

them? You sell them at one price, and make out the bill for double the quantity? And you do, in fact, all that Don Rafael bids you?’

‘That is just it,’ cried the woman.

‘How far from this is the lime-kiln?’

‘A good way.’

‘Can I get to it easily?’

‘No, señor. You must not think of it for to-day.’

And so I returned to La Torre, having been twelve hours in the saddle.

LXXXVII.

Thinking my inquisitorial campaign would soon become the talk of the people, without loss of time I planned another expedition, and came unexpectedly upon the lime-burner.

‘Are you the lime-burner?’

‘I am.’

‘You make capital lime.’

‘I do my best.’

‘What do you charge the fanega?’

The charge is named.

‘Where do you get the stones to make the lime?’

‘Out of the river.’

‘How far am I from Santa Fé?’

'Some distance.'

'Can I cross the river anywhere to get to the place?'

'Not now.'

'How do you burn the lime? Do you get coal from Malaga?'

'No, señor.'

'Can you get any from Granada? You could get it, but it is very costly.'

'It is so.'

'Then how do you manage?'

'I use wood.'

'Where can you get it? On this side of the river there is none; and the river is so high and so strong that surely you cannot get it across from the other side?'

No answer.

'Whose property is that, yonder, on the other side?'

'Don't know.'

'Do you not call the owner "El Duque"?''

'Si, señor.'

'Do you not know the property under any other name?'

'No, señor.'

'Do you not call the land on the other side "El Soto de Roma"?''

'To be sure.'

'Do you know anybody from there?'

'I do.'

'Do you know *El Hombre*, Don Rafael?'

'Si, señor.'

'Have you lately seen him?'

'I have.'

'Have you sold him any lime? How many fanegas?'

'Can't remember.'

'But you can tell if you like. Does a donkey carry a fanega or two—eh?'

'My donkeys carry two each.'

'How many loads did you take in in one day?'

So many loads.

'How many did you take altogether?'

So many loads.

'Did you make out the bill for the same sum of money you received?'

'No, señor.'

'Did you charge for more than you sent?'

'Yes.'

'And at a higher price?'

'Yes, sir.'

'I presume you do this for the profit of any one who comes to buy of you?'

'Of course.'

'Now tell me how much money you received from Don Rafael?'

'I shall not do that. If I do that Don Rafael won't come to me again.'

'Did you get half the money the bill was made out for? Did you get a quarter?'

'Well, about that.'

'They tell me Don Rafael is a capital shot. Is he so?'

'They say so.'

'Just the man to be in such a place!'

'I suppose he is.'

'Has he been long in office?'

'All his life.'

'How far is it from here to the cement-kiln?'

'A good way.'

'Is it on the other side of Larcha?'

'It is.'

'Can I cross the river about there?'

'Not now. *Buenos dias, caballero!*'

'*Buenos dias!*'

So I went back to La Torre this day again after a nine hours' ride.

LXXXVIII.

But I did not mean to rest here. I soon planned another expedition, intended as a visit to the cement-

burner, in another part of the country. I came upon the man at his work, and began my usual inquisitorial dialogue.

‘Are you the cement-burner?’

‘I am.

‘I believe you burn first-rate cement?’

‘I do.’

‘What do you charge per fanega?’

The price was named.

‘I am told you make it out of a peculiar stone, do you not?’

‘We get the stones from such and such a place.’

‘How far from here?’

‘About three leagues on the road to Loja.’

‘Do you sell much?’

‘No, señor; there is little demand.’

‘Have you sent any to Molino del Rey?’

‘I have.’

‘Who was the purchaser? Don Luis Jurado?’

‘No, señor, he sent for stone and burnt it himself.’

‘Can you tell me who bought the cement? Was it a tall, fine-looking fellow?’

‘Sí, señor.’

‘Can you tell me how many fanegas he ordered?’

‘Well, it is a long time ago, I cannot recollect.’

With this we rode back to La Torre, having been fully nine hours in the saddle, from 2 to 11 A.M.

LXXXIX.

Saturday came, and up came Don Rafael, calling for money for the wages, eighty odd pounds.

'*Buenos días* [Good morning], Don Rafael! What do you want?'

