home I told my father and mother all the story, who were in such a passion to see me in that nasty pickle, that they would have beat me. I excused myself the best I could, laying all the blame on the skeleton jade they had provided for me to ride; and finding nothing would appease them, left the house, and went away to see my friend Don Diego, whom I found at home with a broken head, and his parents fully resolved, for this reason, that he should go to school no more. There was I informed, that my steed, finding himself in distress, summoned up all the strength he had to salute his enemies with his heels. but was so weak, that he put out his hips with the effort, and lay in the dirt expiring. Considering that all the sport was spoiled, the mob alarmed, my parents in a rage, my friend's head broken, and my horse dead, I resolved to go no more to school, nor to my father's house, but to stay and wait upon Don Diego, or rather to bear him company, which

his parents were well pleased with, because their son was so taken with me. I wrote to my father and mother, telling them, I had no need to go to school any longer, for though I could not write a good hand, that was no fault, because it was more becoming me, who designed to be a gentleman, to write an ill one; and therefore, from that time, I renounced the school, to save them charges, and their house, that they might have no trouble with me. I acquainted them where, and what post I was in, and that I should see them no more, till they gave me leave.

CHAP. III.

How I went to a Boarding-School, to wait upon Don Diego Coronel.

DON ALONSO resolved to send his son to a boarding-school; both to wean him from his tender keeping at home, and at the same time to ease himself of that care. He was informed there was a master of arts in Segovia, whose name was Cabra, that made it his business to breed up gentlemen's sons; thither he sent his, and me to wait on him. The first Sunday after Lent we were brought into the house of famine, for

it is impossible to express the penury of the place. The master was a skeleton, a mere shot-ten herring, or like a long slender cane, with a little head upon it, and red-haired; so that there needs no more to be said to such as know the proverb, "That neither cat nor dog of that colour are good." His eyes almost sunk into his head, as if he had looked through a perspective glass, or the deep windows in a linen draper's shop; his nose turning up, and somewhat flat, for the bridge was almost carried away with an inundation of a cold rheum, for he never had the pox, because it costs money; his beard had lost its colour for fear of his mouth, which being so near, seemed to threaten to eat it for mere hunger; his teeth had many of them forsaken him for want of employment, or else were banished for being idle liyers; his neck as long as a crane's, with the gullet sticking out so far, as if it had been compelled by necessity to start out for sustenance; his arms withered; his hands like a bundle of twigs, each of them, taken downwards, looking like a fork or a pair of compasses; with long slender legs. He walked leisurely, and whensoever he happened to move any thing faster, his bones rattled like a pair of snappers. His voice was weak and hollow; his beard bushy and long, for he never

trimmed to save charges, though he pretended it was so odious to him to feel the barber's hands all over his face, that he could rather die than endure it. One of the boys cut his hair. In fair weather he wore a thread-bare cap, an inch thick in greafe and dirt, made of a thing that was once cloth, and lined in scurf and dandruff. His cassock, some said, was miraculous, for no man knew what colour it was of; some seeing no sign of hair on it, concluded it was made of frogs skins; others said it was a mere shadow, or a phantom; near at hand it looked somewhat black, and at a distance bluish. He wore no girdle, cuffs nor band; so that his long hair and scanty short cassock made him look like the messenger of death. Each shoe might have served for an ordinary coffin. As for his chamber, there was not so much as a cobweb in it, the spiders being all starved to death. He put spells upon the mice, for fear they should gnaw some scraps of bread he kept. His bed was on the floor, and he always lay upon one side, for fear of wearing out the sheets; in short, he was the superlative degree of avarice, and the very *ne plus* of want. Into this prodigy's hands I fell, and lived under him with Don Diego. The night we came, he showed us our room, and made us a short speech, which was no longer,

out of mere good husbandry. He told us how we were to behave ourselves, and the next morning we were employed till dinner time; thither we went, the masters dined first, and the servants waited. The dining-room was as big as a half peck, five gentlemen eat in it at one table: I looked about for the cat, and seeing none, asked a servant, who was an old stander, and in his leanness bore the mark of the boarding-school, how it came they had none? The tears stood in his eyes, and he said, "What do you talk of cats? Pray who told you that cats loved penance and mortification? Your fat sides show you are a new comer." This, to me, was the beginning of sorrow, but I was worse scared, when I observed that all those who were before us in the house, looked like so many pictures of death. Master Cabra said grace, and sat down, and they eat a meal, which had neither beginning nor end. They brought the broth in wooden dishes, but it was so clear, that a man might have seen to the bottom had it been ten fathom to it. I observed how eagerly they all dived down after a poor single pea that was in every dish. Every sip he gave, Cabra cried, "By my troth there is no dainty like the olla, or boiled meat and broth. Let the world say what it will, all the rest is mere gluttony

“ and extravagancy.” As soon as the words were out of his mouth, he farted out all the porringer of broth, saying, “ This is good for the health, and sharpens the wit.” A curse on thee and thy wit, thought I, and at the same time saw a servant like a walking ghost, and no more substantial, bring in a dish of meat, which looked as if he had picked it off his bones. Among it was one poor stray turnip, at whose sight the master said, “ What, have we turnips to-day, no partridge is, in my opinion, to compare to them. Eat heartily for I love to see you eat.” He gave every one such a wretched bit of mutton, that I believe it all stuck to their nails, and between their teeth, so that no part of it ever went into their bellies. Cabra looked on, and said, “ Eat heartily, for it is a pleasure to me, to see what good stomachs you have.” Pray do but think what a comfort this was for them, that were pining with hunger. When dinner was over, there remained some scraps of bread on the table, and a few bits of flesh and bones in the dish, and the master said, “ Let this be left for the servants; they must dine too; it is not for us to gormandize all.” A vengeance on thee, and may what thou hast can choke thee, thou wretched miser, thought I, what a consernation have you put my guts

into. He gave thanks, and said, " Now let us
" give way to the servants, and do you go use
" some exercise until two of the clock, lest your
" dinner do you harm." I could no longer
forbear laughing for my life, but burst out into
a loud fit. He was very angry, and bid me learn
to behave myself modestly, ripping up two or
three old mouldy sentences, and so went his way.
We sat down, and I seeing such short commons,
and hearing my guns roar for provender, being
cunning and stronger than the rest, clapped both
hands in the dish, as others did, and whipped
down two scraps of bread out of three there
were left, and one skin. The others began to
mutter, and making a noise, in came Cabra,
saying, " Eat lovingly together like brethren,
" since God provides for you, do not fall out,
" for there is enough for you all." This said,
he returned to sun himself, and left us to our-
selves. I declare it, there was one of these ser-
vants, his name Surre, a Biscayner, who had so
absolutely forgot the way and method of eating,
that he put a small bit of crust, which fell to his
share, to his eyes twice, and knew not the third
time how to carry it to his mouth. I asked for
drink; the rest, who had scarce broke their fast,
never thinking of it, and they gave me a dish
with some water, which I had no sooner laid to

my lips, but the sharp-gutted lad I spoke of, snatched it away, as if I had been Tantalus, and that the sitting river he stands in up to the chin. I got up from the table in most sorrowful manner, perceiving I was in a house, where they drank to the guts, but would not permit them to pledge. I had occasion to untruis, though I had not dined, and asked an old stander, for the necessary-house; he answered he knew not where any was, "There is no such thing," said he, "in this house, you may ease yourself anywhere this one time, for you will never have occasion again as long as you stay. I have been here two months, and never did any such thing, after the first day, when I parted with the supper I had eaten at home." It is impossible to express my trouble and concern; and considering how little was like to go into my belly, I durst not, though hard pressed, let go what was there already.

Thus we passed on till night. Don Diego asked me how he should do to persuade his guts that they had dined, for they would not believe it. That house was an hospital of dizzy heads, proceeding from empty stomachs, as others are of surfeits. Supper-time came, for afternoonings were never heard of there; it was much shorter than the dinner, and not mutton, but a

little roasted goat, sure the devil could never have contrived worse. Our starveling Master Cabra said, "It is very wholesome and beneficial to eat light suppers, that the stomach may not be overburdened;" and then he quoted some cursed physician, that was long since in hell. He extolled spare diet, alleging that it prevented uneasy dreams, though he knew that in his house it was impossible to dream of any thing but eating. Our masters and we supped, but in reality none of us supped. We went to bed, and neither Don Diego nor I could sleep one wink all that night, for he lay contriving how to complain to his father, that he might remove him, and I advising him so to do; and at last I said to him, "Pray, Sir, are you sure we are alive, for, to tell you the truth, I have a strong fancy that we were slain in the battle with the herb-women, and are now souls suffering in purgatory, in which case it will be to no purpose to talk of your father's fetching us away, without he has our souls prayed out of this place of punishment." Having spent the whole night in this discourse, we got a little nap towards morning, till it was time to rise; six o'clock struck, Cabra called, and we all went to school; but when I went to dress me, my doublet was two handfuls too big; and my

breeches, which before were close, now hung so loose as if they had been none of my own. My very teeth were already all furred, and looked as yellow as amber; such a wonderful change had one day wrought. When we came to school, I was ordered to decline some nouns, and was so wonderful hungry, that I eat half my words, for want of more substantial diet. Any man will easily believe this, who does but hear what Cabra's man told me, which was, that at his first coming he saw two great Flanders geldings brought into the house, and two days after they went out perfect racers, so light, that the very wind would carry them away; that he saw mastiff dogs come in, and in less than three hours they went out converted into greyhounds: That one Lent, he saw abundance of men, some thrulling their heads, some their feet, and some their whole body, into the porch; and this continued a long time, very many people flocking from all parts to do so; and that he asking one day, what could be the meaning of it, Cabra was very angry, but one in the crowd answered, Some of those people are troubled with chilblains, others with the itch, and others with lice, all which distempers and vermine died as soon as they came into that house, so that they never felt them more. He assured me this was very

true, and I, who was acquainted with the house, believe it, which I am fain to take notice of, lest what I say should be looked upon as an hyperbole.

To return to the school, he set us our lesson, and we conned it, and so we went on in the same course of life I have here delivered, only that our master added bacon in the boiling of his pot, because going abroad one day, he was told, that, to boil meat without bacon, betokened a scandalous race descended either from Moors or Jews. For this reason he provided a small tin case, all full of holes, like a nutmeg-grater, which he opened, and put in a bit of bacon that filled it; then shutting the box close, hung it with a string in the pot, that some relish of it might come through the holes, and the bacon remain for the next day. Afterwards he thought this too great an expence, and therefore for the future only dipped the bacon into the pot. It is easy to guess what a life we led with this sort of diet and usage. Don Diego and I were in such a miserable condition, that since we could find no relief as to eating, after a month was expired, we contrived, at last, not to rise so early in the morning, and therefore resolved to pretend we were sick, but not feverish, because that cheat we thought would be

easily discovered. The head or toothach were inconsiderable distempers; at last we said we had the gripes, and were sick for want of going to stool in three days, believing, that rather than be at a penny charges, our master would apply no remedy. The devil ordered worse than we expected, for Cabra had an old receipt, which descended to him by inheritance from his father, who was an apothecary. As soon as he was told our distemper, he prepared a clyster, and sending for an old aunt of his, threescore and ten years of-age, that served him for a nurse upon occasion, ordered her to give each of us a potion backwards. She began with Don Diego; the poor wretch shrunk up, and the old jade being blind, and her hands shaking, instead of giving him it inwardly, let it fly betwixt his shirt and his back up to his very poll; so that became an outward ornament, which should have served for a lining within. The young man cried out; in came Cabra, and seeing what had happened, ordered I should be served next, and they would come again to Don Diego. I was dressing myself very hastily; but all would not do, for Cabra and others held me, whilst the old woman gave it me; but I, to requite her kindness, returned it all into her face. Cabra was in a rage with me, and said he would

turn me out of his house, for he plainly saw it was all a cheat; but I was not so fortunate. We complained to Don Alonso, and Cabra made him believe we did it out of idleness, because we would not mind our book. Thus all our hopes and entreaties came to nothing; our master took the old woman into the house, to dress the meat, and look after the boarders, turning away his man, because he spied some crumbs of bread on his coat upon a Friday morning. Only God knows how we were plagued with the old woman. She was so deaf, that she heard nothing, but understood by signs, though she was half blind; and such an everlasting prayer, that one day the string of her beads broke over the pot as it was boiling, and our broth came to table sanctified. Some said these are certainly black Ethiopian pease; others cried they were in mourning, and wondered what relation of theirs was dead. Our master happened to bite one of them, and it pleased God he broke his teeth.

On Fridays the old woman would dress us some eggs, but so full of her reverend grey hairs, that they appeared no less aged than herself. It was a common practice with her to dip the fire-shovel into the pot instead of the ladle, and to serve up porrengers of broth stuffed with coals,

vermine, chips, and the hurds of flax she used to spin, all which she threw in to fill up and cram the guts. In this misery we continued till the next Lent, at the beginning of which one of our companions fell sick. Cabra, to save charges, delayed sending for a physician, till the patient was just giving up the ghost, and desired to prepare for another world; then he called a young quack, who felt his pulse, and said, Hunger had been beforehand with him, and prevented his killing that man. These were his last words; the poor lad died, and was buried meanly, because he was a stranger. This struck a terror into all that lived in the house; the dismal story flew all about the town, and came at last to Don Alonso Coronel's ears, who having no other son, began to be convinced of Cabra's inhumanity, and to give more credit to the words of two mere shadows, for we were no better at that time. He came to take us from the boarding-school, and asked for us, though we stood before him; so that finding us in such a deplorable condition, he gave our pinch-gut master some hard words. We were carried away in two chairs, taking leave of our famished companions, who followed us, as far as they could, with their eyes and wishes, lamenting and bewailing, as those do who remain slaves at

Algiers, when their other associates are ransomed.

CHAP. IV.

Don Diego and his Man rescued from the Jaws of Famine, and recovered, are sent to the University of Alcalá; their pleasant Adventure by the way.

