

woeful tale. As I was on my way, too, from the vineyard through the olive-grounds to the Molino house, I was met by a fine yoke of oxen of the Duke's, both of which dropped down and died before I came up to them—no doubt from the same cause. The consequence was that the supply of water for men and animals, as well as for the house and vineyard, had to be fetched four miles, and brought home in two-gallon earthen vessels on mule and donkey backs. The small river that ran from Illora was also polluted with the sewage, yet it was from it that the olive oil was pressed.

## XVII.

Nothing could be more praiseworthy than the zeal and earnestness with which my men set to their task; nothing more trying than the hardships and privations they had to submit to. Don Luis Jurado's staff of clerks and foremen (capatazes) consisted of twenty-five persons. The foremen were placed in front of the trenches, one for every gang of twenty men, to see that there should be no scamping (as might have been the case had there been no supervision), but that the work should be thoroughly done. At sunrise men and foremen were on the ground; and with them Don Luis Jurado, in spite of his seventy-four years, regularly attended by his nephew and by Don Antonio Paula,

the before-mentioned chief wine-broker of Montilla. These three, besides a clerk, were always waiting upon Don Luis, both for his safety and to receive and convey his instructions. The roll of the workmen was called at sunrise, and again after breakfast and at sunset; the various clerks employed for the successive calls checking each other. Another clerk, with a donkey laden with money in silver and copper, made up in small parcels, paid the wages daily, each foreman receiving the amount due to himself and his men.

### XVIII.

This system was already at work when I arrived from England in September; but many complaints were made to me of the obstructions my men met with through the agent and his subalterns interfering with the work in every way that could make it most disagreeable. Things had gone so far that, had I not arrived, they could not, for want of proper authority, have held their ground, and they would have had to strike work. And not a little had I myself to put up with.

The Duke had sent out proper instructions to his agent for the Molino house to be made comfortable for us, but nothing had been done. The entrance was through two large double doors. Inside was a stone-

paved square passage used for cattle, horses, and mules. On the right-hand side was a narrow staircase leading to the upper floor with two rooms: one of these had been allotted to me, the other to Don Luis and his staff. The only room on the ground floor was a kitchen with stone walls, benches for seats, and shelves for water-jars. All round this kitchen, on these stone benches, Don Luis's foremen made their beds, and their horses were fastened in a shed and stable outside. I took possession of my room, which was empty, and lay down on the floor, covering myself with my travelling rugs, until I had procured better things from the villages and from Granada. I had nothing for food but fowls and eggs and slices of salt pork preserved in jars, the fowls thin and tough with age, so that all that could be done with them was to stew them in earthen pots, adding bits of pork, onion, and whatever herbs could be found to make the mess savoury and eatable.

## XIX.

No sooner had I made myself comparatively comfortable than Don Luis called my attention to some oil-cellars adjoining the house in which were empty oil-jars, only a few of which had been in use for many years, and were cracked throughout, and thus valueless and useless. These cellars with their chopped straw Don

Luis suggested might be made available for his men to make their beds in, for, although the days were still hot, the nights were very chilly, and dysentery and fever were making way among them. I pressed this matter upon the agent, and his subordinate, the man in charge, who would not listen to my request; so, finding him unreasonable, and there being nothing else to be done to meet the exigencies of the case, I took possession of the place, promising to hold him scatheless, and handed over the premises to Don Luis for his men, thus settling the matter.

## XX.

Further, Don Luis asked me to taste the water drawn from the well in the courtyard—a large deep well, and the only one on the Molino estate. It was a very old well, and the water was bright and clear, but the odour of it was nauseous and sickening. Don Luis pointed out the cause of the pollution in a drain from some closet used by the sub-agent Calzado, the contents of which ran in close proximity to the well, and filtered into it. As a proof of the unwholesomeness of the water, he also referred to the case of the husband of the widow we had found in the house in shame and sorrow. The husband, he said, 'had been a trusty servant of the Duke, was only thirty-two years old, hale and hearty, when he was taken suddenly ill, and died in a few hours, no

one being able to tell what was the cause of his death ;' whereupon Don Luis broke in, saying, 'The cause, Don Horacio, was nothing but the water. It has killed the poor woman's husband, and, let me tell you, it will kill you and all of us, and the horses and cattle, and all that drink of it, unless it is carefully blocked up, so that it can no longer be used ; for this house is close to the old road to Loja, and some of the travellers halt here to draw water for themselves and their horses.'

I asked what we were to do for water, and was told that there was none nearer than Alomartes, four miles off, and it had to be fetched from there at a heavy expense. I shut up the well, therefore, and told off a lot of men and donkeys to bring a supply of water sufficient for the Molino house, besides what was requisite for the vineyards, the donkeys carrying no more than four pitchers of water each.