'I call for the money to pay the wages. The men are so poor—nearly starving.'

'What are the causes of so much poverty?'

'I really cannot tell you, sir. The men do tolerably well in the summer, but in the winter season they are wretchedly off. You see the waters are high everywhere; the bridges are washed away——'

'What do you call bridges?'

'I mean those wooden structures made by cutting down trees and laying them across the stream, with some pieces of smaller wood and branches thrust in between the timber to fill up the intervals and support the framework.'

'But could you not use soil or stones between the timber, so as to give solidity to the bridges and prevent their being washed away?'

'Oh yes, we do all that; but the sun is so powerful in the summer, and the rains and overflow of the waters so heavy and continuous in winter, that the bridges very soon rot, and require renewing every other year at the least.'

'Are there many bridges of this description on this estate?'

'Si, señor.'

'How many?'

'Can't tell, but I should think several hundreds. Without these bridges the tenants could not get upon their lands.'

'Then every tenant must have a bridge!'

'Not every one, but very nearly all of them.'

'But I think they should all have one. And so you make these bridges by cutting down woods?'

'We do.'

'What will you do when you have cut down and used up all the trees?'

'I really cannot tell. That is a matter for the Duke to think of.'

'Did any of the Duke's agents ever ask you what should have to be done in that emergency—I mean, when all the timber and wood should be exhausted?'

'No, sir. No one ever troubled his head about it.'

'Then you really cannot tell me how it is you are all drifting into so much poverty? Am I right in calling it *drifting*, for I presume it is nobody's fault?'

'Well, it is the Duke's fault. Why does he not come and see to it? How can he know or understand anything about it without coming?'

'Do you not think Don Roberto Grindlay under stood it?'

'No, he did not.'

'What about Don Juan Mark?'

'Not a bit better; only been here twice.'

'What about his sub-agent, Calzado?'

'Worse and worse. He was a clerk in the Consul's office. What can he know?'

'What is the reason so many of the tenants have no seeds to sow their lands?'

'Well, the reason partly is that their cottages have no store-rooms; all of them are dilapidated, and some of them so leaky and damp in the winter that the fever is never altogether absent from them.'

'I am told the floors are one foot below the level of the street. Is that the case?'

'Indeed it is.'

'How happens it?'

'Why, the cottages are very old; the roadway has been paved again and again; its ground has been raised above the level of the floors inside, while the houses remained as they were.'

'How can this evil be remedied?'

'Cannot tell, señor.'

'How is it that Casa Real is in such a dilapidated state?'

'Cannot tell, señor. It has been going to the bad as long as I can recollect.'

‘How is this?’

‘Why, when the river was high and overflowed, the water got into it, and it was allowed to stagnate there. Besides, the place is always open. Anybody goes in and out of it as he likes.’

‘Now, can you show Mr. Edye the boundaries of the Soto de Roma?’

‘I can to some extent; but there have been so many lawsuits about the watercourses that I do not know how matters were settled, and how the lines were agreed upon.’

‘Do you think old Torre may know? How old is he?’

‘Well, he is eighty-four, and knows more than anybody here. He was here in General O’Lawlor’s time.’

‘Do you think he could still be able to go round the estate?’

‘On horseback not. He has not ridden for a long time, and he cannot walk far.’

‘And is there no one else that knows much about the estate?’

‘Sir, those who could tell much about it are dead. Of the living I believe my father is about the oldest.’

‘What is your father’s age?’

‘About seventy.’

‘And how old are you?’

‘Getting on for fifty.’

'Your father gets a pension from the Duke, does not he?'

'He does, señor.'

'And you, I imagine, are looking out for the same, one of these days, are you not?'

No answer.

'Well, we have had a long chat together this morning, Don Rafael, and so I have had no leisure to look over your bills. I think we may as well leave them for next week. In the meanwhile, you are well enough off to pay all the wages required.' With this I dismissed him, and he went back to the Soto, evidently having as yet heard nothing of my several rambles about the estate in the early morning.

XC.

Another expedition of the same kind and for the same object was now planned. I rode to the Soto to observe the cutting down of the trees, the driving of their trunks as piles into the river, and the stuffing of the bank with the top branches and leaves. The waters were running very high, and took the horses off their legs. Some of my companions swam far down the stream, but the many bends in the river helped them to the landing-places. After riding for several hours I heard the tapping of the hatchets.