WHEN we came to Don Alonso's house, they laid us very gently into two beds, for fear of rattling our bones, they were so bare with starving; then with magnifying glasses, they began to search all about our faces for our eyes, and were a long time before they could find out mine, because I had suffered most, being treated like a servant, and consequently mine was superlative hunger. Physicians were called, who ordered the dust should be wiped off our mouths with fox-tails, as if we had been paintings; and indeed we looked like the picture of death; and that we should be nourished with good broths and light meats, for fear of overloading our weak stomachs. Who can be able to express the rejoicing there was in our guts, the first good soup that we tasted, and afterwards when we came to eat some fowl? All

these things to them were unknown novelties. The doctors gave order, that for nine days nobody should talk in our chamber, because our stomachs were so empty, that the least word returned an echo in them. These and such like precautions used, caused our spirits to return to us in some measure; but our jaws were so tanned and shrivelled up, that there was no stretching of them, and therefore care was taken that they should be every day gently forced out, and, as it were, set upon the last with the bottom of a pestle. In a few days we got up to try our limbs, but still we looked like the shadows of other men, and so lean and pale, as if we were lineally descended from the fathers in the desert. We spent the whole day in praising God for having delivered us out of the clutches of the most inhumane Cabra, and offered up our earnest prayers, that no Christian might ever fall into that miserable thralldom. If ever, when we were eating, we happened to think of the miserable boarding-school table, it made us so hungry, that we devoured twice as much as at any other time. We used to tell Don Alonso, how, when Cabra sat down to table, he would inveigh against gluttony, though he never knew any thing of it in his life; and he laughed heartily, when we informed him, that, in speaking

of the commandment "Thou shalt not kill," he made it extend to partridges and capons, and such other dainties as never came within his doors, and even to killing of hunger, which he certainly counted a heinous sin, and therefore had an aversion against all eating. We were three whole months upon our recovery, and at the end thereof Don Alonso began to think of sending his son to Alcala, to finish his Humanity. He asked me whether I would go, and I thinking I could never be far enough from that inhumane monster of misery and famine, offered to serve his son faithfully, as experience should show. He provided him another servant, in the nature of a steward, to look to him, and give an account of the money he sent for his expences, by bill upon one Julian Merluzza. We put all our equipage into a cart belonging to one Diego Monge; it consisted of a small bed for our master, and a truckle bed to run under it, for me and the steward, whose name was Aranda, five quilts, four pair of sheets, eight pillows, four hangings, a trunk of linen, and other furniture for a house. We went ourselves into a coach in the evening, a little before nightfall, and about midnight came to the ever accursed lone inn of Viveros. The innkeeper was of Moorish race, and a downright

thief; and all my life I never saw cat and dog so peaceable as that day. He received us very lovingly, because he and the carters went shacks, for we travelled so slowly, that they were there before us. He came to the coach-side, gave me his hand to alight, and asked me, "Whether I was going to the university?" I told him I was. He put me into the house, where two sharpers were with some wenches, a curate praying by them, an old covetous shopkeeper endeavouring to spare his supper, and two scoundrel shabby scholars, contriving how to fill their bellies free cost. My master, as being the last comer, and but a boy, said, "Landlord, get what you have in the house for me and two servants." "We are all your servants, Sir," said the sharpers, "and will wait on you. Here, landlord, take notice, this gentleman will satisfy; fetch out all you have in the larder." This said, one of them stepped up to Don Diego, and taking off his cloak, laid it by, saying, "Pray, Sir, sit down and rest you." This puffed me up so full of vanity, that the inn was too little to hold me. One of the damsels said, "What a curious shaped gentleman it is; is he going to his studies? Are you his servant, Sir?" I fancying that every word they said was sincere, answered, "That I and the other

“ were both his servants.” They asked me his name, and it was scarce out of my mouth, before one of the scholars went up to him, with tears in his eyes, and embracing him, as if he had been his brother, said, “ O my dear Don Diego, who would have thought, ten years ago, to have seen you thus: Unhappy man, I am in such a condition that you will not know me.” My master and I were both amazed, and swore we had never seen him in our days. The scholar’s companion stared Don Diego in the face, and said to his friend, “ Is this the gentleman of whose father you told me so many stories; it is extraordinary fortune that we have met him, and know him; he is grown very tall; God bless him.” With this he began to bless himself, and seemed so overjoyed, that any man would have thought we had been brought up together. Don Diego made him many compliments; and as he was asking him his name, out came the innkeeper, and laid the cloth; and understanding the banter, said, “ Let that alone, and talk of it after supper, for the meat will be cold.” One of the sharpers stepped up, and set stools for every body, and an arm-chair for Don Diego; the other of them brought in a dish. The scholars said, “ Do you sup, Sir, and whilst they dress

“ what the house affords for us, we will wait on you at table.” “ God forbid,” answered Don Diego, “ pray, gentlemen, sit down if you please.” The sharpers, though he did not speak to them, readily answered, “ Presently, good Sir; all is not ready yet.” When I saw some invited, and the others invite themselves, my heart was in my mouth, and I dreaded what came to pass; for the scholars laying hold of the salad, which was a good dishful, and looking upon my master, said, “ It would be unreasonable that these ladies should be left supperless, where a gentleman of such quality is; pray, Sir, give them leave to take a bit.” My master, like a true cully; invited them to partake. They sat down, and between the scholars and them there was but one single lettuce of all the salad left in a trice, which last bit Don Diego had; and as the damned student gave it him, he said, “ Sir, you had a grandfather, who was my father’s uncle, that swooned at the sight of a lettuce, he was a man of such an odd disposition.” This said, he tumbled down a brick of bread, and his companion did the like. The damsels had made a great hole in a good loaf; but yet the poor curate eat more than all of them with his eyes and wishes, the sharper bringing in a whole side of

kid roasted, and a dish of pigeons and bacon boiled, took their places at the table, saying to the priest, "Why father, what makes you stand there? draw near and reach a bit, for Don Diego treats us all." No sooner were the words spoken, but he sat down. When my master perceived that they had all intruded upon him, he began to be much concerned. They divided the spoil, giving Don Diego some few bones to pick, the rest the curate and the others devoured. The sharpers said, "Pray, Sir, do not eat too much supper, lest it does you harm;" and the cursed scholar answered, "Besides, Sir, you must begin to practise to be abstemious, considering the life you are to lead at Alcala." I and the other servant prayed heartily that God would put it into their hearts to leave something; and when they had devoured every bit, and the curate was picking the bones over again, one of the sharpers turned about, and said, "God bless us; we have left nothing for the servants; come hither gentlemen. Here, landlord, give them all the house affords; take this pistole to pay for it." Up started immediately my master's confounded imaginary kinsman, I mean the scholar, saying, "With your leave, good Sir, I must tell you, I fear your breeding is not much; it is a sign."

“ you are not acquainted with my cousin . . . he
“ will provide for his own servants and for ours,
“ too, if we had any, as he has done for us.”
“ Be not in a passion, Sir,” replied the other,
“ we did not know so much before.” When I
saw all this fly dissimulation, I began to curse
them, and thought I should never have done.
The cloth was taken away, and they all desired
Don Diego to go to bed. He would have paid
for the supper, and they answered, In the morn-
ing will be time enough. They staid a while
chatting together ; my master asked the scholar
his name, and he answered, Don something Co-
ronel. The devil confound the deceitful dog,
wheresoever he is. Then perceiving that the
gripping shopkeeper was asleep, he said, “ Will
“ you have a little sport, Sir, to make you
“ laugh? Let us put some trick upon this fel-
“ low, who has eaten but one pear upon the
“ road, and is as rich as a Jew.” The sharpers
cried, “ God-a-mercy, Master Licentiate, do so,
“ it is but reason.” With this approbation he
drew near the poor sleeping old fellow, and
slipped a wallet from under his feet, untied it,
and took out a box, all the company flocking
about, as if it had been lawful prize taken in
war. He opened it, and found it full of Lo-
zenges ; all which he took out, and supplied

their place with stones, chips, and any rubbish that came next to hand. Then he eased himself a-top of all that, and over the excrement laid about a dozen of little glittering stones there are among some fine lime in Spain, with which they plaster the outsides of houses, and it glitters in the sun like bits of glass. This done, he shut up the box, and said, I have not done yet, for he has a leather bottle, out of which he poured all the wine, only some little he left in the bottom, and then stuffed it up with tow and wool, and stopped it. The scholar put all again into the wallet, and a great stone into the hood of his travelling coat, and then he and all the rest went to bed, to sleep about an hour or little more.

When it was time to set out, all the company waked and got up, and still the old man slept; they called him, and he could not get up for the weight of the stone that was in his hood. He looked to see what it was, and the innkeeper pretended to quarrel with him, saying, "God is my life, could you pick up nothing else to carry away, father, but this stone. I had been finely served, gentlemen, if I had not discovered it; I value it above an hundred crowns because it is good for the pain in the stomach." The old man swore and banned, that

he had not put it into his hood, the sharpers reckoned up the bill, which came to six crowns; but the best arithmetician in Christendom could never have made out that sum. The scholars asked what service they could do us at Alcala; the reckoning was paid, we breakfasted, and the old man took up his wallet; but for fear we should see what he had in it, and so he might be obliged to distribute any, he untied it in the dark under his great coat, and laid hold of a bit of lime well daubed, which he clapped into his mouth, and going to cranch it with a tooth and a half he had, was like to lose them both. He began to spit, and make faces, what with the pain, and what with the loathsome bit he had put into his mouth. We all went up to him, and the curate among the first, asking, What ailed him? He began to curse and swear, dropped down the wallet, and the scholar came up to him, saying, "Go behind me, Satan, here is the cross." The other opened a breviary, and would persuade him he was possessed, till at last he told what ailed him, and begged they would give him leave to wash his mouth with some wine he had in his leather bottle. They let him go, he opened his bottle, and pouring into a small dish, out came a little wine, so hairy and full of tow, that there was no drink-

ing, or enduring the sight of it. Then the old man fell a raving beyond measure, but seeing all the company burst their sides with laughing, he was fain to grow calm, and get up into the waggon with the sharpers and wenches. The curate and scholars mounted on asses, and we went into the coach. We were scarce gone from the door, before they all began to banter and ridicule us, declaring the trick they had put upon us. The innkeeper cried, " Good master fresh-water scholar, a few of these handfels will make you old and wise." The cursed scholar said, " Pray, cousin, the next time scratch when it itches, and not afterwards." In short, every one had his saying; but we thought best to take no notice, though, God knows, we were quite out of countenance. At length we got to Alcala, and alighted at an inn, where we spent all that day, for we came in at nine in the morning, in reckoning up the particulars of our last supper, but could never make out the account.

CHAP. V.

Our Entrance into Alcala, the Reception we had, paying for our Freedom, and what Tricks they put upon me, as being a New Comer.

TOWARDS the evening, before it was dark, we left the inn, to go to the house that had been hired for us, which was without St. James's Gate, in a court full of abundance of scholars; but in our house there were only three families of us. The owner, or landlord of it, was one of those who believe in God out of complaisance, or only in outward show, such as they vulgarly called Morisco's, because descended from the Moors; for there are abundance of this sort of people, and of those that have great noses, and cannot endure the scent of bacon. Yet I do not by this mean to reflect upon the people of quality, which are there very numerous, and unspotted in blood. The landlord received me with a worse countenance than if I had been an inquisitor; I know not whether he did it to make us respect him the more, or whether it was the nature of the beast, for it is no wonder they should be ill natured who are of such bad principles. We brought in our goods, made the beds, and rested that night. When it was day,

All the scholars in the house came in their shirts to demand entrance-money of my master. He being an utter stranger to that affair, asked me, What it was they would be at? whilst I at the same time, for fear of what might happen, thrust myself between two quilts, with only half my head out, like a tortoise. They demanded a couple of crowns, which were given them; and they set up a hellish cry, singing, "Long live our companion, and let him be admitted into our friendship; let him enjoy all the privileges of a freeman, and be allowed to have the itch, to be greasy, and as hungry as we are." This said, pray observe the privileges; they all tumbled down the stairs, we dressed ourselves, and set out for the schools. My master was conducted by some collegians, his father's friends, and so took his place in the school; but I being to go to another place, went all alone, and began to quake for fear. I had scarce set my foot into the great court, before they all faced me, and began to cry, "A novice." The better to colour the matter, I fell a laughing, as if I had not regarded it; but it availed me not, for eight or nine of them standing about me began to grin and laugh out. I blushed; would to God I had not, for immediately one that was next me clapped his hand to his nose, and step-

ping aside, said, " This Lazarus is not ruled from the dead, he stinks so." Then they all stood off, stopping their noses. I thinking to escape that way, held my nose too, and said, " You are in the right, gentlemen, here is a " great stink." They all burst out a laughing, and getting farther off, gathered about an hundred strong. They began to hawk, and give the alarm with their throats, and by their coughing, and opening and shutting of their mouths, I perceived they were preparing a volley of glanders for me. By this time a brawny bumpkin-scholar, who had got a cold, saluted me with a dreadful one, saying, " Thus I begin." Seeing myself beyond all hope of redress, cried out, I vow to God you shall — I would have spoke out the rest, but there fell such a loathsome shower upon me, that I could not utter a word more. I had covered my face with my cloak, and stood such a fair mark, that they all shot at me; and no doubt but it was worth while to see how they took their aim. By this time I was daubed all over from head to foot; but a sly dog observing that I was covered, and had nothing on my face, came running towards me, crying out, as if he had been in a passion, " Enough; do not murder him." I thinking by their usage that they had really designed it,

Uncovered myself, to see how the case stood, and that very moment the villain, who made all that noise, shot a glander just betwixt my two eyes. Consider what an anguish I was in; the hell-hounds gave such a shout, that it quite amazed me; and I concluded, from their cleansing of their stomachs upon me, that, to save the charge of apothecaries and doctors, they took the advantage of new comers to purge themselves. After all this, they would have necked me as they do rabbits to kill them; but there was no touching me, without carrying off some part of their loathsome bounty, which hung all about my wretched cloak, then turned grey with filth, though it came in black. They left me, looking all over like an old man's spitting-sheet. I went home, though I scarce knew the way; and it was good luck that this happened in the morning, for I met but two or three boys, who, I believe, were good natured, for they only threw half a dozen dirty clouts at me, and went their ways. I got into the house, and the Moorish landlord seeing me, fell a laughing, and made show as if he would have spit upon me; which I dreading, cried out, "Hold, landlord, for I am not the picture of Christ." Would to God I had never said it, for he laid me on several pounds with the weights he had in his hand.