## XXI.

To give an idea of the condition of the country, I need only state the dodges we had to resort to in order safely to bring in the funds we required for the men's wages and all other expenses. No money was to be had from any place nearer than Granada, and that was sixteen miles off. Had the messengers sent to that city been known to go on such an errand, they would certainly

have been waylaid on their return and robbed. But I left that to Don Luis, whose first caution was that no allusion should be made to our wants, and no mention of money. Both he and I went to bed as usual. His room was adjoining mine, with communication through folding doors. In the evening two men rode up to the house, not together but from different quarters, and knowing nothing of each other's movements. They were healthy, stalwart young fellows, intelligent, and well mounted. They were desired to put up their horses and feed them well, as they should be wanted early in the morning, after which they made their beds with Don Luis's capatazes.

At twelve o'clock at night I heard Don Luis, his nephew, and Don Antonio Paula stirring about the room, and I learned that the last-named was to be the messenger to go for the money. I heard him load his rifle and fill his belt with cartridges, after which he proceeded to rouse the two men, bidding them also load their guns and feed their horses, as he said they must go with him at two o'clock. Don Luis had instructed Don Paula to get to Granada at six in the morning, when the *mal-hombres* (or rogues) were asleep. The men were to make their beds at the posada, bait their horses, and wait for the morning.

I had already instructed the bankers in Granada to have the money ready for me in small cash for my

wants, so that, when my men appeared at the bank at 10 A.M. with my letter, the bankers knew what was to be done. My messengers left the letter, went back to the inn to get their horses ready for a start at twelve o'clock at noon, and on their way they were to call at the bank, where Paula would receive the money-bags, and immediately make their way back to Molino del Rey, where Don Luis had timed them to arrive between 4 and 5 P.M. Had they been only half an hour late, Don Luis had a capataz and his men ready to be sent in quest of them. And ever after, whenever money was required, the men sent for it never knew anything about the business they were wanted for till they started on their errand: a plan of operation to which I adhered during the whole seven years I had to do with the Duke's business, these precautions being absolutely necessary in Spain whenever money was on the road.

## XXII.

The spring of 1865 was a season of drought: no rain fell from April to September, and many of the plants, especially those far up on the hills, did not thrive. This mishap was made use of by the agent and his subalterns, who represented it as a total failure of the enterprise, and wrote home to the Duke and his legal advisers in that sense. But Don Luis kept his foremen busy

at the vineyards, digging them deeply and training the plants admirably, the shoots that were made being surprisingly large and strong—an earnest of the extraordinarily rich, full-bodied wine that might be expected in due time.

### XXIII.

All the while Don Luis instructed Paula and another of his trusty foremen never to lose sight of me, but to follow me wherever I might go; and to have their loaded rifles always ready for use if they saw any danger of my being cut off by the *mal-hombres*—evil men or malefactors with whom the country was swarming, the Molino del Rey being notorious as a shelter for bad characters. This arose from the fact that the olive-grounds were so thickly planted, and had grown so closely together, that one could only see the sun here and there through their foliage, where some tree had fallen; and the undergrowth of weeds was so luxuriant that it came up to the horses' noses. All other parts of the estate were also covered with brushwood, and afforded hiding-places at every step.

### XXIV.

Nowhere could I have found a better bodyguard to protect me from such dangers than Don Antonio



Paula. He had been a soldier in early life, and had served under the great Duke at Vittoria, and on being released from service he became somehow connected with the *contrabandistas*, till I fell in with him at the time of my first visit to the vineyards of the neighbourhood of the Sierras de Montilla and Moriles. These vineyards were unsafe at the time, their owners were afraid of being seen about their property, and the chief magistrate of Montilla informed me that many of these proprietors had not seen their estates for years, and advised me not to venture near them without the escort of half a dozen civil guards, or gendarmes, for they would not otherwise answer for the consequences. This, however, did not suit me, as my object was to pry into the cellars and observe the nature of the soils and the cultivation of the vineyards, which could better be attained by dispensing with such strong precautions. Not to run into unnecessary dangers, however, I opened my mind to Don Antonio Paula, and bade him make his arrangements for my expedition unknown to any one. It was then eleven o'clock at night, and I wished to be off at once, as soon as he could get ready. We made a start from Montilla at two o'clock the next morning with three mules with provisions for ourselves, and a feast for the capatazes in charge of the vineyards, with a large bundle of cigars to smooth the way.

We had not proceeded a great distance on our way when we descried far ahead a doubtful-looking traveller, well mounted, with another horse laden by his side, and a couple of guns at hand, ready for use. Paula at once galloped off ahead of me, and when he came up with the stranger he went on as if he meant to pass him, but wheeled sharply round across the heads of the two horses, thus abruptly stopping them, and levelled his gun at the stranger's head, asking who he was, where he came from, and where he was going. As they were thus parleying: I rode past: the stranger looked at me, but dared not lay hands to his gun, for Paula would have shot him dead. I thus proceeded till I was out of shot. Paula joined me soon afterwards, and told me the stranger was not a pleasant companion to meet on the road, a *contrabandista* well known as such to Paula, who had probably had dealings with him in that capacity. I was glad enough to come off on such easy terms from this bloodless adventure. But it was in more serious encounters that Paula had gained the reputation he had as a man of spirit and energy.