I went up to these woodmen. By this time many of the fellows knew me. I asked:—

‘Has Don Rafael been here to-day?’

‘No, sir: it is too early yet for him to appear.’

‘Are you doing that work thoroughly and with good effect?’

‘Yes, sir.’

‘How much longer will it last? Several days?’

‘Yes, unless the waters abate.’

‘How long have you been at it?’

‘So many days.’

‘How many men are there at this business of cutting down trees? How many driving in the piles? And how many labourers?’

‘So many.’

‘Are you quite sure? Count them again.’

‘Si, señor.’

‘Can I get back again across the river?’

‘No, señor. You must go back the same way that you came, and cross on the bridge at Peños Puente.’

‘How am I to get there?’

‘Go to Casa Real, and follow the road to Granada until you get to Atarfa, then you will get into the old road that leads to Molino del Rey and Loja. *Buenos días, caballeros!*’

‘*Buenos días!*’ And off we start home again.

XCI.

A few days later Don Rafael again made his appearance, asking the money for his wages. I bade the clerks pay him, as I should be engaged with Valls, one of the clerks, for a little while. But he sat about below stairs, asking many questions about my doings—where I had been to, for what purpose, etc. My secrets were either not known or were faithfully kept, so Don Rafael could make out nothing, and he thought all was right.

When he came up I addressed him :—

‘What news from the Soto? Are the waters abated?’

‘They are, a little.’

‘Did you wade or swim across the river? Or did you come round by Peños Puente?’

‘I crossed the river.’

‘Put down your gun on the table, and draw up to the fire; and there is a cigar for you.’

The cigar caused him to lay by his gun in the corner, and I drew my chair in front of it, so that he could no longer reach it. At the same time I quietly placed my ‘lady’s-companion’ before me on the table, close to my right hand.

When he had got well on with his cigar, I told him I had some very serious matter to talk over with him.

I began : ' Don Rafael, I believe you have been in the Duke's service all your life, and your father is receiving a pension for his long services at the present time. Is that so? '

' So it is.'

' You have almost every winter, more or less, all this to do about these waters, have you not? '

' Much in the same way.'

' Did Calzado or anybody else think of testing your information when you spoke to them about these waters? '

' Oh, they would never think of venturing out into these quagmires : they would not ride about the flooded lands.'

' So you had to do it all yourself? '

' Of course I had.'

' How often did you go pattering about these quagmires? '

' Well, two or three times.'

' Was that enough to look after so many men? '

No answer.

' Does not this leave it open for the men to sit down idly on the bank, and so spin out the work that it may last as long as suits them? How do you know how many of the men are at work? '

' Oh! do I not see and count them before they start? '

'Perhaps so! But how can you be sure that the number you have charged for in your accounts were actually at work on such a day?' (mentioning the date).

'Oh! on that day I was ill and unable to attend to my duty.'

'Well now, listen to me, Don Rafael! I have been to the canal, and fathomed out all your doings there: I have been through the alamedas, and traced out all your dealings there. I have been up and down the rivers; I have been to the brick-burner; I have been to the lime-kiln, and everywhere I have found out your dealings. Lastly, I have come to the conclusion that the whole of it is a mass of corruption from beginning to end. Now tell me: How long have you carried on this game? All your life?'

No answer.

'And all your guards are accessories to your actions; and so are all these people you employ?'

No answer.

'Are you aware that you have a soul to save? I presume you go to confession. How do you compound for these wicked deeds? What says your priest to them?'

Still no answer.

'But I have been told that your priest is in the habit of lending money to the poor tenants in the spring to get it back at harvest time. Is this true?'

'It is.'

'I am also assured that he charges them a peseta a month interest for every dollar' (20 per cent.) 'Is that also true?'

No answer.

'Do you ever lend them money also on the same terms?'

Again no answer.

'I believe these poor people give a *pagaré* [I.O.U.], or promise to pay these loans at harvest-time. And the nature of this promissory note is that, when due, if not paid instanter, it empowers you to go to the *alcalde*, who issues a writ of execution, by which you lay hand on all the poor creatures' possessions. May not this be one of the reasons why there is so much poverty in the Duke's villages?'