Having got this good help, besides all the ^lrest, though half revenged, I went up, and was a long time before I could find out where to take hold of my cloak or cassock. At last I took them off, hanged them up in a gallery, and laid me down upon the bed.

My master coming in found me asleep, and not knowing of my loathsome disaster, was in a passion, and fell a tugging me by the hair so furiously, that had I not waked immediately, he had made me bald before my time. I started up, crying out, and complaining, and he still more passionate, said, is this the service I am to expect from you, Paul! I must turn a new card. This went to my heart, and I answered, " You
" are a great comfort to me, Sir, in my afflictions; do but see what a condition that cloak
" and cassock are in, which have served for
" handkerchiefs to the filthiest noses, and spitting-sheets to the foulest throats that ever
" poisoned clean linen." This said, I fell weeping; which he perceiving, believed me, looked for the cassock, and seeing it, took pity on me, and said, " Paul, look out sharp, and
" take care of yourself, for you have no father
" or mother to take your part here." I told him all that had befallen me, and he ordered me to strip, and go to my chamber, where four

servants of the other lodgers in the house lay. I went to bed and slept, and being refreshed with that and a good supper, I found myself as well as if nothing had happened to me. But when misfortunes begin to fall, there is such a series of them linked together, as if they would never have an end. The other servants came to bed, who all saluted and asked me, Whether I was sick, and what made me so soon a-bed? I told them the whole story; and immediately, as if they had been innocence itself, they began to bless themselves, and said, "Was there ever such wickedness acted? This would not be tolerated among infidels." Another cried, "The proctors are in the fault, that they do not take care to prevent it. Shall you know them again?" I answered, I should not, and thanked them for the kindness they seemed to show me. This discourse held till they stripped, went to bed, put out the candle, and I fell asleep, as if I had been with my mother and brothers. It was about twelve of the clock, I believe, when one of them waked me, roaring out in a dismal manner, "Help, Help, they kill me, thieves!" At the same time there was a noise in his bed of talking and lashes. I held up my head, and said, "What is the matter there?" As soon as ever I uncovered myself, they laid

me on the back with mighty cat and nine-tails. I cried out, and would have got up; the other complained as much as I, but they only flogged me. I called out to God for vengeance, but the lashes fell so thick upon me, they having pulled all the clothes off me, that I had no other refuge but to creep under the bed. I did so, and immediately the other three, who seemed to sleep, began all to roar out, and I hearing the lashes still, concluded that some stranger scoured us all. In the meanwhile the hell-hound that was next me, skipped into my bed. This done the lashes ceased, and all four of them got up, crying out amain, "It is a great villany, and not be endured." Still I lay under my bed, whining like a dog that is pinched in a door, and shrinking myself all up, as if I had been drawn together by the cramp. The others made as if they had shut the door; then I crept out, got into my bed again, and asking, whether any of them was hurt, they all complained bitterly. I lay down, covered myself up warm, and fell asleep again; and happening to tumble about in my sleep, when I waked, I found myself all daubed up to my very neck. They all got up, and I pleaded the flogging for an excuse to lie a-bed. The devil himself could not turn me from one side. I was full of con-

fusion, considering whether the fright and disorder had occasioned my committing that beastliness, or whether I did it in my sleep. In short I was innocent and guilty at the same time, and knew not what excuse to make for myself. My chamber-fellows drew near to me, complaining, and slyly asked me how I did; I answered, I was very ill; for I had been cruelly lashed; and inquired of them, What the meaning of it could be? They replied, "We will answer for it, who-soever it was shall not carry it to heaven, nor hell; for the cunning man will tell us all; but waving that, let us see whether you are not hurt, for you made a piteous complaint." So saying, they went about to take off the bed-clothes, to expose me. By this time my master came in, saying, "Shall I never make any good of you, Paul? It is eight of the clock, and you are a-bed still. Rise, you shameless scoundrel." The knaves, the better to impose upon me, told Don Diego the whole story, and desired him to let me rest; but one of them added, "If you will not believe me, Sir, let us see, brother;" and then he laid hold of the bed-clothes to uncover me. I held fast with teeth and hands, for fear of discovering the filthy secret; and when they found that way would not do, one of them cried, "Ads bobs, what a stink

“ is here.” Don Diego said so too, because it was matter of fact ; and then they all began to look about the room, whether there was ever a close-stool, or other filth, saying, there was no enduring of the place ; and one of them added, “ We shall have a fine time of it, to study in “ this room.” They looked into the beds, and removed them all, to see under, and then said, “ Doubtless there is something under Paul’s bed, “ let us remove him into one of ours, and look “ there.” I perceiving this was like to be unavoidable, and that they were just going to lay hands on me, pretended I had a fit of the falling-sickness, laid about me on all hands, and made strange faces. They understanding the cheat, took the faster hold of me, crying, “ What a “ pity it is.” Don Diego held and pulled by my middle finger, accounted a help in that distemper ; and so at length, between them all five they raised me up ; and when they laid open the sheets, all smeared and daubed from the head to the feet, they burst out into such a loud laughter, that the room echoed. “ Poor lad,” cried the impudent scoundrels, whilst I pretended to be in a swoon, “ pull him hard, Sir, by “ that middle finger ;” and my master thinking he did me some signal service, tugged till he put it out of joint. The others proposed cramping

my thighs, to fetch me to myself, saying, "Alas, poor lad, no doubt but he befouled himself just now when the fit came upon him." It is impossible to express the anguish I was in, what with shame, what with my finger that was dis-jointed, and what with the dread of being cramped. At length, fearing they would really put that villany in execution, for they had really put cords about my thighs, I made as if I came to myself; yet I was not so quick, but that the rogues being knavishly bent, had whipped the cords about my thighs, and tugged so hard, that they sunk them an inch into my flesh. Then they left me, crying, "Bless us, what a puny creature you are." I cried for mere vexation, and they archly said, "Hold your peace, your betraying yourself is the least concern, your health is all." This done, they washed me, laid me in the bed again, and went their way. Being left alone, I lay and considered, that what I had endured in one day at Alcala, was worse than all my sufferings under Cabra at the boarding-school. At noon I dressed me, cleaned my cloak and cassock the best I could, washing it like an old clout, and waited for my master, who, when he came, asked me, "How I did?" All the family dined, and so did I, though I eat but little, having but an indifferent stomach at

that time, and after dinner we all met to chat in an open gallery. The other servants, when they had sufficiently bantered me, discovering the trick they had put upon me, laughed heartily: I was worse out of countenance than before, and said to myself, "Look to yourself, Paul, stand upon your guard." I resolved to begin a new course of life; we were all made friends, and from that day forwards lived as lovingly in the house together, as if we had been all one mother's children, and no man disturbed me any more at the schools, or public places.

CHAP. VI.

Of the wicked Old Housekeeper, and the first knavish pranks I played at Alcalá.

WHEN you are at Rome, do as they do at Rome, says the proverb, and it is well said. I took it so seriously into consideration, that I fully resolved to play the knave among knaves, and to outdo them all if possible. I know not whether I succeeded as I designed, but I am sure I used all my endeavours. In the first place, I made a law, that it should be no less

than death for any pigs to come into our house, or for any of our old housekeeper's chickens to run out of the yard into our room. It happened one day, that two of the cleverest porkers, that ever my eyes beheld, slipped into our dominions; I was then at play with the other servants, and hearing them grunt, said to one of my companions, "Go see who it is that grunts in our house;" he went and brought word they were two swine. No sooner had I heard these words, but I went out in a passion, saying, "It was a great deal of impudence in them to grunt in other people's houses." Then clapping the door to, in the same heat of blood, I run my sword into the throats of them both, and then we cut off their heads. To prevent their cry being heard abroad, we all set up our throats, roaring as loud as possibly we could, as if we had been singing, and so they gave up the ghost among us. We paunched them, fived the blood, and by the help of our straw bed, half singed them in the yard; so that when our masters came home all was over, though after an indifferent manner; only the puddings were not yet made, which was not for want of expedition, for we had left half of the filth in the guts, merely to save loss of time. Don Diego and our steward were told the story, and flew

into such a passion against me, that the other lodgers, who were ready to burst with laughing, thought fit to take my part. Don Diego asked me, what I could say for myself, if the thing should be found out, and I should be taken up for it? I answered, I would plead hunger, which is the common sanctuary of all scholars; and if that was not enough, I would urge, that seeing them come into the house without knocking, as if they had been at home, I thought they had been our own. They all laughed at my plea, and Don Diego said, "By my troth, Paul, you begin to understand your trade." It was very well worth observing the difference between my master and me, he so sober and religious, and I so arch and knavish, so that the one was a foil to the other, and served to set off either his virtue or vice. Our old housekeeper was pleased to the very heart, for we both played our parts, and had conspired against the larder. I was caterer, and a mere Judas in my employment, and ever since retained an inclination to cribbing and stealing. The meat always wasted in the old jade's keeping, and she never dressed wedder-mutton when she could get ewe or goat; besides, she picked the flesh off the bones before she boiled them, so that the dishes served up looked as if the cattle had died of a

consumption ; and the broth was so clear, that, had it been consolidated, it might have passed for crystal ; only now and then, for change, that the soup might look a little fat, she clapped in a few candles ends. When I was by, she would say to my master, " In troth, Sir, Paul is the best servant in Spain, bating his unluckiness ; but that may well enough be borne with, because he is honest. He buys the best the market affords." I gave the same character of her, and so we put upon the whole house. If there was any store of coals, bacon, or oil, laid in, we stole half of it, and some while after would say, Pray, gentlemen, retrench your expences a little, for if you go on at this rate, you had need have a mint of money ; the coals or the oil is spent, but no wonder at the rate that you use it ; you had best order more to be brought in. Sir, give Paul the money, and you will have a better account of it. Money was accordingly given me, and we sold them the other half we had stole, and half of what we brought, and that was in full.

If ever I happened to buy any thing in the market at the real value, then the old house-keeper and I would pretend to fall out and quarrel, and she seeming to be in a passion, would say, " Do not tell me, Paul, that this is

“ a pennyworth of salad.” Then I would seem to cry, and make a great deal of noise, went to complain to my master, and persuaded him to send the steward to inquire, that the old woman might be convinced, who still scolded on designedly. The steward went and found as I said; by which means both master and steward were imposed upon, and had the better opinion of me for my honesty, and of the housekeeper for her care. Don Diego being thus fixed in his good opinion of me, used to say to her, “ Would to God Paul were otherwise as virtuous as he is honest ; I see plainly he is as trusty as you represent him.” Thus we held them in ignorance, and sucked them like horse leeches. I do not at all doubt, reader, but you wonder how much we might cheat them of at the year’s end ; the sum was certainly considerable, yet I suppose we were not obliged to make restitution, for the old woman never missed going to church daily, yet I never saw any disposition in her to restore the least part ; nor did I perceive any scruple of conscience she made of it, though she was so great a saint. She always wore a pair of beads about her neck, so big, that the wood of them might have served to roast a fir-loin of beef. It was all hung with crosses, medals, pictures, and other trinkets, on all which

she said she prayed every night for her benefactors. She had a catalogue of an hundred and odd saints that were her patrons; and in truth she had need of no less help to bear her out of all her wickedness. Her chamber was over my master's, where she was longer at prayers than a fanatical preacher is in his sermon; and all in Latin, such as it was, for neither mortals on earth, nor angels in heaven, could understand it, which she did to appear the more innocent and simple; but we were ready to split our sides with laughing. Besides these she had many other excellent qualifications, for she was an extraordinary messenger of love, and contriver of pleasure, which is the same as a bawd; but her excuse to me was, that it came to her by descent, as the kings of France had the gift of curing the king's evil. You will imagine perhaps that we always lived in unity; but who does not know that the two best friends, if they are covetous, and live together, will endeavour to cheat one another, and I took care to let slip no opportunity.