## XXV.

It so happened, years before, soon after the war, that Paula had undertaken to act as guide to a party of English travellers on their way from Cordova to

Granada. At a spot half-way between the two cities seven *mal-hombres*, or bandits, rushed down from the woods into the road, and their leader caught hold of the foremost Englishman's horse, with the usual intimation, 'Your money or your life!'

'I instantly levelled my rifle at the brigand's head,' said Paula, as he told his tale, 'and shot him dead on the spot; and I was laying hand on my second gun, when the other six dastardly fellows took to their heels, and scampered off in several directions, leaving behind them their dead comrade, who was buried by the local authorities under a large tree.'

This good Paula, now seventy-four years old, never went past that tree without getting off his horse, telling his old story, and showing the notches he had made in the bark of that tree for a perpetual remembrance of his gallant exploit. Yet with all his pluck and combative spirit, this old guide was at the same time the most cheerful and obliging of attendants; and in one instance, when the Honourable Mr. Albert Petre, with his friend Mr. Farrell of Moynalty, wished to see the vineyards of the Sierras de Montilla and Moriles, he proved himself a capital caterer, rising very early to go to the market, and picking up all the good things they supplied: hares, partridges, and the fattest of fowls, and eels from the river, and large soles, with an occasional turbot when in Granada.

## XXVI.

At a later period I received a visit from Colonel Sir Robert James Loyd-Lindsay and Viscount Bury at Molino del Rey. When these gentlemen, after seeing the Duke's estate, wished to take a short cut to Cordova and Seville, I sent word to the old man that I was coming with two English noblemen, and he was so delighted that he rode a distance of forty miles to meet us, on the very spot where many years before he had, single-handed, obtained so signal a victory over seven brigands. The old fellow, however, had in this instance undertaken too much. He was quite exhausted when we stopped at the next wayside inn at Priego, and I had to keep him alive by the frequent use of my brandy flask; but the night's rest so refreshed him that he rode with us the whole of the following day—thirty miles—to Montilla, where Lord Bury and Sir Robert James Loyd-Lindsay took the train to Cordova. Old Paula continued to be my guide through those mountain passes up to 1871, when I left the charge of the Duke's estate; but even afterwards he was always with me whenever I rode out to inspect the vineyards of the Sierras de Montilla and Moriles. He died only a year or two ago, upwards of ninety. He was a very healthy man, and might be said to live on Montilla and Moriles wines, smoking incessantly.

He was, at his death, the owner of some notable vineyards, and left several thousand dollars. His care for me was ever gratuitous. He said he loved me for my upright heart, and it gave him pain when he saw me with another—he said he felt jealous. A very conscientious and righteous man was Paula in all his dealings, and truthful to a high degree. He brought up one of his sons for the Church.

## XXVII.

In the month of April 1865 the plantation of forty fanegas of land which had been traced out on the previous year had been cleared of their undergrowth of evergreen oak, the land had been trenched three feet deep, and the rubble-stone carted off to the edge of the vineyard; for the agent and sub-agent insisted that only so far we should go and no farther—thus putting a limit to our enterprise. Measurements were then made for the pits to be dug out, two feet deep and four apart, for each plant, all done with such exactness that the rows looked straight every way. The plants were now brought from the Sierras de Montilla and Moriles, a distance of about sixty miles, eight mules and four men being kept going backwards and forwards about it all the winter and spring.

The work being done, I left the Duke's vineyards

in charge of the Montilla planters, who kept constantly moving the soil to let in air, sun, and rain, lopping the plants about two feet from the ground to form a head, plucking off all waste growth, while other men were busy rearing huts adjoining the vineyards for labourers to live in.

### XXVIII.

On coming home to my business in Pall Mall after all this toil, I found that the Duke's agent was already in London, and had persuaded his Grace and his advisers that the work which had been done in his vineyards was a failure. As much as possible was made of the drought which had lasted from April to September; but the information vouchsafed betrayed only ignorance of the subject. I used to ride daily for my health in Rotten Row, from ten to twelve, and in these rides I frequently met the Duke of Wellington, who would turn and join me. I had thus good opportunities of detailing to his Grace all that had been done, refuting all misrepresentations. The Duke was convinced: he asked me to go out to him at Strathfieldsaye, where he received me with his usual kindness, and assured me nothing would make him swerve from his project. He believed his agent knew nothing about what he was saying, and, turning to me, with great

earnestness asked me if I would go out again and make a second planting.

Were I to consent, he said he would make a very clear arrangement. As the lands used for our purpose were mere waste lands, he saw no reason why our undertaking should in any way interfere with his agent: 'We will keep the vineyard separate from the remainder of the estate, and you shall have charge of it, and partake of its profits.' These were his precise words, and on these terms I agreed.

## XXIX.

As the time for my departure drew near, and the Duke's agent still tarried in London, new difficulties arose. It was proposed that the Molino house should no longer be given up to us, under pretext that it was wanted for making the oil.