No answer.

'That belt which you have got on gives you considerable authority over every person you employ or have dealings with. I believe your oath is taken without corroboration as to all you may do or say. Be so good as to take off that belt, will you? and hand it over to me, that I may get it washed and scoured, and rid it of the contamination it has received from its contact with such a poisonous body as yours. You will go from here, leaving it, and your gun, and the money you came to claim—here.'

The man was too crestfallen for resistance. He

got up and went downstairs, leaving belt and gun, and I never heard another word about the eighty pounds.

Don Rafael went away discomfited, and, as I never saw him again, I flattered myself I had rid the estate of him for ever.

XCII.

All these matters did not so utterly engross my time as to prevent my turning my attention to the olives. The gathering of this fruit in this year, 1866, began in November. There were in the estate about 16,000 olive-trees, more or less, all well-watered. They had been planted in 1806, and were well cared for during General O'Lawlor's agency—that is, up to the year 1844. Since that time, however, they had been sadly neglected. A few days before the gathering I took a very careful survey of the crops, and noticed that only about one tree in five had any fruit, and the fruit-less ones were those of the strongest growth and broadest foliage. They were also those which had the richest crop of weeds underneath. My old faithful servant, Don Antonio Paula, took me to an out-of-the-way part of the plantation, and showed me some trees, upon which two years before an experiment was tried whether or not the tree had become too old for thinning. One or two limbs had been lopped off on the sunny side of the tree, and several young shoots had sprung out close

to the spot where the cut had been made. These young shoots, it was explained, should be thinned out so as to leave only one, two, or three of them at the utmost, and these only should be allowed to grow up. Sun and air having thus been let in upon these trees, the crop of olives on them was most abundant. The first thing the trees required, as all fruit-trees do, was pruning. Had the operation been done thirty years before, the trees might have been doing well, but now they were too old, the wood was much more brittle, the young shoots not so vigorous, and the fruit not so rich in oil. For this kind of work, the trees having been allowed to grow too old, the most intelligent and practical men would be required. Such men were not to be found in these parts, Paula assured me. There were some in Estepa, but he knew nobody there, and he advised me to apply to Don Luis Jurado for advice and direction. Don Luis, who still resented the treatment he had received at Molino del Rey, sent back word that he was too old to move, and that he would do nothing for the Duke's estate or for the Duke himself, but that, *to oblige me*, he would send a messenger to make inquiries. In the course of four or five weeks the messenger arrived, with the information that the judge at Santa Fé was a native of Estepa, that he was a worthy man, and that through him I might hope to obtain my desire.

I well remembered this judge, having had to answer

his summons about the water rights, so I ventured to ask him to come over to La Torre for a few days' shooting. He was well pleased with the invitation, came over with a friend, and I entertained both to the best of my ability. I then introduced the topic of the olive-trees, and asked him how I could get some of the men from the country about Estepa who had the reputation of being the ablest workmen in the pruning line. The judge at first saw nothing but rocks ahead. There was a great demand for such men, they did not like to leave home, etc., but if anything was feasible no time should be lost: he would write home to his friends and see what could be done, but I should give him the number of the trees, as well as all particulars about the soil, the water, etc. He took down all these particulars: he found it would be a very heavy job, it would take a great number of men, etc., but it should be achieved. By such roundabout ways, and across so many obstacles, must one do business in Spain.

XCIII.

I took advantage of the judge's friendly disposition to broach another subject, that of the water rights. There was the direction of the watercourses to be regulated, and compensation for damages caused by their overflow to be awarded. I asked the judge whether he

could find a way of getting both difficulties speedily and permanently settled, and if he would do so, and come over with his friend and have another day or two shooting, I would hand over to him the funds necessary to meet all outstanding claims, and give him five pounds besides for his trouble, so the matter would be at an end, and nobody the wiser. In the course of seven or eight weeks, when the waters had abated, the judge came over again to La Torre, and everything was settled. In due time, when the olives were gathered, a number of these Estepa men arrived. The masters examined every tree and marked every limb that should be cut, the men followed with their hatchets cutting down the doomed branches, next came the charcoal-burners chopping up the fragments and carrying all off to the nearest place to burn into charcoal; and this was the first pruning the Duke's olive-trees had had since O'Lawlor's time.