The old woman kept hens in the yard, and had about a dozen or fourteen well grown chickens, which made my teeth water to be at them, for they were fit to be served up to any gentleman's table. It happened one day, that

she going to feed them, as the common custom is in Spain, called them together, crying, Pio, Pio, Pio. This she repeated very often, and I being upon the catch, cried out as loud as she, "As God shall save me, nurse, I wish I had seen you kill a man, or clip and coin, for then I might have kept your counsel, rather than do as you have done; and now I must be forced to discover it. The Lord have mercy upon us both." She seeing me act all that concern and disorder, was somewhat startled, and said, "Why, what have I done, Paul? If you are in jest, do not perplex me any longer. What do you mean by jesting?" said I; "a curse on it, I cannot possibly avoid giving information to the inquisition, else I shall be excommunicated." "The inquisition," quoth she, trembling like a leaf on a tree, "Why, have I committed any crime against religion? Why, there's the case," answered I; "don't you think to dally with the inquisitors, you had better own you were in the wrong, that you spoke like a fool, eat your words, and not deny the blasphemy and irreverence." She replied in a great consternation, "But tell me, Paul, will they punish me if I recant;" "No," said I, "for then they will only absolve you." "Then I recant," quoth she, "but do you tell me what it is I am to recant, for I know nothing

“ of it as I hope for mercy.” “ Bless me,” replied I, “ Is it possible you should be so dull, as “ not to reflect that, but I don’t know how to “ express it, the disrespect was so great, that I “ am afraid to repeat it. Don’t you remember “ you called the chickens Pio, Pio, and Pius is “ the name of several popes, who are Christ’s “ vicars upon earth, and heads of the church? “ Now, do you consider whether that be any “ trifling sin?” She stood as if she had been thunder-struck, and after a while cried, “ ’Tis “ true I said so, Paul, but may I be curs’d if I “ did it with any ill design. I recant; do you “ consider whether some means may not be “ found to avoid informing against me; for I “ shall die if they get me into the inquisition.” “ Provided you will take your oath,” answered I, “ on the holy altar, that you did it not with “ any ill intent, I may, upon that assurance, “ forbear impeaching you; but then you must “ give me those two chickens that fed when “ you were calling them by that most sanctified “ name of the popes, that I may carry them to “ an officer of the inquisition for him to burn “ them, for they are defiled; and in the next “ place, you must swear positively never to be “ guilty of the like again. This you must do “ now, and to morrow I’ll swear.” For the

better fixing of this notion in her head, I went on, "The worst of it is, Tabitha," (for that was her name); "that I shall be in danger; for the inquisitor will ask whether I am not the person, and may put me to trouble. Do you e'en carry them yourself, for I am afraid." "For the Lord's sake," cried she, "Paul, take pity on me, and do you carry them; there is no danger of your coming to any harm." I made her court me a long while, and at last, though it was the thing I aimed at, I suffered myself to be persuaded. I took the chickens, hid them in my chamber, made show as if I went abroad, and came in again, saying, "It has fallen out better than I expected; the cunning officer would fain have come after me to see the woman, but I gave him the slip curiously, and did my business." She hugged and kissed me, and gave me another chicken for my pains, which I carried to his companions, had them all dressed at the cook's, and eat them with my fellow-servants. Don Diego and the housekeeper came to hear of the trick, and all the family made excellent sport with it. The old woman had like to have fretted herself to death for mere vexation, and was a thousand times in the mind, for revenge, to discover all my cheats, but that she was as deep in the dirt

as I was in the mire. Being thus at variance with the old woman, and no way now left to put upon her, I contrived new ways to play my pranks, and fell to that the scholars call snatching and shoplifting, at which sport I had many pleasant adventures.

One night, about nine of the clock, at which time there are but few people abroad, passing through the great street, I spied a confectioner's shop open, and in it a frail of raisins upon the counter. I whipped in, took hold of it, and set a running; the confectioner scoured after me, and so did several neighbours and servants. Being loaded, I perceived, that though I had the start, they would overtake me, and therefore turning the corner of the street, I clapt the frail upon the ground, sat down upon it, and wrapping my cloak about my leg, began to cry out, holding it with both hands, "God forgive him, he has trod upon me, and crippled me." They heard what I said, and when they came up, I began to cry, "For the Lord's sake pity the lame, I pray God you may never be lame." They came to me, panting, and out of breath, and said, "Friend, did you see a man run this way?" "He is before you," answered I, "for he trod upon me." With this they started again, and vanished. I was left;

alone, carried my frail home, and told the story, which they would not believe, though they highly applauded the ingenuity ; for which reason I invited them to see me steal a box of sweetmeats another night. They came, and observing that all the boxes were so far within the shop, that there was no reaching them, concluded the thing was impracticable, especially because the confectioner having heard what had happened to the other, was upon his guard. However, I went on, and drawing my sword, which was a stiff tuck, about a dozen paces short of the shop, run on, and when I came up to the door, I cried out, " You are a dead man," and made a strong pass just before the confectioner's breast, who dropt down, calling for help, and my sword run clear through a box of sweetmeats, which I drew out with it, and carried it off. They were all amazed at the contrivance, and ready to burst with laughing, to hear the confectioner bid the people search him, for he was certainly wounded, and knew the other was a man he had a falling out with ; but when he turned about, the other boxes being disordered by the pulling out of that one, he discovered the cheat, and fell a blessing himself, as if he would never have done. The truth of it is, I never ate any thing that pleased me so well.

My companions used to say, I could maintain the family with what I lifted, which is only a modest term for stealing. Being then but a boy, and hearing myself commended for these knavish pranks, it encouraged me to commit more. I used to bring home my girdle hung all round with little pitchers, which I stole from nuns, begging some water to drink of them; and when they turned it out in their wheel, I went off with the mugs, they being shut up, and not able to help themselves; so that it became a fashion not to give out any thing without a pledge for the vessel.

After this I promised Don Diego and his companions, that I would one night disarm the round. The night was appointed, and we set out upon the exploit. I went foremost with another servant of our family, and as soon as I discovered the watch, went up as if I had been in a great fright, saying, "Is it the round?" They answered, "It was." Then said I, "Is the governor here?" They replied, "He was." Then I kneeled down, and said, "Sir, It is in your power to do me right, to revenge my wrong, and to do the public a great piece of service; be pleased to hear a word or two I have to communicate in private, if you desire to secure some notorious criminals." He step-

ped aside, and some of his officers were laying hands on their swords, and others taking out their rods of authority, whilst I said, "Sir, I am come from Seville, in pursuit of six of the most notorious malefactors in the world; they are all thieves and murderers, and among them is one that killed my mother, and a brother of mine, without any provocation, but to exercise his barbarity. This is proved upon him, and they all come, as I heard them say, with a French spy; and by what I can further guess from their words, he is sent (then I lowered my voice) by Antony Perez." At these words the governor gave a skip, and cried, "Where are they?" "They are, Sir," said I, "in a bawdy-house; do not stay, good Sir, the souls of my mother and brother will requite you with their prayers, and the king will reward you." He said very earnestly, "Good God! let us lose no time, follow me all of you, and give me a target." I took him aside again, and added, "Sir, the whole business will be spoiled, if you do so; the only way to do it, is, for them all to go in without swords, and one by one, for they are above in the rooms, and have pistols, and as soon as they see any come with swords, knowing that none can wear them but officers of justice, they will be sure to fire. It is bet-

“ter only to go in with your daggers, and then
“you may secure them behind, for we are
“enough of us.” The governor being eager to
secure them at any rate, approved of my con-
trivance. By this time we were come near the
place, and the governor thus instructed by me,
ordered them all to hide their swords in a field
there is just before the house under the grass.
They did so, and went on. I had already in-
structed my companion, that as soon as ever
they laid them down, he should seize them, and
make the best of his way home. He did so, and
when they were all going into the house, I stayed
out the last; and as soon as they were entered,
being followed by several people they picked
up by the way, I gave them the slip, and turned
short into a narrow lane that comes out near
La Victoria, running all the way as swift as a
greyhound. When the round was all in the
house, and found none there but scholars and
scoundrels, which is all one, they began to look
about for me, and not finding me, suspected it
was some trick put upon them. Being thus dis-
appointed, they went to take their swords, but
there was no sign of them. It is impossible to
express what pains the governor, attended by
the vice-chancellor of the university, took that
night. They searched all the town to the very

beds, and when they came to ours, I was in bed, with a nightcap on, and close covered; for fear of being known, a candle lighted in one hand, and a crucifix in the other, with a sham priest praying by me; and all the rest of my companions on their knees about the bed. The vice-chancellor, with all his officers, came in, and seeing that spectacle, went out again, supposing no such prank could be played by any there. They made no search, but the vice-chancellor prayed by me, and asked whether I was speechless; they answered, I was; and so away they went, in despair of making any discovery. The vice-chancellor swore he would deliver up the offender, if he could find him; and the governor vowed he would hang him, though he were the son of a grandee of Spain. I got up, and this prank makes sport at Alcala to this very day. To avoid being tedious, I omit giving an account of my robbing in the open market, as if it had been on a mountain; not a box or case escaped me, but I had it home, and kept the house in fuel all the year; and as for the apple-women, nothing was ever safe in their stalls or standings, for I had declared perpetual war against them, on account of the affront put upon me when I was king at Segovia. I pass by the contributions I raised on the fields of

beans, vineyards, and orchards, all about that part of the country. These and the like practices gained me the reputation of a sharp unlucky fellow among all people. The young gentlemen were so fond of me, that I had scarce leisure to wait upon Don Diego, whom I honoured as he deserved, for the great kindness he bore me.

CHAP. VII.

How I received News of my Father's Death, parted from Don Diego, and what Course of Life I resolved on for the future.

AT length Don Diego received a letter from his father, and with it one for me, from an uncle of mine, whose name was Alonso Ramplon, a man of a virtuous disposition, and very well known in Segovia, as being the finisher of the law, and for four years last past, the execution of all its determinations went through his hands. In short, to speak plain, he was the executioner or hangman; but such a clever fellow at his business, that it would not vex a man to be hanged by him, he did it so neatly. This worthy person wrote to me from Segovia to Alcalá, as follows

“ *My Dear PAUL,*

“ THE great affairs of this employ-
“ ment, in which it has pleased his majesty to
“ place me, have been the occasion of my not
“ writing to you before ; for if there be any
“ thing to find fault with in the king’s service,
“ it is the great trouble and attendance it re-
“ quires ; which, however, is in some measure
“ requited by the honour of being his servant.
“ It troubles me to be forced to send you dis-
“ agreeable news ; but your father died eight
“ days ago, with as much bravery and resolu-
“ tion as ever man did ; I speak of my own
“ knowledge, as having trussed him up myself.
“ The cart became him as well as if it had been
“ a chariot, and all that saw the rope about his
“ neck, concluded him as clever a fellow as ever
“ was hanged. He looked up all the way he
“ went at the windows, very much unconcern-
“ ed, courteously bowing to all the tradesmen,
“ that left their shops to gaze at him, and turn-
“ ed up his whiskers several times. He desired
“ the priests that went to prepare him for death,
“ not to be too eager, but to rest and take a
“ breathing-time, extolling any remarkable ex-
“ pressions they used. Being come to the triple
“ tree, he presently set his foot on the ladder,
“ and went up it nimbly, not creeping on all-

“ four as others do ; and perceiving that one of
“ the rounds of it was cracked through, he turn-
“ ed to the officers attending, and bid them get
“ it mended for the next that came, because all
“ men had not his spirit. I cannot express how
“ much his person and carriage was applauded.
“ At the top of the ladder he sat down, set his
“ clothes handsomely about him, took the rope,
“ and clapped the noose to his ear, and then per-
“ ceiving the Jesuit was going to preach to him,
“ he turned to him, and said, Father, I accept of
“ the will for the deed, let us have a few staves
“ of a psalm, and have done quickly, for I hate
“ to be tedious. This was done accordingly ; he
“ charged me to put on his cap a little to one
“ side, and to wipe his flaver, which I did ; and
“ then he swang, without shrinking up his legs,
“ or making ugly faces ; but kept such sedate-
“ nefs in his countenance, that it was a pleasure
“ to behold him. I quartered him out, and left
“ the several parts on the highways ; God knows
“ what a trouble it is to me, to see him there
“ daily treating the crows and ravens ; but I
“ suppose the pastry cooks hereabouts will soon
“ ease us of that sad spectacle, burying him in
“ their minced pies. I cannot give you a much
“ better account of your mother ; for, though still
“ living, she is a prisoner in the inquisition at

“Toledo, because she would not let the dead
“rest in their graves. They give out, that every
“night she used to salute a great he-goat, kif-
“sing him under the tail. In her house were
“found as many arms, legs, and heads, as would
“have stocked a charnel-house; and she reckon-
“ed it one of her smallest abilities to counterfeit
“virgins, and solder cracked maidenheads. They
“say she would fly up a chimney, and ride fast-
“er upon a broom-staff, than another can upon
“the best Andalusian horse; I am sorry she dis-
“graces us all, and me more particularly, as
“being the king’s officer, and such kindred does
“not become my post. Dear child, here are
“some goods of your father’s, that have been
“concealed, to the value of four hundred du-
“cats: I am your uncle, and all I have is yours.
“Upon sight hereof, you may come away hi-
“ther, for your knowledge in Latin and rhe-
“toric, will qualify you to make you an excel-
“lent hangman. Let me have your answer
“speedily, and till then God keep you, &c.”

I must confess, I was much troubled at this fresh disgrace, and yet, in some measure, I was glad of it, for the scandalous lives of parents, make their greatest misfortunes a comfort to their children. I went away hastily to Don Diego,

who was then reading his father's letter, in which he ordered him to leave the university, and return home, -but not to take me with him, because of the account he had received of my unluckiness. He told me he must be gone, and how his father commanded him to part with me, which he was sorry for; and I was so much more. He added, he would recommend me to another gentleman, his friend, to serve him. I smiled, and answered, " Sir, the case is altered, " I have other designs in my head, and aim at " greater matters, so that I must take another " course; for though hitherto I was at the foot " of the ladder, in order to mount, you must " understand that my father has got up to the " top of it." With this I told how bravely he had died, at his full stretch; how he was carved out, and served up as a feast to the birds of the air. That my good uncle the executioner, had sent me the whole account, and acquainted me with my mammy's confinement; for I could be plain with him, because he knew all my pedigree. He seemed to be much concerned, and asked how I intended to bestow myself. I informed him with all my resolutions, and so the very next day he went away for Segovia, very melancholy, and I stayed in the house, without taking the least notice of my misfortune. I

burned the letter, for fear it might be dropped, and somebody read it, and began to provide for my journey to Segovia, designing to take possession of what was my due, and know my kindred, that I might shun them.

CHAP. VIII.

My journey from Alcala to Segovia, and what happened by the way till I came to Rejas, where I lay that Night.

AT length the day came when I left the sweetest life I have ever known since. I cannot express how much it troubled me to leave so many friends and dear acquaintance, for they were very numerous. I sold what little I had got underhand, to bear my charges on the way; and with some tricks and sleights of hand, made up about forty crowns, hired a mule, and left my lodging, where I had nothing to leave behind. The Lord alone knows what a hue and cry there was after me; the shoemaker roared for the shoes he had trusted me with; the old housekeeper scolded for her wages; the landlord fretted for his rent. One cried, My-heart always misgave that I should be so served; another said, They were much in the right who told me that this fellow was a cheat.