I answered that during the previous winter it was Don Luis Jurado who had made the oil; that he had made much better oil and very much more of it than had been done for many years past; that he had handed it all over to the Duke's agent, who, far from having any reason to complain, had, on the contrary, been a large gainer by it, especially as I had borne a considerable part of the expenses. In my anxiety to prevent any contention between the Duke's agent and Don Luis

Jurado, to whom the Duke had pledged himself to allow the use of the Molino house, I advised his Grace to abide by the same arrangement as was made the previous year—that is, to let Don Luis make the oil as he had done before.

Don Luis was a very old man (seventy-four). He was too well known as a great and scientific farmer to have any wish to show off his knowledge of vineyards and olive-grounds. He had no views of personal interest; for his services were all gratuitous—no other object than his pride to serve the Duke, and show how the property should be farmed. For my part, I too had no personal object to serve beyond the interest I took in the vineyards and the wines, so that the agent need feel no jealousy or uneasiness on our account.

### XXX.

His Grace completely agreed with me on this point, and promised to act accordingly. But in the course of a week or two, and just as the time for my departure drew near, he called upon me again, and seemed to have changed his mind, as he said that his agent objected to Don Luis Jurado making the oil, and insisted on Don Luis vacating the Molino house. I made bold to explain to his Grace that he was breaking faith with Don Luis Jurado, and that, as Don Luis was



a gentleman of the strictest honour and integrity, I thought he would feel much hurt by the unceremonious way in which he was turned out of the Molino house. The Duke suggested that another house equally convenient could be found in the neighbourhood, even if it cost 100*l.* or 200*l.* But I begged him to consider that within four miles round his estate there was no habitation, except in the villages four miles off, unless it was his own guards' cottage on the top of the hill, adjoining the old Moorish Tower, called La Torre. 'Then,' he exclaimed, 'give that cottage to Don Luis. I will allow that to you for his use, and he may make the best of it to suit his convenience. I will desire my agent to remove his guards, and to have the place cleaned and made habitable.'

## XXXI.

With this I took my departure, September 1865. On my arrival at Molino del Rey I found that an additional forty fanegas of land had been traced out, and the work of Don Luis Jurado and all his staff was going on as satisfactorily as in the previous year. They had, however, still to contend with the agent and sub-agent, who endeavoured to resist any further extension of the vineyard by preventing our men from felling trees and burning them into charcoal.

The time arriving when the Duke had promised his agent that the Molino house should be vacated by Don Luis, the agent sent me a copy of the Duke's letter, with an intimation to that effect; and thus in his Grace's name, and by his order, he turned us out of the house. At the same time, as he had not, agreeably to the Duke's proposal, removed his guards from the cottage of La Torre, he left us no alternative, till the nights became very cold, but to creep under tents. We had thus to carry on our work in four tents, which, in the expectation of being eventually allowed to get into the guards' cottage, we erected alongside of it.

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XXXII.

The cottage itself consisted of only two small rooms on the ground floor, where the guards lived, and two other rooms where they kept their horses, besides an attic where they had the straw for their horses' fodder. The manure on the ground floor was many cartloads deep, and had evidently not been cleared out from time immemorial. I summoned some masons from the villages, and had the place properly cleaned out and whitewashed, cured the chimney from smoking, built up a kitchen adjoining the cottage, tiled out the flooring, and put strong fastenings to the doors both back and front, and so divided the ground floor as to have an

entrance-hall and staircase all my own to go up to the attic. As to the two rooms on the right hand, I made them into one, using it as a little drawing-room or sitting-room, and the same I did on the other side, reducing two rooms into one dining-room and kitchen. The upper attic I converted into two bed-rooms. The dormitories were hardly ready for use when a large snake fell from the roof upon one of the beds, because the tiles above were broken, and the snake as well as other vermin had made their way to the roof through the old Moorish tower adjoining.

It was evident, meanwhile, that in all their doings the agent and sub-agent were hampering us; for when they had taken the Molino house from us they made no use of it, but simply kept it closed. They removed, besides, every horse the Duke had on the spot, thus causing me great distress, for I had no means to send for food, either to Granada or to the villages.

### XXXIII.

The last horse the Duke's sub-agent left me had caused me a sad accident. It fell under me, and as I stretched out my hand to break the fall I sprained my left shoulder and put my arm out of joint. I immediately tied a handkerchief round my wrist, threw the end of it over the door, and bade the servant hold on with

all his might, while I hung out so as to stretch it back by all the weight of my body. I thus forced the bones back into their places, but to this day the shoulder has never ceased paining me a little, and I have lost the use of the limb.

All these domestic and personal worries caused me much suffering ; but later on I procured a fine donkey, and rode him to and fro between La Torre and the lower vineyards without saddle or bridle, everything of the kind having been taken away by the sub-agent.

#### XXXIV.

About this time hints were given to me that behind the great mountain wall of Parapanda a gang of *ladrones*, or robbers, were lurking, who, knowing that I had no other shelter than the canvas of our tents, were laying plans to seize me and carry me off to their mountain fastnesses. This greatly disquieted and upset my friend Don Luis Jurado, who, on hearing of it, launched out into very bitter words against the Duke and his advisers, and at once started off to Montilla with his nephew and his guards, leaving me with his clerks and Don Antonio Paula to complete the work. At the same time he handed over to me the balance of the funds in his hands, which I carefully secreted in a chest of tea. The old gentleman, however, was kind enough to send me two

of his very large watchdogs (*cortijo*, or farmyard, dogs), one of which I placed in front and the other at the back of my tent. Very powerful and savage dogs they were, and sure to give tongue during the night if anything passed or stirred within two miles' distance. Thanks to these gallant brutes the bandits never came near us, and seemed to have given up every thought of attack.