XCIV.

The Duke's former agent, Mr. Mark, and his sub-agent, Calzado, were not slow in putting on these proceedings the construction which suited them best. They sent home word that I was ruining the Duke's olive-trees—and for a time they succeeded in frightening the Duke himself and his advisers; but the result was that the very next year there was an increase of fruit, and

the increase went on until by the time I left the agency, in 1871, it had reached over 8,000 arrobas.

XCV.

The pruning being done, it became necessary to plough the ground under the trees, and it had to be done thrice to kill the weeds and let in the sun and air to the roots ; so I set ten or more ploughs to work, and kept them going for many weeks, till I had got the land thoroughly cleaned, after which I employed a large number of men to clean out all the watercourses, so that when one tree had received its quantum of water the stream should pass on to another ; and by this operation I had, in the spring of 1867, put the Duke's olive-ground in thorough repair.

But the amount of produce necessary for the feeding of the animals I employed in these works drew my attention to the condition of the watered farm at Huerte Majara. It was necessary to bring this farm into cultivation, but after trying the abilities of several men I was convinced that they were all too ignorant and troublesome to be made to do their work, and too indolent to learn it. I felt convinced that the Duke's agent, Mr. Edye, would make no hand at it, and, as the olive-trees would be all the better for some deeper ploughing, I deemed it best to look at home for some

intelligent young English farmer, if such a one could be found ; but this I reserved for the time when I expected to return to England.

XCVI.

As soon as the waters had abated at the Soto, I was assailed by complaints about the violation of water rights. It appeared that the water was turned away from one man's land to benefit others, and not turned back again as it should in due course. These were matters which I could not understand without being on the spot ; so frequently I used to leave La Torre at two in the morning, and make my way to Casa Real. Here I found several branch roads leading to the farms above and below the locality. The rides through the woods in the early morning were quite exhilarating. I used to arrive at some of the farms early in the morning, when there were no guards abroad. The poor tenants would then come and point out to me how the waters were taken from them, and not returned as promised. I, of course, took note of the offenders, and soon found that in many cases the evil-doers were the Duke's own guards, many of whom rented pieces of land in different parts, so that the water was another backsheesh allowed to the guards to induce them to wink at the violation of the people's rights.

XCVII.

In these rides of mine I came upon several flour-mills, some of which had recently, and others many years before, become useless, the water having burst into them and swamped them. These mills had never been repaired, and the tenants had not paid, nor were they in a condition to pay, their rent. I examined these mills, and found in them several poor children almost naked, who immediately began to whine, asking for bread for *padre* and *madre*, their parents having gone out to cultivate their bits of land. Here, as we had already been four hours in the saddle, we dismounted on a bank, loosened our saddle-girths, and got the children to bring water for ourselves and our horses. I then bade them sit down on the bank and share our bread with us and the horses—for we had nothing else—and after an hour's rest returned to La Torre.

XCVIII.

I had thus surveyed about one-third of the Soto de Roma, from Larcha to Peños Puente. As Casa Real was almost in the centre of this part of the estate, I wondered how it could have been allowed to go to such ruin, for its situation in the midst of its

several diverging avenues of fine old trees made the spot perfectly enchanting. I saw the stumps of some trees of great beauty, that must have measured fifteen to twenty feet round their girths, and which had been cut down at the base, close to the roots, to serve as clumsy pipes for the watercourses, the trunks having been hollowed out in the middle for that purpose. The singing of the birds and the rich foliage of the trees that were left had an indescribable charm for us as we rode there in the early morning; the umbrage of the grounds of Soto de Roma most pleasantly contrasting with the bare uplands in the neighbourhood of La Torre.



P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife
 CONS. XCIX. DE CULTURA

Beyond Casa Real we used to go through some avenues of old elms of great size, four trees deep in their entire breadth, and two miles in length, leading to Casa Grande, where the business of the estate was carried on; and opposite to this was the Duke's granary, where the Duke's rents, always paid in wheat, were received, consisting either of one-sixth, one-eighth, or one-tenth of the crop, according to the different class of land for which the tenant had to pay. This granary also I found sadly out of repair, for the pillars had given way, and repairs had to be done before the harvest time, which would be in the forthcoming June.