In short, I was so generally beloved, that I left half the town in tears for me when I came away, and the other half laughing at those that bemoaned themselves. I diverted myself with these thoughts along the road, when having passed through the town of Torote, I overtook a man riding on a he-mule, with a pannel. He talked to himself very hastily, and was so wrapt in imagination, that he did not perceive me, though I was close by his side. I saluted him, and he returned the courtesy; then I asked which way he was travelling; and after a few such questions and answers had passed between us, began to discourse about the Turks coming down, and the king's forces. Then he began to lay a scheme for recovering of the Holy Land, and the taking of Algiers; by which discourse I perceived that he was a politic, projecting madman. We went on with our dialogue as became two scoundrels, and skipping from one subject to another, fell last upon Flanders. There I hit his vein, for he fetched up a deep sigh, and said, "That country has cost me more than it has done the king; for I have been upon a project about these fourteen years, which were it not impracticable, as it is, would have set all right there long ago." "What can that be," answered I, "which is so

“ convenient and useful, and yet at the same
“ time impracticable, and not to be put in exe-
“ cution.” “ Who told you,” replied he very
hastily, “ that it cannot be put in execution?
“ It can be executed, for its being impracticable
“ is another matter ; and were it not for fear of
“ being troublesome, I would tell you what it
“ is ; but it will all out ; for I design very sud-
“ denly to print it, with some other small works
“ of mine, among which I propose to the king
“ two several methods for recovering Ostend.”
I entreated him to acquaint me with them ; and
he pulling some papers out of his pocket, show-
ed me a draught of the enemy’s works, and of
ours, and said, “ Sir, you plainly see that all this
“ difficulty lies in this inlet of the sea ; now, my
“ contrivance is to suck it dry with sponges,
“ and so to remove that obstacle.” This wild
notion made me burst into a loud fit of laugh-
ter, and he looking me earnestly in the face,
went on, “ I never showed it to any body but
“ has done the same as you do, for they are all
“ mightily pleased with it.” “ Truly,” replied
I, “ it is an extraordinary pleasure and satisfac-
“ tion to me to be acquainted with a design so
“ new and reasonable ; but, Sir, be pleased to
“ consider that when you have once sucked up
“ the water that is in it, the sea will throw in

“ more.” “ The sea will do no such thing,” answered he, “ for I have examined it very nicely ; besides, that I have found out an invention to sink the sea twelve fathom all about there.” I durst not make any objection, for fear he should say he had a project to draw down the sky to us. In all my days I never met with such a madman. He told me, that Juanelo, a famous engineer, who brought water from the river Tagus, up a vast hill, to serve the city Toledo, had done nothing ; for he was now contriving to bring the whole river up to that city, a much easier way ; and when he came to explain the method, it was to be by a spell ; pray do but mind whether ever such follies were heard of in the world ; but he went on, and added, “ Yet I do not design to put this in execution, unless the king will first fettle a good estate upon me, and knight me, for I am capable enough of that honour, because I have good testimonials of my gentility.” This rambling wild discourse lasted us to Torrejon, where he stayed to see a kinswoman. I went on very well pleased, and laughing heartily at the projects he spent his time in.

I had not gone far before I spied at a distance a mule loose, and a man by her a-foot, who looking into a book, drew some lines, and

measured them with a pair of compasses. He leaped and skipped about from side to side, and now and then laying one finger upon the other, made several extravagant motions. I must confess, that stopping at a good distance some time to observe him, I at first concluded he was a conjurer, and was almost afraid to go on. At last I resolved to venture, and drawing near, he spied me, shut his book, and going to mount, his foot slipped out of the stirrup, and he fell. I helped him up, and he said, "I took not the due proportion in rising, to make the half circumference of mounting." I did not understand what he meant, but presently guessed what he was, for a more extravagant distracted man was never born of a woman. He asked whether I was going to Madrid in a direct line, or took a circumflex road? Though I did not understand him, yet I answered, That by circumflex. Next he asked me whose sword that was I had by my side? and having answered it was mine, he viewed it, and said, "That bar ought to be longer, to ward off the cuts that are made upon the centre of the thrusts." And thus he went on, sputtering out such a parcel of cramp words, that I was fain to ask him what his profession was? He told me he was a solid master of the noble science of de-

fence, and would make it good upon any ground in Spain. I could not forbear laughing, and answered; By my troth, Sir, I rather took you for a conjurer, when I saw you describing circles, and making such antic motions in the field. "The reason of that," replied he, "was because there occurred to me a thrust in quart, fetching the greater compass, to engage my adversary's sword, and killing him before he can say his soul is his own, that he may not discover who did it; and I was then reducing of it to mathematical rules." "Is it possible," said I, "that the mathematics should be concerned in that affair?" "Not only the mathematics," quoth he, "but divinity, philosophy, music, and physic." "I do not question it as to the last," said I, "since that art aims at killing. Do not make a jest of it," continued he, "for I will now teach you an excellent guard, and at the same time you shall lay on the great cuts, which shall contain the spiral lines of the sword." "I do not understand one word of all you say," answered I. And he again, "Why, here you have them in this book, which is called, The Wonders of the Sword. It is an excellent one, and contains prodigious things; and to convince you of it, at Rejas, where we shall lie to night, you shall see me

“perform wonders with two spits; and you need not question, but that whosoever reads this book, will kill as many as he pleases.” “Either that book teaches men how to make plagues,” replied I, “or it was writ by some doctor of phyfic.” “What do you mean by a doctor,” replied he, “he is an extraordinary wise man, and I could find in my heart to say more.”

We held on this ridiculous discourse till we came to Rejas, and went into an inn; but as we were alighting, he called out to me as loud as he could, to be sure first to form an obtuse angle with my legs, and then reducing them to parallel lines, to come perpendicularly to the ground. The landlord seeing me laugh, did so too, and asked me, “Whether that gentleman was an Indian, that he spoke such an unknown tongue.” I thought I should have died with laughing between them; but he presently went up to the host, and said, “Pray, Sir, lend me a couple of spits to make two or three angles, and I will restore them immediately.” “Lord bless me, Sir,” answered the host, “give me the angles, and my wife will roast them in a trice, though they are a sort of birds I never heard the names of before.” “They are no birds,” replied the other; and

turning to me, added, " Pray, Sir, do but observe the effects of ignorance. Let me have the spits, for I want them only to fence with, and perhaps you will see me do that to-day; which may be worth more to you than all you have got in your life." In fine, the spits were in use, and we were fain to take up with two long ladles. Never was any thing so ridiculous seen in this world. He gave a skip, and said, " This fally gains me more ground, and puts by my adversary's sword; now I make my advantage of the remis motion to kill in the natural way; this should be a cut, and this a thrust." He came not within a mile of me, but danced round with his ladle; now I standing still all the while, all his motions looked as if he were fencing with a pot that is boiling over the fire. Then he went on, saying, " In short, this is the true art, not like the drunken follies of fencing-masters, who understand nothing but drinking." The words were scarce out of his mouth, before a great he-mulatto stepped out of the next room, with a pair of whiskers like two brushes, a hat as big as an umbrella, a buff-doublet under a loose coat, bandy-legged, hook-nos'd, and with two or three scandalous scars cross his face, a dagger that might have served Goliath, and a hanging

look, and said, " I am an approved master, and
" have my certificate about me, and by this
" light I'll make an example of any man that
" dare presume to reflect upon so many brave
" fellows as profess the noble science." Seeing
we were like to be in a broil, I stepped in, and
said, " He had not spoke to him, and therefore
" he had no occasion to be affronted." " Draw
" your sword, if you have ever a one," added
he, " and let us try who has most skill, without
" playing the fool with ladles." My poor
wretched companion opened his book, and cried
aloud, " Here it is, as I say, in the book, and it
" is printed by authority; and I'll maintain
" with the ladle, that all it contains is true; or
" else without the ladle, either here, or upon
" any other ground; and if any body does not
" believe it, let us measure it." This said, he
pulled out his compasses, and went on, " This
" is an obtuse angle." The fencing-master
drew his dagger, and replied, " I neither know
" who is angle, nor who is obtuse; nor did I
" ever hear such words before; but I'll cut you
" in pieces with this dagger in my hand." He
ran at the poor devil, who fled from him again,
skipping about the house, and crying, " He can-
" not hurt me, for I have gained upon his sword."
The landlord and I parted them, with the help

of other people that came in, though I was scarce able to stand for laughing. The honest madman was put into his chamber, and I with him. We supped, and all the house went to bed. About two of the clock he got up in his shirt, and began to ramble about the room, skipping and sputtering a deal of nonsense in mathematical terms. He waked me, and not so satisfied, went down to the landlord, to give him a light, saying, he had found a fixed object for the cross pass upon the bow. The landlord wished him at the devil for waking of him; but still the other tormented him, till he called him a madman, and then he came up, and told me, if I would rise I should see the curious fence he had found out against the Turks and their simitars, and added, he would go show it to the king immediately, because it was very advantageous to Christendom. By this time it was day, we all got up, paid our shot, we reconciled the madman and the fencing-master, and went away, saying, That what my companion alleged was good in itself, but it made more men mad than skilful at their weapon, because not one in an hundred understood the least part of it.

CHAP. IX.

The pleasant Discourse I had with a Poet on the Road till
I came to Madrid.

I HELD on my journey to Madrid, and my mad companion took his leave to go another road ; when he had gone a little way, he turned back very hastily, and calling on me as loud as he could, though we were in the field where none could hear us, he whispered in my ear, “ Pray, “ Sir, let me conjure you, as you hope to live, “ not to discover any of the mighty secrets I “ have acquainted you with, relating to the art “ of fencing, but keep them to yourself, since “ you are a man of a sound judgment.” I promised so to do ; he went his way again, and I fell a laughing at the comical secret. I travelled about a league without meeting any body, and was considering with myself how difficult a matter it was for me to tread the paths of virtue and honour, since it was requisite, in the first place, that I should hide the scandal of my parents, and then have so much worth myself, as to conceal me from their shame. I was so fond of these, as I supposed noble thoughts, that I congratulated myself for them, and said, “ It “ will be much more honourable in me, who

" had none to learn virtue from, than in those
 " who had it hereditary from their predeceffors."
 These thoughts had filled, my head, when I
 overtook a very old clergyman riding on a mule
 towards Madrid. We fell into discourse, and
 he asked me whence I came? I told him, from
 Alcala. " God's curse," said he, " on such base
 " people, since there was not one man of sense
 " to be found among them." I asked him how
 could that be said of such a town, where there
 were so many learned men? He answered, in
 a great passion, " Learned! I'll tell you how
 " learned, Sir! I have for these fourteen years
 " last past, made all the songs and ballads, and
 " the verses for the bedels at Christmas, in the
 " village of Majalaonda, where I am reader;
 " and those you call learned men, when I put
 " up some of my works among the rest, at the
 " public act, took no notice of mine. And that
 " you may be sensible, good Sir, of the wrong
 " they did me, I will read them to you; and
 " accordingly he began as follows."

Come shepherds, let us dance and play
 On great faint Corpus Christi's day;
 For he comes down to give us thanks,
 For all our kind and loving pranks.
 When we have drank and made all even,
 He flies back again to heaven.

What he does there I cannot say,
 Since here with us he will not stay.
 Come shepherds, let us dance and play, &c.

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Having read his admired piece, which was too long to remember any more of it, he proceeded, "Now, Sir, could the very inventor of doggrel himself have said any thing finer than this? Do but consider what a deal of mystery there is in that word Shepherds; it cost me above a month's hard study." I could no longer contain myself within bounds, for I was ready to burst, and so breaking out into a loud fit of laughter, I said, "It is most wonderful; but I observe you call great saint *Corpus Christi*, whereas *Corpus Christi* is not the name of a saint, but a festival instituted in honour of the blessed sacrament." "That's a pretty fancy," replied he scornfully, "I'll show you him in the kalendar, and he is canonized, and I'll lay my head on it." I could not contend any more with him for laughing at his unaccountable ignorance, but told him, his verses deserved to be highly rewarded, for I had never seen any thing more comical in my life. "No," said he, "then pray hear a little of a small book I have writ in honour of the eleven thousand virgins. I have composed fifty stanzas, of eight verses each, to every one of them; a most excellent

“ piece.” For fear of being pestered with so many millions of his lines, I desired him to show me any thing that was not godly ; and then he began to recite a comedy, which had as many acts as there are days in a year. He told me he writ it in two days, and that was the foul draught, and might be about half a ream of paper. The name of it was Noah’s Ark ; the whole represented by cocks and mice, asses, foxes, and wild boars, like Æsop’s fables. I extolled both the plot and conduct ; and he answered, “ I ought not to commend it because it
“ is my own, but the like was never made in
“ the world, besides that it is altogether new ;
“ and if I can but get it acted, there will be
“ nothing so fine. All the difficulty lies in
“ that, for if it were not, could any thing be so
“ sublime and lofty ; however, I have contri-
“ ved to have it all acted by parrots, jackdaws,
“ magpies, starlings, and all other sorts of birds
“ as speak, and to bring in monkeys for the
“ farce.” “ That indeed will be very extraor-
“ dinary,” answered I. “ All this is nothing,”
replied the old man, “ to what I have done for
“ the sake of a woman I love ; here are nine
“ hundred and one sonnets, and twelve roun-
“ do’s,” as if he had been reckoning up pounds
shillings and pence, “ made in praise of my

“mistress’s legs.” I asked him, whether he had ever seen them? he replied, he had not *in verbo sacerdotis*, but that all his conceits were by way of prophecy. Though it was a diversion to hear his nonsense, I must confess I dreaded such a multitude of barbarous verses, and therefore endeavoured to turn off the discourse another way, telling him, I saw hares; “Then,” cried he, “I’ll begin with one, in which I compare her legs to that creature.” Still to bring him off that subject, I went on, “Don’t you see that star, Sir, which appears by daylight?” “As soon as I have done with this,” replied he, “I will read you the thirtieth sonnet, where I call her a star, for you talk as if you were acquainted with my fancies.” It was such a vexation to me to find I could name nothing but what he had writ some nonsense upon, that I was all joy when I perceivèd we drew near Madrid, believing he would then give over for shame; but it proved quite contrary, for as soon as we came into the street, he began to raise his voice, to show what he was. I entreated him to forbear, lest if the boys should once get the scent of a poet, all the rotten oranges and cabbage stumps in the town should come after us, in regard the poets were declared madmen, in a proclamation set out against them, by one

that had been of the profession, but recanted, and took up in time. This put him in a great consternation, and he begged me to read it to him, if I had it. I promised him so to do when we came to our lodging; and accordingly we went to one where he used to alight, and found at least a dozen blind ballad-fingers at the door. Some knew him by the scent, and others by his voice, and all of them gave him a volley of welcomes. He embraced them all, and then some began to ask him for verses on the day of judgment in a lofty bombastical style, that might provoke action; others would have commemorations for the departed; and so the rest, every one according to his fancy, and giving him eight royals a-man earnest. He dismissed them, and said to me, I shall make above three hundred royals of the blind men, and therefore, with your leave, Sir, I'll withdraw for awhile now, to compose some lines, and after dinner we will hear the proclamation read, if you please. Wretched life! for none are more miserable than those madmen that get their bread by such as are as mad as themselves.