## XXXV.

But the report of these dangers had reached Mrs. Hammick, who was staying at the Alhambra at Granada, and who in her nervous fear on my account immediately set out for La Torre to be assured that all was safe. She arrived late in the afternoon, too late to return, so she had to share my danger and to sleep in my tent, the dogs growling all night, apparently disturbed by some people stirring somewhere, and faithful old Paula with two of his foremen helping the dogs to keep watch.

Weeks passed in this feverish state of suspense. Meanwhile, exerting my ingenuity as best I could to accommodate myself to a position which struck me as somewhat resembling that of Robinson Crusoe in his desert island, I had procured a few bricks and some lime, which had to be fetched seven miles off, and with these materials I managed to knock up a stable for horses and a fowl-house, so that I could have eggs and

now and then a fowl, when nothing else was to be got to eat.

## XXXVI.

In the midst of these troubles and perils, however, the work had been going on without intermission, and the second planting was accomplished. The last plants of the previous year had been made good, and the rains had brought forward the vineyard most admirably, so that the whole plantation looked quite satisfactory.

## XXXVII.

On my return to England I had some serious talk with the Duke. I pointed out to him many of the difficulties and annoyances to which I had been exposed, and explained to his Grace that if things were to continue on this footing the whole outlay must be looked upon as wasted, and all would come to grief. It was for his Grace to consider and settle what he would do ; for the matter must now pass out of my hands. I reminded him that I had for two years absented myself from my own business, an absence which had entailed upon me heavy charges, besides many serious losses ; and, to end all, I had lost the services of Don Luis Jurado, of his nephew, and others of his staff.

It was evident, I insisted, that some persons were

doing their utmost to destroy the whole concern. His Grace perceived this, admitted and acknowledged it, and seemed bent on devising a remedy; and the following was the result of his deliberations.

### XXXVIII.

He had seen at my office a clerk named Henry Edye, who seemed to interest him to such an extent that he made some inquiries as to who and what he was, and about his family and connections. My answer to his Grace was that the youth was the son of a surgeon at Exeter, that he was a brother of the celebrated special pleader, Mr. Walter Oke Edye, of the Inner Temple, and nearly related to Mr. Serjeant Manning. The young man's father, the surgeon, had attended Mrs. Hammick soon after her confinement, and, as she pined for the loss of her child, the surgeon sent this boy, his own child, then only three years old, to comfort her. The boy lived with us till he was fourteen, up to which time I paid all the expenses of his maintenance and education. At fourteen he went to a school at Aberdeen; but an uncle of his, a large shipowner at Hamburg, took him out of the school, when the boy went to sea, and was soon in command of one of his uncle's large ships. Some time later he put into Plymouth in distress, and made his

way into my office, wishing me to do something for him, as he had made up his mind to give up his seafaring life. Thus he was for the moment, and till better could turn out, staying with me as my office clerk.

The Duke was interested in the tale, pleased with the young man, and, thinking he would thus oblige me, came to the resolution of making Edye his agent, intending, however, that the youth should take all his instructions from me. This proposal seemed not unlikely to me to work well, and, upon this understanding, I made my arrangements to leave my business, and for the third time go out to the Duke's estate in the south of Spain.

### XXXIX.

It was soon evident that the Duke of Wellington had acted unwisely in the manner in which he appointed Edye his agent. The young man's conduct towards me and Mrs. Hammick had not been of a nature to inspire us with unbounded confidence. The boy had been with us from the age of three to fourteen, when his mother came up to us at Hampton Court; where we were then staying, and, becoming jealous of the boy's affection for us, took him home to Exeter.



with her ; where she was soon tired of him, and would gladly have sent him back to us. As, however, his removal had caused Mrs. Hammick some pain, I did not wish to expose her to the same suffering for the future, and declined to have him again in the house. It was then that he was sent to school at Aberdeen, and from there subsequently to his uncle at Hamburg, thence to sea as a sailor, and eventually took command of one of his uncle's vessels. In this position he had shown himself somewhat rash in temper. When he was shipwrecked near Plymouth he had evidently had enough of the sea, and then it was he came to me in Pall Mall. But he had only been in his temporary office at the desk a few weeks before the Duke called, I had not seen him for several years, and practically I knew nothing of what he might have been doing in the interval.