Casa Grande had a kitchen on the right side of the entrance, and a bedroom on the left, and these were occupied by old Señor Torres, who had charge of the house and kept the keys of the granary.

Over these apartments were the two rooms for the accommodation of the agent when he came to the spot, and Mr. Edye complained that, when here, he had to rough it worse than he would have had to do in the fore-castle of the roughest ship afloat. Further, to indispose Mr. Edye against this his only possible temporary home, Señor Torres showed him where a musket-ball had hit the wall just above the bed where the agent slept, at the time when Don Roberto Grindlay was in office. The sanitary condition of the place was deplorable. There were none of the sanitary conveniences of our modern houses, only a heaped-up mass in the centre of the yard, apparently undisturbed for years. Round this yard were the sheds for horses. Bipeds and quadrupeds—men, women, and children, horses, donkeys, mules, and swine—used this convenience without restraint or hesitation, the feeling of decency and shame being as utterly dead in the human being as in the lowest brute. Such was Casa Grande—and such is Spain, and many other parts of the 'sweet south'; for in this respect the lower classes of the Latin race will perhaps never become amenable to European conventionalities.

C.

Casa Grande, however, with all these drawbacks, was a convenient place, enabling me to survey more of the Duke's estate, particularly those parts which were most troublesome, and about which disputes and complaints most constantly arose. As the days became very hot soon after sunrise, the ride from La Torre, seven miles, and seven miles back, even without the flooding streams and the heavy lands, where the horses sank to their knees at every step, became rather a severe task; so I had the place thoroughly cleaned out, the refuse removed, the stables repaired and white-washed, and the interior of the house made decent and wholesome. I sent some furniture, so as to enable me to stay there from the Saturday till the Monday, using the interval to see and learn all I could. I made several excursions along the banks of the rivers, where I found hundreds of acres of pasturage with sore-backed animals grazing in them, and in the woods a number of trees cut, the *mal-hombres* who did the mischief scampering off when I caught them in the act, and the guard whose beat it was always protesting that he knew nothing about it. All laughed when I expressed surprise and grief. It was of course a case of back-sheesh to the guard, who would allow those who gave it to do whatever they pleased. I had noticed

the same thing two years before, at the time of my first visit to Casa Grande.

CI.

In front of this Casa Grande I had noticed a very large handsome tree which sheltered the rooms from the hot sun, and on inquiring what had become of it I was informed that it had been cut down by the sub-agent Calzado. Backsheesh could always obtain from the guards whatever men desired, from a tree to a watercourse. Casa Grande was evidently best situated to serve for offices during the gathering in of the harvest, and for business of a similar nature. But the guards used the kitchen all day long for smoking and talking and loafing, the priests and the tenants joined in, and there was, consequently, no privacy in it of any kind. I was, therefore, satisfied with thoroughly cleaning the place, and put off the idea of using it till I had a thorough knowledge of the Soto proper. I left Mr. Edye in charge of the Soto estate, desiring him to get possession of the Duke's offices in Granada, and of the books and archives therein, as I had been informed that there were cart-loads of them, accumulating from time immemorial, and containing documents of the highest importance.

CII.

I had thus completed my labours for the Duke up to May 1867, and I could draw up a tolerably long catalogue of my performances during the past nine months.

1. I had for the sake of the starving poor, at the request of the alcaldes, materially enlarged the Duke's vineyards.

2. I had completed the restoration of his olive-grounds.

3. I had brought into cultivation the farm of Huerte Majara.

4. With great difficulty I had saved the Duke's oil.

5. I had done all in my power to build huts for the various classes of men employed in the estate, who had hitherto been roughing it on stone benches, lying down on sacks of straw in the oil-cellars, and who had many other causes of complaints—for it should be remembered that the offices which I had for keeping the accounts of these works were mere mule stables; that for all these people there was not a single convenience, and the only place of that kind intended for a civilised being had been so neglected that its drain poisoned the water in the well.

CIII.