CHAP. X.

What happened to me at Madrid, my Adventures with a Soldier and a Hermit, and coming to my Uncle's.

THE poet withdrew awhile to study profaneness and nonsense for the blind ballad-fingers, till it was dinner-time, which being over, they desired to have the proclamation read, and having nothing else to do at that time, I drew it out, and complied with their desires. I have inserted it here, because I reckon it ingenious, and pat to the purposes mentioned in it. Take it as follows:—

A PROCLAMATION,

Against Addle-headed, Numskull, and Water Poets.

The old versifier laughed out very heartily when he heard this title, and said, “I might have had business cut out till to-morrow; I thought this had concerned me, and it is only against numskull poets.” I was mightily pleased with his conceit, as if he had been a Horace or a Virgil: I skipped over the preamble, and began with the first article, which was as follows:—

IN regard that this sort of vermine, called Poets, are our neighbours and Christians, though

wicked ones, and considering they spend all their days in worshipping of eyes, mouths, noses, and old ribbons and slippers, besides many other abominable sins they are guilty of, we think fit to direct and ordain, that all common halfpenny poets be confined together against Easter, as lewd women are wont to be, and that care be taken to convince them of their evil practices, and to convert them; and to this purpose we do appoint monasteries of repenting poets.

Item, Observing the excessive heats and droughts in the dog-days, caused by the abundance of suns, and other brighter stars, created and produced by those high flying poets, we enjoin perpetual silence as to all heavenly beings, and appoint two months vacation for the muses, as well as for the law, that they may have some time to recruit and recover the continual charge they are at.

Item, Forasmuch as this infernal sect of men, condemned to eternal flights, as murderers of good words, and ravishers of sentences, have infected the women with the plague of poetry, we declare that we look upon this mischief done them as a sufficient revenge for the damage we received from their sex at the beginning of the world; and to supply the present wants and necessities the world now labours

under, we do farther ordain, that all the songs, and other verses, made by poets in praise of women, be burned like old lace, to take out the gold and silver they put into their lady's hair and skins, and that all the oriental pearls, rubies, and precious stones, be picked out of them, since they are so full of those rich metals and jewels.

Here the old poetaster was quite out of patience, and starting up in a fume, cried, "They had even as good rob us of all we have. Pray, Sir, let us have no more of it, for I desire to reverse that judgment, and remove the cause, not to chancery, for that would be a wrong to my coat and dignity, but to the spiritual court, where I will spend all I am worth. It would be very pleasant, that I, who am a churchman, should put up that wrong. I will make it appear, that an ecclesiastical poet's verses are not liable to that proclamation, and to lose no time, I will go and prove it in open court immediately." I could have laughed heartily at him, but for the more expedition, because it grew late, I said to him, "Sir, this proclamation is made only for diversion, and is of no force, nor binding, as having no lawful authority." "A vengeance on it," replied the old man, in a great heat, "you should have

“ told me so much before, Sir, and might have
 “ saved me all this trouble. Do you consider
 “ what a thing it is for a man to have a stock
 “ of eight hundred thousand songs and ballads
 “ by him, and to hear such a decree? Proceed,
 “ Sir, and God forgive you for putting me into
 “ such a fright.” Then I went on thus :

Item, For that very many, since they left their ancient idolatry of heathen gods and goddesses, still retaining some Pagan superstitions, are turned shepherds, which is the cause that the cattle are withered up with drinking nothing but their tears, and parched with the fire that continually burns in their souls, and so charmed with their music, that they forget to feed ; we do ordain, that they quit that employment, and that such as love solitude have hermitages appointed them, and the rest to be coachmen and watermen, because those are callings given to much mirth and ribaldry.

“ It was some scoundrel, cuckoldy, Sodomitical whorson,” cried the mad rhymers, “ that contrived this proclamation ; and if I knew the dog, I would write such a satire upon him, as should fret his soul, and all that read it. What a pretty figure a smooth-faced man as I am would make in a hermitage ? And would it be fit for a person dignified as reader to turn

“coachman? Enough, Sir, those jests are not to be borne with. “I told you before,” said I, “that this is all a jest, and as such you may hear it.” This said, I proceeded.

Item, To prevent all wrongs, we do appoint, that, for the future, no verses be imported from France or Italy, or other foreign parts; whence our poets steal, and pretend to make them their own; and that whatsoever poet shall be found guilty of this offence, be obliged to wear good clothes, and to keep himself clean, and sweat for a week at least.

Our poet was very well pleased with this decree, for he wore a cassock that was grey with age, and so ragged, that it was a wonder he could go about without dropping in pieces: His gown and other accoutrements were only fit to manure the ground, which made me smile; and I told him, It farther ordained, That all women, who fell in love with mere poets, should be reputed as desperate persons, who hang or drown themselves, and as such never be buried in hallowed ground.

And considering the mighty crop of roundelays, sonnets, songs and ballads, these over-rank years have produced, we do ordain, that all parcels of them, which have escaped the grocers and tobacconists, as unworthy those employ-

ments, be sent to the necessary houses, without any appeal allowed them.

To conclude; I came to the last article which runs thus : However, taking it into our pitiful consideration, that there are three sorts of persons in the nation so very miserable, that they cannot live without this sort of poets, which are players, blind men, and ballad-singers ; we do ordain, that there may be some journeymen of this profession, provided they be licensed by the aldermen-poets of their wards ; with this limitation, that the players poets shall not use any devils or conjurers in their farces, nor conclude their comedies in matrimony ; that the blind men shall not sing dismal stories which happened at Jerusalem or Morocco, nor patch up their verses with " eak also, and well a-day," and the like ; and, that the ballad-singers shall no longer run upon Sawny and Jocky, nor quibble upon words, nor contrive their songs so, that altering but the names, they may serve upon all occasions. To conclude, we command all poets in general to discard Jupiter, Venus, Apollo, and all the herd of heathen gods and goddeses, on pain of having none but them to pray by them on their deathbed.

All that heard the proclamation read, were

highly pleased, and begged copies of it; only the old poetical reader began to swear by his Bible, that it was a satire upon him, because of what it contained concerning the blind men, he told us, he knew what he did better than any man, and went on, saying, " Do not mistake me, I once lay in the same house with Linnan, and dined several times with Espinel, and was in Madrid, as near Lope de Vega, as to any man in the room, and have seen Don Alonso de Arzilla a thousand times, and have a picture at home of the divine Figueroa, and I bought the old breeches Padilla left off when he became a friar, which I still wear, though bad enough." These were all old Spanish famous poets, with whom he pretended to be thus acquainted, as if the knowledge of them would have made his nonsense the more tolerable. At the same time he showed us the breeches, which set all the company into such a fit of laughing, that none of them cared to leave the lodging. But it was now two of the clock, and being to travel farther, we left Madrid. I took my leave of him, though unwillingly enough, and travelled on towards the Pass on the mountains.

It pleased God, to divert me from evil thoughts, that I met with a soldier; we fell into discourse; he asked me, whether I came from the court?

I told him I only passed through the town. "It is fit for nothing else," answered the soldier, "it is full of base people; by the Lord, I had rather lie at a siege up to the waist in snow, expecting a kind bullet, and half starved, than endure the insolencies they offer a man of honour." I replied, He should consider that at court there were people of all sorts, and that they made great account of any person of worth. He cut me off short, saying in a great passion, "Why, I have been this half year at court, suing for a pair of colours, after twenty campaigns, and having shed my blood in the king's service, as appears by these wounds." And at the same time he showed me a scar half a quarter long on his groin, which was as plain a bullet as the light of the day; and two seams on his heels, saying, they had been shots; but I concluded, by some I have of the same sort, that they had been chilblains broken. He pulled off his hat to show me his face, where appeared a long gash from ear to ear, and quite across his nose, besides other smaller cuts, that made it look like a mathematical draught, all of lines. "These," said he, "I received at Paris, serving my God and my king, for whom I have had my countenance carved out, and disfigured; and in return, I have received nothing but

“ fair words, which are equivalent at present to
“ foul actions. Let me entreat you, learned
“ Sir, to read these papers ; for by heavens, a
“ more remarkable man, I vow to God, never
“ went into the field ;” and he spoke truth, for
he had marks enough to be known by. With
this, he began to pull out tin-cases, and to show
me a multitude of papers, which I believed be-
longed to another, whose name he had borrow-
ed. I read them, and spoke abundance in his
praise, pretending that Cæsar and Alexander the
Great could not compare with him. He laid
hold of what I said in a passion, and cried, “ To
“ compare with me ; by this light ! no more are
“ Hannibal or Scipio, nor others as great as they.
“ Damn all they did, there was no cannon in
“ their days. The devil take me, Pompey would
“ be a mere chicken now. Pray, Sir, do you
“ but inquire in the Low Countries, about the
“ exploit performed by the person that wanted
“ a tooth before, and you will hear what they
“ say of it.” Are you the person, Sir, said I ?
And he replied, “ Why, who do you think it
“ was ? Do not you see here is a breach in my
“ teeth ? But let us talk no more of it ; for it
“ does not become a man to praise himself.”
This discourse held us along, till we overtook a
hermit riding on an ass, with a long beard like a

brush, lean, and clad in sackcloth. We saluted him as usual, with the words *Deo Gratias*; and he began to extol the corn on the ground, and in it the mercies of God. The soldier immediately flew out, and said, "Father, I have seen pikes charged against me thicker than that corn; and I vow to God, I did all that man could do at the sacking of Antwerp, that I did by the Lord!" The hermit reproved him for swearing so much, and he answered, "It is a sign you were never a soldier, Father, since you reprove me for exercising my calling." It made me laugh to hear what he made soldiery to consist in, and perceived he was some scoundrel, who knew little of that noble profession, but that infamous part, most used by the scum of those that follow it.

We came at length to the Pass on the mountain, the hermit praying all the way on a pair of beads so big, it was a load; and every bead he dropped, sounded like a stroke with a mallet. The soldier compared the rocks to the forts he pretended to have seen, observed what place was strong, and where the cannon might be planted for battery. I had my eyes fixed on them both, and was as much afraid of the hermit's monstrous beads, as of the soldiers extravagant lies. How easily, said he, would I blow

up a great part of this Pass with gunpowder, and do all travellers good service. Thus we came to Cerecedilla, and went into an inn all three of us, after night-fall; we ordered supper, though it was Friday, and in the meanwhile the hermit said, "Let us divert ourselves awhile, for idleness is the source of all vice, let us play for prayers;" and so saying, he dropped a pack of cards out of his sleeve. I could not but laugh at that pleasant sight, considering the great beads; but the soldier cried, "Let us lovingly play as far as an hundred royals will go I have about me." Being covetous, I said I would venture the like sum, and the hermit, rather than disoblige, consented, telling us, he had about two hundred royals to buy oil for the lamp. I must confess, I thought to have sucked up all his oil, but may the Turk always succeed as I did. We played at Lanskenet, and the best of it was, he pretended he did not understand the game, and made us teach it him. He let us win for two deals, but then turned so sharp upon us, that he left us bare, and became our heir before we were dead. The dog palmed upon us so sily, it was a shame to see him; would now and then let us draw a single stake, and then double it upon us. The soldier every card he lost, let fly half a score oaths, and twice as many curses,

wrapped up in blasphemies. For my part, I was eating my nails, whilst the hermit drew my money to him. He called upon all the saints in heaven, and in short left us pennyless. We would have played on upon some little pawns, but when he had won my six hundred royals, and the soldier's hundred, he said, 'That was only for pastime, and we were all brethren, and therefore he would not meddle any farther. "Do not swear," said he, "for you see I have had good luck, because I prayed to God." We believed him, as not knowing the sleight he had at packing the cards; and the soldier swore he would never play again, and so did I. A curse on it, cried the poor ensign, for he then told me he was so, "I have been among Turks and Infidels, but was never so stripped." The good hermit laughed at all we said, and pulled out his beads again. Having never a cross left, I desired him to treat me at supper, and pay for our lodging till we came to Segovia, since he had cleared our pockets. He promised so to do, devoured threescore eggs, the like I never beheld, and said he would go take his rest. We all lay in a great hall among other people, all the rooms being taken up before. I lay down very melancholy; the soldier called the landlord, and gave him charge of his papers in the tin-cases,

and a bundle of tattered shirts, and so we went to sleep. The hermit made the sign of the cross, and we blessed ourselves from him.