## XL.

I said nothing of all the unpleasant part of my connection with the lad to the Duke, because I had no wish to mar his prospects by disparaging him in anybody's estimation ; but when his Grace expressed a wish to appoint him his agent, I suggested that the appointment should place him in a position subordinate

to myself, for unless he remained amenable to my orders I was afraid all would go wrong. But the Duke, while he invested the boy with a full power of attorney, forgot to say anything as to his being amenable to my orders, and thus he vastly increased my responsibilities ; for, while morally the Duke looked upon me as answerable for all the boy did, legally the boy was, on the contrary, my master, and perfectly free from control on anybody's part. As, however, the Duke had gone so far, and I was bent on serving him and benefiting the young man, I deemed it useless to raise any objection, and the new agent went off to his post.

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## XLI.

Meanwhile my compliance with the Duke's wishes, that I should again go out to his estate, placed me in very great embarrassment. I had been for three winters absent from my business in Pall Mall, and it had suffered to such an extent that there was a falling off in the sale to the amount of 3,000% yearly, and bad debts had increased in almost the same proportion. I considered : Should I suffer these losses to go on for another year, and go out for the Duke's benefit, or should I give up his Grace's business and attend to my own concern ? It was a difficult choice, and involved a painful resolution. The Duke had always promised

that I should come in for a share of the produce of his vineyard ; I had no reason to doubt his Grace's word, and, after having despatched young Edye to the Molino, I considered myself bound in honour to his Grace, no matter at what cost to myself I did it—for my loss was nothing compared to the benefit that would accrue to the Duke from my going. Be it understood, therefore, that I deliberately sacrificed my own interests in his Grace's service.

## XLII.

The month of August had established the fact that there existed now eighty fanegas of vineyard doing admirably well at Molino del Rey, and that the plants that succeeded on the previous year had some very fine grapes upon them this year. There was a perfect certainty that there would be, more or less, about a hundred arrobas of wine, and about as much, or more, of good vinegar. Yet with all that there was nothing of what is required to make wine—no winepress, no cask, no cellar—so that unless I hastened my journey all the produce would be wasted. Moreover, next year the produce would be ten times larger, and the year after ten times as large again ; for in due course the vineyards would yield at least over three hundred butts per annum.

The Duke had in the meanwhile been induced by

his agents to order some new oil-machinery, and he had already paid for it, but it was not yet ready for shipment. His Grace begged me to look after it, and I did all that could be done to hasten its being shipped off. Week after week thus passed, time was lost, and I put off my departure, till at last I left the matter of the oil-machinery in the hands of my clerks, and for my part made the best of my way to Spain.

## XLIII.

I went to Madrid, where I had to stop to give official information respecting the change of agency.

At Madrid Colonel Fitch, an old veteran long established in Spain, told me he had been requested to ask whether I was the real agent for the Duke of Wellington. Upon my answering I was not, without volunteering any further information, he explained that the reason of his putting that question was that at the time the late agent was appointed both his brother and he had been deeply engaged in some mining speculations, so that the appointment had been a perfect god-send to them.

## XLIV.

It invariably happens to men who travel in too great a hurry that haste only causes them to lose time.

So it befell me in this instance, for, having arrived at Madrid in the morning by the mail train direct from Paris, I stopped only a few hours in Madrid, and thence took the mail train to Granada. The fatigue of the two previous nights caused me to go to sleep in the train, and I thus passed the junction at Alcazar San Juan, where I should have stopped to take the mail-coach for Granada. In my sleep I went on for about three hours on the way to Valencia, when I awoke and, finding out my mistake, alighted, in my hurry and drowsiness leaving my new silk umbrella on the railway carriage rack in the train, which soon went its way. On going back to Alcazar San Juan I had to pay the fare for my journey back, and on telegraphing for my umbrella I received no answer. It was only two years later that I found it at the cloak-room in Madrid. At San Juan I had again to pay the fare to Granada, as the through ticket from Madrid was only available for the day of issue. As all the places in the mail-coach were taken, I had to take my seat on the coach-box with the driver, the two places behind us being reserved for a gentleman and lady, who, however, were not forthcoming at the starting time, having probably met with the same mishap as occurred to me on the previous night—*i.e.* gone past the junction of Alcazar San Juan in their sleep. We thus started without them, the coachman bidding me take their

vacant seats, upon which some friend had laid a basket of nice provisions and two bottles of capital wine, evidently intended for their benefit. I showed them to the coachman, who told me I had better enjoy them, as probably he should never again see his two travellers, and, if he did, the viands would all be spoilt before that time arrived.

## XLV.

I arrived at Granada on the following day, where I found my faithful servant Don Antonio Paula with two guards awaiting me, and ready to take me to Soto de Roma through the woods and bypaths best known to them—a route, my man said, where *mal-hombres* could be lurking at every turning. It was a pleasant ride: the wild vines twined their shoots round the branches of the trees, and the purple, blue, and crimson tints of the autumn foliage were a lovely sight, the country showing a gayer display of colours than at any other time of the year.