In these works I had used up all the bricks, lime, and cement that could be purchased within ten miles of Molino del Rey. And I had proved beyond dispute :—

1. That on the Molino estate there was no stone of any kind but rubble-stone, which came out of the vineyards ; and this had to be sorted, picking out what was good for the mason from what could only be burnt for lime. The new buildings which had to be raised must, therefore, be done by a square framework of bricks, to be filled up inside with rubble-stone.

2. That about seven miles off there was a fine quarry of granite, which could be used for the foundations.

3. That no timber could be procured at Granada, but would have to be fetched from Malaga, where it was imported from Norway and America.

4. That under these circumstances the interior of La Torre, and the Bodega, or wine-cellars, had better be made in England, and sent out ready to be put into place, which would save a great deal of labour, and freight, duties, and cartage from Malaga to Molino del Rey, a distance of about eighty miles. There would, besides, be a great saving of time, and the advantage of having the work properly done.

CIV.

So far had I brought my labours to a close, in the spring of 1867, when I left for London.

Here I received frequent visits from the Duke of Wellington, and met him repeatedly in my rides in Rotten Row as in former times. And as I had sent out to Spain for personal use my own horse, a Norfolk cob, the Duke very considerably set apart one of his horses for my use out of his stables. Touched by his Grace's attentions, and beginning now to recover from the heavy labours and uncommon hardships I had been undergoing, I was soon ready to talk to his Grace about business.

The Duke was already tolerably well informed as to what was being done on his estate, for every week or ten days I used to give him full particulars by long letters. What I said, therefore, was merely a minute confirmation of what I had written, and of what I have hitherto been laying before the reader.

CV.

My own private affairs, as a man in business, had in the meanwhile suffered much from my absence, as might have been expected; and this I soon found out when I began to search into their condition.

I had been pressed to take into my employment a young man who had been a clerk in one of our banking-houses, and who had, besides, had some connection with the wine trade. This young man had an elder brother, who held an excellent position in another bank, and who, when he induced me to take his brother into my service, engaged to look after his doings. On examining my books when I got home, I found no end of dozens of bottles of wine which had been sent out as samples, free of cost—I may say, scores of pounds' worth—and for these no charge had been made. Very little attention had been paid to the business. Customers who had called had found no principal, no head clerk to deal with; bad debts were in the ascendant; and, in short, the business had fallen off at a rate of at least 3,000*l.* a year—a very grievous loss, and calculated to cause me deep concern.¹

My best friends advised me to give up the Duke's interests, but, in the state in which I was, I felt as if my honour might be compromised; and, as Mr. Edye had seen all the work that had been done, I hoped he might be able to go on, if I would only sacrifice my own affairs for another year. One year more, I expected, would enable me to leave the Duke's affairs in a condition that should do credit to myself, and give full satisfaction to his Grace.

¹ See page 46.

CVI.

Moreover, as may be seen by the Duke's letter, I was to have a share of the vineyards, and these were to remain as a separate property, distinct from his Grace's estate, and subject to my entire management and control. From the letters which came from the Duke's agent and others, it was evident that Calzado had taken up his residence at the Duke's village of Fuente Vaqueros, and at other times at Illora.

Upon this information reaching me I felt that unless I stuck to his Grace, and effected the removal of these evils, the extortions would never be cured, and the vineyards, which had been so beautifully planted, and which at this moment were an object of admiration to all Spaniards—to such an extent that several of the Spanish nobility had made the journey from Madrid purposely to see them—would certainly be destroyed, in which case the planting of them would be represented to his Grace's advisers as a failure, as had constantly been done from its commencement in 1864 to the present date of April 1867.

To obviate so grievous a calamity, and to relieve the Duke from the total helplessness he was in, seemed to me in some manner my duty. I knew to a certainty that my absence would again be a serious injury to my business, but the kindness of the Duke, evinced in

every way—verbally in his frequent visits, and in the notes which he addressed to me constantly—showed how anxious he had become, and enlisted my feelings in his behalf. I thought, therefore, of looking out for another manager for my business, and found what I wanted in a gentleman a brother of one of the firm of our local bankers (who had been adjutant in his regiment, and had charge of the accounts of the commissionaires). Trusting, then, that my business would in future be in better hands, I treated my own interests as a matter of secondary consideration, looking forward to the time in which a good portion of the profits of the Duke's vineyards would fall to my share, when, if I lived long enough, I should be repaid for my sacrifices and loss.