He slept, and I watched, contriving how to get his money from him. The soldier talked in his sleep about his hundred royals, as if they had not been past retrieving. When it was time to rise, he called hastily for a light, which was brought, and the landlord gave the soldier his bundle, but forgot his papers. The poor ensign made the house ring, calling for his services. The landlord was amazed, and every body pressing that he should give them, he ran out, and brought three close-stools, saying, "There is every one one, would you have any more?" Supposing we were all taken with a looseness; for in Spanish, services is a polite word for a close-stool. This had like to have spoiled all, for the soldier got up in his shirt, with his sword in his hand, and ran after the landlord, swearing he would murder him; because he made a jest of him, who had been at the battles of Lepanto, Saint Quintin, and several others, and brought him close-stools instead of the papers he had given him. We all ran after, to hold him, and little enough, whilst the landlord cried, "Sir, You asked me for services, I was not bound to know, that in the

“ language of soldiers, they give that name to “ the certificates of their exploits.” At length we appeased them, and returned to our room. The hermit fearing the worst, lay abed, pretending the fright had done him harm ; however, he paid our reckoning, and we set out towards the mountain, very much disturbed at his carriage towards us, and much more for that we had not been able to get his money from him.

We met a Genoese, I mean one of those bankers, who help to drain Spain of all its money. He was going up the mountain, with a servant behind him, an umbrella over his head, and much like a rich usurer. We fell into discourse with him, and still he turned it to talk of money, for they are a people that seem born for nothing but the purse. He presently fell upon Bizanzon, and to argue whether it were convenient or no to put out money to Bizanzon. At last the soldier and I asked him, what gentleman that was he talked of? He answered, smiling, “ It is a town in Italy, where all the “ great money-dealers meet, to settle the exchange and value of coin.” By which we understood that Bizanzon was the great exchange of usurers. He entertained us on the way, telling he was undone, because a bank

was broke, in which he had above sixty thousand ducats; and swore by his conscience to all he said, though I am of opinion, that conscience among traders is like a maidenhead among whores, which they sell, though they have none. Scarce any trader has any conscience, for being informed that it has a sting, they leave it behind them with the navelstring when they come into the world. We held on our conversation, till we spied the walls of Segovia, which was a great satisfaction to me, though the thoughts of what I had endured under the wicked Cabra, at the starving boarding-school, would have given a check to my joy. When I came to the town, I spied my father waiting upon the road, which brought tears to my eyes; but I went on, being much altered since I left the place, for I began to have a beard, and was well clad. I parted from my company, and considering who was most likely to know my uncle besides the gallows, I could not imagine whom to apply myself to. I went up and asked several people for Alonso Ramplon, and nobody could give me any tidings of him, every one said he did not know him: I was very glad to find so many honest men in my town. As I stood in a study, I heard the common crier set up his note, and after him my good uncle play-

ing his part. There came a file of bareheaded fellows, naked to the waist, before my uncle, and he played a tune upon all their backs, going from the one to the other. I stood gazing at this sight, with a man I had been inquiring of, and told him I was a person of great birth; when I saw my uncle draw near, and he espying me, ran to embrace me, calling me, nephew. I thought I should have died for shame, never looked back to take leave of the man I was with, but went along with my uncle, who said to me, you may follow till I have done with these people, for we are now upon our return, and you shall dine with me to-day. I, being mounted on my mule, and thinking in that gang I should be but one degree less exposed than those that were whipped, told him I would wait there, and stepped a little aside, so very much out of countenance, that had not the recovery of my inheritance depended on him, I would never more have spoke to him, or been seen in that place. He concluded his exercise, came back, and carried me to his house, where I alighted, and we dined.

CHAP. XI.

The kind Entertainment I had at my Uncle's, the Visits I received, how I recovered my Inheritance, and returned to Madrid.

My worthy uncle quartered near the slaughter-house, at a waterman's house, we went in, and he said to me, "My lodging is not a palace, but "I assure you, nephew, it stands conveniently "for my business." We went up such a pair of stairs, that I longed to be at the top, to know whether there was any difference betwixt it and the ladder at the gallows. There we came into such a low room, that we walked about as if we had been all full of courtesy, bowing to one another. He hung up the cat-of-nine-tails on a nail, about which there were others with halters, broad knives, axes, hooks, and other tools belonging to the trade. He asked me, why I did not take off my gown and sit down? I answered, I did not use to do so. I cannot express how much I was out of countenance at my uncle's infamous profession, who told me, it was lucky that I came at such a time, for I should have a good dinner, because he had invited some friends. As we were talking, in came one of those that beg charity at the church-doors for

poor families in distress, in a purple gown down to his heels, and rattling his questing box, said; "I have got as much to-day by my distressed families, as you have done by the rogues you "flogged." They made some grimaces at one another, the wicked quester tucked up his long robe, discovering a pair of bandy legs, and canvas breeches, and began to shift about, asking, whether Clement was come? My uncle told him, he was not, when at the same time in came an oak-thresher, I mean a swineherd, wrapped up in a clout, with a pair of wooden shoes on. I knew him by his horn he had in his hand, which had been more fashionable, had it been upon his head. He saluted us after his manner, and next to him in came a left-handed squinting Mulatto, with a hat that had brims like an umbrella, and a crown like a sugar-loaf; his sword as much iron about it as would have set up a smith's shop; a buff-doublet; his face as full of scars, as if it had been made of patches stitched together. He sat down, saluting all the company, and said to my uncle, "By my troth, "Alonso, Flat Nose and Snaffle have been well "mauled to-day." Up started the quester, and cried, "I gave Flechilla, the executioner of "Ocana, four ducats, to put on the ass apace, "and play with a slender cat-of-nine-tails, when

“ I was fly-flaped there. By the Lord,” quoth the Mulatto, “ I was too kind to the dog Lo-
“ brezno at Murcia, for the afs went a snail’s
“ gallop all the way, and the rogue laid them
“ on so, that my back was all weals. My back
“ has his maidenhead still,” said the swinzerd.
“ Every dog has his day,” answered the quester.
“ I must say that for myself,” quoth my good
uncle, “ that of all whipsters I am the man, who
“ am true and trusty to those that bespeak me ;
“ these to-day gave me five crowns, and they
“ had a parcel of friendly lashes with the single
“ cat-of-nine-tails:” I was so much out of coun-
tenance, to see what good company my uncle
kept, that my blushes betrayed me, and the
Mulatto perceiving it, said, “ Is this reverend
“ gentleman the person that suffered the other
“ day, and had a certain number of stripes given
“ him.” I answered, “ I was none of those that
“ suffered as they had done.” With this my
uncle started up, and said, “ This is my nephew,
“ a graduate at Alcala, and a great scholar.”
They begged my pardon, and made tenders of
great friendship.

I was quite mad to eat my dinner, receive
what was due, and get as far as I could from my
uncle. The cloth was laid, and the meat drawn
up in an old hat, as they draw up the alms that

is given in prisons. It was dished up in broken platters, and pieces of old crocks and pans, being dressed in a stinking cellar, which was still more plague and confusion to me. They sat down, the quester at the upper end, and the rest as it fell out. I will not tell what we eat, but only that they were all dainties to encourage drinking. The Mulatto, in a trice, poured down three pints of pure red. The swineherd, seeing the cup stand at me, still whipt it off, pledging more healths than we spoke words; no man called for water, or so much as thought of it. Five good minced pies were served up; they took off the upper crusts, filled them with wine, and then said a short prayer for the soul to whom the flesh belonged. Then said my uncle, "You remember, nephew, what I wrote to you about your father, it now comes afresh into my mind." They all eat, but I took up with only the bottoms, and ever since then I have retained the custom of saying a prayer for the soul departed, when I eat minced pies. The pots went round without ceasing, and the Mulatto and the quester plied it so hard, that a dish of scurvy sausages, looking like fingers of blacks cut off, being set upon the table, one of them asked what they meant by serving up dressed charcoal? My uncle, by this time, was in such a condi-

tion, up to the throat in wine, with one eye almost out, and the other half drowned, that laying hold of one of the saufages, in a hoarse and uncouth tone, he said, " By this bread, which " is God's creature, made to his own image and " likeness, I never eat better black meat, ne- " phew." It made me laugh with one side of my mouth, and fret with the other, to see the Mulatto, stretching out his hand, lay hold of the salt, and cry, " This pottage is hot;" and at the same time, the swineherd took a whole handful of salt, and clapping it into his mouth, say, " This is a pretty provocative for drinking." After all this medley, there came some soup, so orderly was our entertainment. The quester laying hold of a porringer with both hands, cried, " God's blessing on cleanliness;" and instead of clapping of it to his mouth, laid it to his cheek, where he poured it down, scalding his face, and washing himself in grease from head to foot, in a most shameful manner: Being in this miserable plight, he tried to get up, but his head being too heavy, he was fain to rest with both his hands upon the table, which was only a board set upon two tressels, so that it overturned and greased all the rest, and then he cried, That the swineherd had pushed him. The swineherd seeing the other fall upon him, scrambled up, and

laying hold of his horn trumpet, beat it about his ears. They grappled and clung so close together that the quefter set his teeth in the fwineherd's cheek, and both of them rolling on the ground, made fuch a wambling in the fwineherd's belly, that he caft up all he had eat and drank in the quefter's face. My uncle, who was the sobereft of all the company, asked how fo many clergymen had come into his houfe? Perceiving that they all looked through multiplying glaffes, I parted the two combatants, made them friends, and helped up the Mulatto, who lay on the ground maudlin-drunk, and weeping bitterly. I laid my uncle on his bed, who made a low bow to a tall wooden candleftick he had, thinking it had been one of his guefts. Next I took away the fwineherd's horn, but there was no filencing him after all the reft were afleep, he was ftill calling for his horn, and faid, " No man ever could play more tunes on it, and he would now imitate the organs."

In fhort, I never left them till they were all faft afleep; then I went abroad, and fpent the afternoon in feeing the town; paſſed by Cabra's houfe, and heard he was dead, but never asked of what diftemper, knowing he could die of none as long as it was poffible to ftarve. At night I returned home, full four hours after I

had gone out, and found one of the company awake, crawling about the room on all four to find the door, and complaining he had lost the house: I raised him up, and let the rest sleep till eleven at night, when they awaked of themselves, stretching and yawning. One of them asked, "What a clock it was?" The swineherd, who had not laid half his fumes, answered, "It was still the heat of the day, and the weather very sultry." The quester, as well as he could speak, asked for his cloak, saying, "The distressed families had been long neglected, the whole care of them lying upon his hands;" and thinking to go to the door, he went to the window, where seeing the stars, he cried out to the others, telling them, "That the sky was full of stars at noonday, and there was a mighty eclipse." They all blessed themselves, and kissed the floor. Having observed the villany of the quester, I was much scandalized, and resolved to take heed of that sort of men. The sight of all these abominable practices made me the more impatient to be among gentlemen and persons of worth. I got them all away one by one, the best I could, and put my uncle to bed, who, though not foxed, was drunk enough, and made the best shift I could myself, with my own clothes, and some of the poor de-

parted souls that lay about the room. Thus we passed the night, and in the morning I discoursed my uncle about seeing my inheritance, and taking possession of it, telling him I was quite tired, and knew not with what. He stretched himself, got up; we had much talk concerning my affairs, and I had enough to do with him, he was so uncouth and dull. At length I prevailed with him to discover to me part of my inheritance, though not all; and so he told me of three hundred ducats my worthy father had got by sleight of hand, and left them in custody of a virtuous woman, that was the receiver of all that was stole for ten leagues round the country. To be short, I received and put up my money, which my uncle had not yet drank out, nor consumed; and that was very much, considering he was such a brutal man; but the reason was, he thought it would serve me to take my degrees, and, with a little learning, I might come to be a cardinal, which to him seemed no difficult matter. When he understood I had the money, he said to me, "My child, Paul, it will be your own fault if you do not thrive, and are not a good man; since you have a good example before you. You have got money, and I will always be your friend, for all I have and all I earn is yours."

I returned him thanks for his kind offers; we spent the day in extravagant talk, and in returning the visits to the aforesaid persons. They diverted the afternoon playing at all-fours, the same company, my uncle, the swineherd, and the quetter, this last squandering the money of the poor at a villanous rate. It was wonderful to see how dexterous they were at it, and still every game there was so much wet, for the pot stood continually ready before them. Night came on, the guests went away, and my uncle and I to bed, for he had now got me a quilt. When it was day, I got up before he was awake, and went away, without being perceived, to an inn, locking the door on the outside, and thrusting in the key at a cranny. I went away, as I have said, to an inn, to hide myself, and wait the next opportunity to go to Madrid. I left him a letter sealed up in the room, wherein I gave an account of my departure, and the reasons that moved me so to do, desiring he would make no inquiry after me, for I would never see him more.

CHAP. XII.

My Departure from Segovia, and Journey to Madrid, with what happened to me by the Way.

A CARRIER was setting out that morning from the inn for Madrid, he had a spare ass, which I hired, and went before to expect him without the city gate. He came accordingly; I mounted, and began my journey, and said to myself, "Farewell to thee for ever, thou knave of an uncle, dishonour of our family, hellish finisher of the law." I considered I was going to Madrid, the court of Spain, where, to my great satisfaction, nobody knew me, and there I must trust to my ingenuity. The first thing I resolved to do was to lay aside my scholar's habit, and clothe myself in the fashion. But let us return to my uncle, who was in a great rage at the letter I left him, which was to this effect:

Mr. ALONSO RAMPLON,

"Since it has pleased God to show me such signal mercies, as to take away my good father, and to order my mother to be conveyed to Toledo, where I know the best

“ that can come of her is to vanish away in
“ smoke ; all I could wish for at present would
“ be to see you served as you serve others. I
“ design to be singular in my family, for I can
“ never make more than one, unless I fall under
“ your hands, and you carve me up as you do
“ others. Do not inquire after me, for it be-
“ hoves me to deny the kindred that is between
“ us. Serve God and the King.”