## XLVI.

On arriving at Molino del Rey and going up to La Torre, I found that my Montilla men had not been idle. They had built a side-wing to the cottage, making of

the ground floor a stable for horses, with very strong doors to be locked up at night, and a room above it for chopped straw, with which it was at this time quite full, besides a fowl-house, or rather a shed roofed with tiles, so contrived that besides the fowls it might have room for the water-carriers' donkeys and the guards' mules. The cottage had also been cleaned throughout and white-washed, and these works were still in hand, progressing rapidly. The first thing inquired into was the amount of the expenses of these buildings, for I knew that on the Duke's estate there was no building stone, nothing but the so-called rubble-stones, which were only to be got by digging, and these could not be used without bricks forming a square frame to support them. The bricks had to be got from Larcha, a village nine miles off, and they had been bought and brought to the spot on donkeys; and the same had to be done with the lime, the water itself having to be fetched two miles. The conveyance of all these materials was very expensive, the outlay in total already amounted to more than 500*l.*, and I was told that they had already exhausted all the supply of bricks and lime.

After examining the cottage and stables and sheds for horses and mules, I was astonished at seeing so many men, women, and children passing the cottage at all hours, day and night—some of them halting, sitting about, looking in at the windows, with an air as if they

ad a right to be there and to do as they liked. On inquiring of Don Antonio Paula what the crowd meant, I was informed that the Duke's agent had let off all the lands of the Molino del Rey to some hundred of colonists on the same principle as the Soto was, and the lands had all been measured out for them; and a very large number of the evergreen oak-trees had been felled, made into charcoal, and sold in Granada, while all these people had become tenants on six years' leases, and by paying a fine to the office they acquired a right to transfer any portion of their lands to whomsoever they listed—by this means claiming a permanent right from usage and considering the lands as their own. This was personally a great nuisance to me, for I was at the cottage surrounded by these colonists night and day, as they were perpetually backwards and forwards on their way to and from their pieces of land, digging at the roots of the evergreen oak brushwood, and carrying it home for firewood. But this circumstance affected in a much more serious manner the Duke's interests, as all these tenants were in a state of actual starvation. They were wont to gather round the cottage at break of day by hundreds, more particularly under my bedroom window, whining and moaning in low voices, '*Don Horacio! Don Horacio! Mucha hambre! Mucha! No comer! Nada!*' [Give us work, or we must die!] The alcaldes from several villages



surrounding the Duke's property pleaded these people's cause also—in doleful voices. Mothers would carry or lead their children after me wherever I went, all in a state of almost nakedness—some even stark naked—crying for *pan y trabajo* (bread and work), every day bringing the same sight of woe, the same cry of distress, so that my means to afford relief were tried to their very utmost. But those who had been allotted pieces of land near the vineyards would at midday steal away and dig roots on their lands, and steal back again into the trenches by the time that paying time was at hand, the capatazes winking at the fraud, and paying them as if they had been at work the whole day. To prevent this I had not a little trouble in keeping a sufficient watch to distinguish the drones from the working bees.

I also discovered that the grapes disappeared marvellously wherever the hills prevented the thieves being seen.

All I could do was simply to buy off all these leases, which I achieved by paying them compensation for their labours, and refusing them work unless they fell in with my terms. Some of them, however, were extremely obstinate, and held out for years, on the plea that when I left them there would be no more labour, they would no longer have their lots of land to fall back upon, and would be reduced to their previous

state, the land becoming the Duke's property, and leaving them nothing to cultivate and live by in the same manner as was done at the Soto.

#### XLVII.

The Duke had told me the year before, when he gave me the cottage, that I might build what I liked about it so as to make it comfortable, or he would give me 100*l.* or 200*l.* to rent a house in the neighbourhood, so as to avoid all collision with his agents, who pestered him with their complaints. But this was not practicable, for there was not a house to be had in any of the surrounding villages, and, had there been one, the distance to the nearest village was four miles, and going backwards and forwards every day, and more than once, to look after the labourers, from early daybreak to dusk, when I had to pay them, would have entailed more labour and fatigue than any man could stand. On the other hand, if I slackened in my attendance, and was not constantly at hand to watch them, I could not control their work, or prevent them from yielding to the temptation of claiming higher wages than their employment entitled them to. Rather than hold out such a temptation to them, I was prepared to rough it to any extent.

This determined me to make the cottage at La

Torre my permanent residence on all occasions and during my stay, which was prolonged to May 1867, when I returned to England.

## XLVIII.

The Duke's new agent, Mr. Edey, as I said, had preceded me by several days, but he had been staying in Granada, waiting till he could occupy the Duke's offices and store-rooms in that city. But the man who had been acting as sub-agent showed him a letter which overruled his, Mr. Edey's, authority. This brought Edey to La Torre, where it was intimated to us that some time must elapse before the books could be made up, that there was no money in the offices, and no stores whereby money might be made.