It is impossible to express how in all likeli-
hood he railed and swore at me ; but let us
leave him there, and return to my journey. I
was mounted, like Sancho Pancha, on a stately
dapple ass, and wished with all my heart that I
might meet nobody ; when on a sudden I dis-
covered, at a distance, an underling sort of a
gentleman, with his cloak hanging on his shoul-
ders, his sword by his side ; close breeches, and
boots on, altogether, to outward appearance,
genteel enough, with a clean starched band,
and his hat on one side, like a ballad-singer. I
conceived he was some man of quality that was
walking, and had left his coach behind him ;
and accordingly, when I came up, saluted him.
He viewed me, and said, “ It is very likely,
“ good Sir, that you travel much more easy on
“ that ass than I do with all my equipage.”

Imagining he had meant his coach and servants he left behind, I answered, "In troth, Sir, I reckon it more easy travelling than in a coach, for though there is no dispute but you go very easily in that you have left behind you, yet the jolting of it is troublesome." "What coach behind?" replied he, in a great consternation; and turning short to look about him, the sudden motion made his breeches drop down, for it broke only one point he had to hold them up; and though he saw me ready to burst with laughing, he asked to borrow one of me. Perceiving he had no more shirt than would come within the waistband of his breeches, and scarce reach to acquaint his breech he had any, I replied, "As I hope for mercy, Sir, you had best wait till your servants come up, for I cannot possibly assist you, having but one single point to hold up my own breeches." "If you are in jest, Sir," quoth he, holding his breeches in his hands, "let it pass, for I do not understand what you mean by servants." With this he went on, and was so plain in letting me know he was poor, that before we had gone half a league together, he owned he should never be able to get to Madrid, unless I would let him ride upon my ass awhile, he was so tired with walking with his breeches in his hands, which

moved me to compassion, and I alighted. He was so encumbered with his breeches, that I was fain to help him up, and was much surpris'd at what I discovered by my feeling; for behind, as far as was covered with the cloak, the buttocks had no other fence against the eyes and the air. He being sensible of the discovery I had made, very discreetly prevented what reflection I might make, saying, "All is not gold that glitters, reverend Sir," giving me that title on account of my long scholar's robe; "no doubt but when you saw my fine starched band, and the show I made, you fancied I was the Lord knows who. Little do you think how many fine outfides are as bare within as what you felt." I assured him upon my word that I had conceited much different matters from what I found. "Why then, Sir," replied he, "let me tell you, all you have seen as yet is nothing, for every thing about me is remarkable, and no part of me is truly clad. Such as you see me, I am a real substantial gentleman, of a good family, and known feat on the mountain; and could I but feed my body as I keep my feat and gentility, I should be a happy man. But as the world goes, good Sir, there is no keeping up noble blood without bread and meat, and, God be praised, it runs red in every man's

“veins; nor can he be a worthy person who is
“worth nothing. I am now convinced of the
“value of a good pedigree, for being ready to
“starve one day, they would not give a chop
“of mutton in the cook’s-shop for mine; and
“yet it is flourished with gold letters, but the
“leaf gold on pills is more valuable, and few
“men of letters have any gold. I have sold
“all to my very burial-place, that nothing may
“be called mine when I am dead, for my fa-
“ther Toribio Rodriguez Ballejo Gomez de
“Ampuero Jordan lost all he had in the world
“by being bound for others. I have nothing
“now left to sell but the title of Don, and I am
“so unfortunate, that I can find nobody that
“has occasion for it, because there is scarce a
“scoundrel now but usurps it.” Though the
poor gentleman’s misfortunes were intermixed
with something that was comical, I could not
but pity him, ask’d his name, whither he was
going, and what to do? He answered with all
his father’s names, Don Toribio Rodriguez Bal-
lejo Gomez de Ampuero Jordan. Never did I
hear such an empty sounding jingling name, or
so like the clattering of a bell, as beginning in
Don, and ending in *dan*. He added, he was
going to Madrid, because a threadbare elder
brother, as he was, soon grew tainted and moul-

dy in a country town, and had no way to subsist; and therefore he was going to the common refuge of distressed persons, where there is room for all, and open house kept for wandering spongers: And I never want five or six crowns in my pocket, said he, as soon as I come thither, nor a good bed, meat, and drink, and sometimes a forbidden pleasure; for a good wit at court is like the philosopher's stone, which converts all it touches into gold. This to me was the most welcome news I had ever heard; and therefore, as it were to divert the tediousness of our journey, I desired him to inform me how, and by whom, he, and others in his condition, could live at court, for to me it appeared a very difficult matter, because every one there seemed so far from being contented with his own, that he aimed at what belonged to others. "There are many of all sorts," replied my spark, "but flattery is like a master-key, which introduces a man wheresoever he pleases, in such great places; and that you may not think strange of what I say, do but listen to my adventures and contrivances, and you will be convinced of the truth of it."

CHAP. XIII.

The Threadbare Gentleman, by the Way, according to Promise, gives an Account of his Life and Actions.

THE first thing you are to observe, is, that at court there are always the wisest and the weakest, the richest and the poorest, and the extremes of all other sorts. There the virtuous are concealed, and the wicked not taken notice of; and there live a sort of people like myself, who are not known to have any estates, real or personal, nor does it appear whence they came; or how they live. Among ourselves we are distinguished by several names, some are called gentlemen-mumpers, others sharpers, others pinchguts, others barebones, and others commoners; but in general, we live by our wits. For the most part, we cheat our guts of their due, for it is a very dangerous and troublesome thing to live upon others. We are mere scarecrows at all good tables, terror of cook-shops, and always unbidden and unwelcome guests, living like chameleons by the air, and yet never contented. When we happen to dine upon a leek, we strut and look as big as if stuffed with capon. Who-

“ soever comes to visit us, never fails to find
“ mutton and fowl bones, and parings of fruit
“ about the house, and the doors strewed with
“ feathers and young cony skins; all which
“ we pick up over night, about the streets, to
“ credit us the next day. As soon as the friend
“ comes in, we fall into a passion, and cry, It is
“ a strange thing that I can never make this
“ maid sweep the room in time. Good Sir, ex-
“ cuse me, for I have had some friends at din-
“ ner, and these servants never mind their busi-
“ ness, &c. Such as do not know us, believe it,
“ and think we have had an entertainment.
“ Next, as for dining at other men’s houses,
“ whensoever we have spoke but three words
“ with a man, we take care to know where he
“ lives, thither we are sure to make just at eat-
“ ing-time, when we know he is at table; we
“ tell him, his conversation has so charmed us,
“ that we are not able to keep away, for he is
“ the most taking person in the world. If he
“ asks whether we have dined, and they have
“ not yet begun, we answer in the negative
“ they invite us, we never stay to be asked twice
“ because those ceremonies have often made us
“ go with hungry bellies. If they have begun
“ to eat, we say we have dined, and then, though
“ the master of the house carves up his fowl, or

“ any joint of meat never so dexterously, that we
“ may have the opportunity of chopping up a
“ mouthful or two, we cry, By your leave, Sir,
“ pray let me have the honour of being your
“ carver, for I remember naming some duke or
“ earl that is dead, God rest his soul, used to
“ take more delight in seeing me carve, than in
“ eating; This said, we lay hold of the knife,
“ cut out curious bits, and say, How delicately
“ it smells! It would be an affront to the cook
“ not to taste it, what a delicate hand she has at
“ seasoning! With this we fall on, and down
“ goes half the meat in the dish for a taste. If
“ there be bacon, we call it our delight; if mut-
“ ton, the only thing we love; if but a turnip,
“ an excellent morsel; and so every thing that
“ comes in our way, is ever the thing we most
“ admire. If all this fails, we are sure of the
“ alms of some monastery; which we do not re-
“ ceive in public among the beggars, but pri-
“ vately, endeavouring to persuade the friars,
“ that we rather take it out of devotion, than
“ for want.

“ It is pleasant enough to see one of us in a
“ gaming-house, how diligently he attends, snuffs
“ the candles, reaches the chamberpots, fetches
“ cards, applauds all the winner says, and all
“ this for a poor royal or two he gives him. We

“ carry in our mind the whole inventory of our
“ wardrobe or ragshop, in order to dress us; and
“ as in some places they observe set times for
“ prayer, so do we for mending and botching.
“ It is wonderful to see what variety of rubbish
“ we lay up, and produce upon occasion. We
“ look upon the sun as our mortal enemy, be-
“ cause he discovers our darns,itches, and
“ patches; and yet are forced to be beholding
“ to him, standing up with our legs wide open
“ in the morning where he shines in, to discover
“ by the shadows on the ground, what shreds or
“ rags hang between our legs, and then with a
“ pair of scissars we trim the breeches. Now
“ that part betwixt the thighs being so apt to
“ wear, it is very odd to observe what gaps we
“ make behind to fill up the forepart, so that
“ very often the posteriors are hacked away; till
“ they remain quite naked. Only the cloak is
“ privy to this secret, and therefore we are very
“ cautious of windy days; and of going up stairs
“ that are light, or mounting a horseback. We
“ make it our business to study postures against
“ the light; and if it prove a very bright day,
“ we walk with our legs as close as may be, and
“ sit as if our knees were clung together, for
“ fear lest we open them the gashes may ap-
“ pear. There is nothing about us, but what

“ has been another thing before, and may have
“ a particular history writ of it; as for instance,
“ you see this waistcoat, Sir, it was once a pair
“ of wide kneed breeches, grandchild to a short
“ cloak, and great grandchild to a long mourn-
“ er’s cloak, which was its first parent, and now
“ it waits to be converted into footing for
“ stockings, and forty other things. Our socks
“ were once handkerchiefs; descended from
“ towels, which had been shirts, and those the
“ issue of sheets; after all this, they are made
“ into paper, on which we write, and at last,
“ burn to make blacking for our shoes, where I
“ have seen it perform wonders, recovering many
“ a pair that was condemned as only fit for the
“ dunghill. At night we never fail to get at
“ the greatest distance we can from the light,
“ for fear of discovering our threadbare cloaks,
“ and woolless coats, for there is no more knap-
“ on them than is upon a stone; and though it
“ pleases God to give us hair on our faces, we
“ have none on our clothes; and therefore to
“ save the expence of a barber, we always con-
“ trive to stay till two of us want trimming to-
“ gether, and then we scrape one another, follow-
“ ing the advice of the gospel, ‘ Be helpful to
“ one another like loving brethren.’ Besides,
“ we always take care not to intrude into the

“ houses of others, for every one keeps his own,
“ and timely notice is given to avoid conten-
“ tion, being very jealous in the point of eating.
“ It is an indispensable duty among us to ride
“ about all the great noted streets once a quar-
“ ter, though it be on a soft ~~and~~ once a year
“ to go in a coach, when we are sure to sit as
“ close to the door as possible, thrusting out our
“ heads, bowing to all that pass by to be seen,
“ and talking to our friends and acquaintance,
“ though they do not see or mind us. If any
“ unmannerly creature happens to bite us be-
“ fore ladies, we have ways to scratch in public,
“ without being taken notice of; for if it hap-
“ pens to be on the thigh, we tell a story of a
“ soldier we saw had a shot through there, clap-
“ ping our fingers on the place that itches, and
“ clawing instead of pointing. If it is in the
“ church, and they sting on our breasts, we beat
“ them by way of devotion, though it be at a
“ christening; for the back, we lean against a
“ pillar or wall, and rub it there, as if we only
“ stood up to observe something. To deal in-
“ genuously, as to the matter of lying, not one
“ word of truth ever comes out of our mouths.
“ In all companies we run over a bead-roll of
“ dukes and earls, making some of them our
“ friends, and others our relations, always ob-

“ serving that those great men must be either
“ dead, or very remote. The best of all is, that
“ we never fall in love, unless it be to earn our
“ bread; for by our constitutions, coy ladies,
“ though never so beautiful, are absolutely for-
“ gotten; so that we ever court a tripeman
“ for our meat, the landlady for our lodging,
“ the starber for our band, and other necessa-
“ ries; and though such slender diet makes us
“ unfit to satisfy them all, yet we keep them in
“ good humour: Will any body that sees the
“ boots on my legs believe they are upon the
“ bare skin, without any stockings? Or will any
“ one that sees my curious starched band ima-
“ gine I have no shirt? Let me tell you, Sir, a
“ gentleman may make a shift without those
“ things, but there is no living for him without
“ a set starched band. This is an outward orna-
“ ment, altogether necessary to grace a man;
“ and besides, when he has torned it, and wound
“ it every way, the starch in it will make him a
“ mess as good as watergruel. In short, reve-
“ rend Sir, a gentleman of our stamp must go
“ through all sorts of wants and hardships, and
“ that is the way to live at court. Sometimes
“ he flourishes and rolls in plenty, and at ano-
“ ther time he falls into an hospital; but still he

“lives; and he who knows how to manage is a
“king, though he has never so little.”

I was so well pleased with the spark's unaccountable ways of living, and so much diverted with his relation, that I went on afoot as far as Rezas, without reflecting where we lay that night. The 'squire supped with me, for he had not one cross, and I thought myself beholden to him for his instructions, because they led me into abundance of secrets, and put me into the way of sharpening. I acquainted him with my designs before we went to bed, which he returned with a thousand embraces, telling me, he had always been in hopes since he met me that his words would work some good effect on a person of my capacity. He offered me his service towards introducing me at Madrid into the society of the tricking brotherhood, and a lodging among them. I accepted of his kindness, without discovering I had such a treasure of ducats, but only an hundred royals, which, with the kindness I had done, and was still continuing, purchased his friendship. I bought him three points of our landlord; he tied up his hose, we rested that night, got up early in the morning, and away we went to Madrid.



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