After a day's rest I took Edey to the Molino house and showed him the two rooms that were to be his, the same I had occupied the first year I came out. The young man seemed astonished that such a place should be destined as the abode of a representative of the Duke on the Duke's own property; for, as he came from Hamburg with grand ideas, he took it into his mind that a Duke's agent should be lodged in a ducal palace or mansion. I tried to console him and to soothe his disappointment by telling him how I myself had been treated, how the rooms which were now at his disposal

had been taken from me, in what condition I had found the cottage at La Torre when it was given to me, how I had lived in tents while the rooms at La Torre were being made ready, and how I had to stand upon my defence against the malefactors who were plotting to make a raid upon me from Parapanda and carry me off to the mountains; expecting the Duke to pay a large sum for my ransom,

## XLIX.

As I saw that the young man was disappointed and dissatisfied with the two rooms which he could equally have at Molino del Rey and at Soto de Roma, and as he asked me 'what he was to do in the event he wished to marry,' I deemed it advisable to administer a wholesome lecture, that should at the same time console and enlighten him. I told him how his predecessor, Calzado, had represented to the Duke that the two rooms at the Molino house were wanted for himself, Calzado, if he was to superintend the oil-making; how, in consequence, the Duke, having to deprive me of these two rooms, had placed at my disposal the guards' cottage at La Torre; how I had tried to make the best of it, but while the cottage was being fitted out I had to make my home in four tents, where I suffered from the cold nights, and incurred the

danger of the robbers encamped at Parapanda; and, in short, I gave him a detailed account of all the hardships I had to go through.

## L.

'I was very glad,' I continued, 'to get at last into the cottage; but I must give you a description of the state in which I found it on my first occupation. The masons had barely laid on all the tiles, the roof was not yet watertight, so I spread my waterproof on the floor, close under the windows, as close to the wall as I could, that I might not be seen by the bandits. I put the mattress on the waterproof, and used my travelling-rugs for coverlets. The windows were up to the ceiling, small and high, crossed with iron bars. The doors were heavy, made of evergreen oak, very old oak, perhaps two or three centuries old; very strong, and fastened with huge bolts from the inside. My old faithful Paula was my commander-in-chief. He placed one of his men inside at the front door and another inside at the back; and after all the doors were fastened he made these sentries lie down on the floor with their heads against the doors, making pillows of their *alforjas*, or saddle-bags, with their guns by their side at their right hand, ready for service. Paula himself made his bed in the same manner outside my door. To this extent men have to rough it in this

country, and such precautions they must take, for they carry their lives in their hands. Had I not done all this I could not have attended to my duty, and the Duke would not have got half the labour done for which he paid his money.

## LI.

‘So you see, Master Henry,’ I continued, ‘that you must not expect to lie on a bed of roses. For my own part, I was always well inured to hardships. It is only three years since I made a tour through Egypt and the Holy Land, and whilst at Jerusalem I made excursions all round—one of them to Bethlehem and Hebron, and we tarried so long at the former place that we only arrived at Hebron by dark. At Hebron I had letters for a most friendly and hospitable Jew. All we had to eat was a few sardines and potted meats, but when we asked for drink we were told the two soldiers we had brought with us and their animals, with the Jew’s own family, had drunk all the water there was in the house. “Never mind the water,” we said, “but what about wine?” “Wine he had,” the Jew answered, and he pointed out a jar which he had behind him, full of wine made out of the Eschol grapes, which he simply pressed in the jar itself. It was very luscious and very thick, for it was made, not out of the ripe fresh grapes, but of the same fruit half dried for raisins.

## LII.

‘While we were sipping this liquor, I noticed that the Jew, our host, and his men were laying down four sacks of corn on the floor. These, we were informed, were to be our beds ; each of us sleeping between two of the sacks. What did I do ? you will ask. Why, I just took my hand-bag, which I used as a pillow, covered myself with my travelling-rugs, and thus made myself as comfortable as circumstances would allow. And this I did for pleasure, you see, for I was out on a pleasure trip.

## LIII.

‘From Hebron we went back to Jerusalem, and only alighted on the banks of Solomon’s Pool to refresh ourselves and our horses. It began to rain as we proceeded, and in a very heavy downpour we made our way back to Jerusalem, where we arrived drenched through, our horses all the way sinking to their knees in mud. Our bedrooms in the Holy City had windows looking down into a cesspool, the water smelling like sewage water. Having been so many hours in the saddle, my friend was quite done up, and soon we both retired to rest. But, unknown to me, my friend had a charcoal fire placed in his room. My bedroom was opposite to his, with only a narrow passage between

the two. I laid myself down, and was soon asleep. Presently, however, I was awakened by a noise as of some one scraping at the door. As I sprang up I felt I had a splitting headache. I threw open my door, and saw my friend's door ajar, and himself lying across it on the inside, where he had fallen in his vain endeavour to open it. I forced open the door, but found the man insensible, the fumes of the charcoal having very nearly asphyxiated him. The rush of air made in opening the door somewhat revived him, but it was some time before I could raise him on his knees, bidding him put his arms upon my shoulders; and thus I lifted him on to his legs, which were cramped, and carried him backwards and forwards for two hours in the air up and down the passage, when his legs gradually unstiffened and he presently came round to himself.

‘And this I mention to you, my young friend, that you may know how to protect yourself in this land of *braseros*, or charcoal pans, where you can fall asleep in the evening and not always have, like my friend, somebody at hand to save you from a stifling death in the morning.

#### LIV.

‘I hope, after all I have said,’ I concluded, ‘we shall have no more of your complaints of the two rooms at the Molino house, as it is all the Duke has to give you.