CVII.

Consequently I turned all my attention to prepare the Duke for the provision that would have to be made for his property of the Molino del Rey, where the first necessity was to attend to the wine-cellars, wine-presses, store casks, etc. On April 26 his Grace wrote in answer to my suggestions, thanking me for the statement I had furnished him, together with the correspondence from Spain, which I inclosed in my report, and which described the great strength and force his Grace's vineyard was putting forth. His

Grace at the same time mentioned that he had desired his coachman to place Racket under my orders. Yet, only a month after this, on May 7, his Grace writes again, complaining that 'these men from his Spanish estate had been constantly annoying him,' adding that 'he sent these complaints to me in preference to any other course.' These complaints were that Calzado had again taken up his quarters in his Grace's villages, that these men had shared among them considerable sums of money, had deserted their work for five days' absence at Granada, put up at an hotel, sent for women, drunk upwards of thirty bottles of wine, and left the hotel without paying their bills; that they had then proceeded to Malaga, and there lodged a protest with the English consul or vice-consul—the Duke's former agent, whose books are not forthcoming. The men openly said that they had been set on to it indirectly, by the Duke's late agent, as a new method of getting back the agency, and the books were detained with this hope, and were remade when they saw it hopeless. At Malaga, as at Granada, the men put up at an hotel, singing songs every night, filling the hotel, and disturbing the household, till they were sent back by the consul, with those letters to the Duke which had so much annoyed his Grace. Annoyances such as the above were continued up to the end of 1871.

Had the books been handed over by the Duke's late

agent to his successor; the present agent, Mr. Edey, as was his duty, they would have been put into the hands of my expert accountant, Mr. Segastume, and all would have been made clear; for this accountant made an inventory of all the Duke's property, and found so many old debtors, so many execution and judgment summonses still unsatisfied, as will be seen hereafter. Had the accountant had the books, we should now have known something about income and expenditure, which up to this moment is somewhat a mystery, and the system adopted by the indirect influence of the consul's office would have been dead.

There ensued a series of notes addressed to me by his Grace at this time.

On May 26 his Grace informs me that there are other parts of machinery for the oil-grinding to be provided with which he had not wished to trouble me before.

On the same day his Grace writes: 'Have you a mind for a little country air? This would be a good way of settling our plans, and I can send for you at the Mortimer Station' (near Strathfieldsaye).

On June 5 his Grace asks me if he should send a few mares.

On June 7 he writes he will send for me at the Mortimer Station.

On June 12 he writes to say he will return the inventory, together with some fine peaches for Mrs. Hammick, adding, 'I have told Mr. Farrer what difficulty we are in, in consequence of the books and papers, and he asks me to beg you to write down in detail what is required.'

On July 8 and 10 his Grace again writes, questioning me in respect to wages, and consents to my employing the starving poor at five reals a day.

On August 7 he again refers to the same subject.

On August 24 his Grace writes, 'I am much obliged to you for the inclosures it contains, which I return, as you may require its details,' and he further begs me to economise all I can, and to instruct his agent, Mr. Edye, to keep separate accounts of the property apart from that of the vineyards.

On September 2 his Grace informs me that his late agent, Mr. Mark, has delivered the books (I understand to Mr. Farrer's office), and that they will forthwith be sent off to Spain, where I should be able to get them. 'What a patient fellow,' his Grace observes, 'you must be to put up with this great inconvenience! Pray let me hear what you can of the insurrectionary movement.'

On October 20 his Grace writes in great haste, thanking me for my letter, and informs me that 'After all our preparations my nephew, Marochetti, Lloyd, and I have been forced to give up the journey' (the

projected trip to Spain). 'However, I shall renew the project in February, and I intended bringing the books with me, but will now send them' (but did not). 'N.B.—Mr. Mark has given them up only on my delivering him an acquittal, and allowing him to have reference to the books for his defence, and it is much better to have nothing more to do with him.'

CIX.

Molino del Rey is the lower heath of Illora, which town is situated at the base of three very high (5,000 feet) mountain ridges—viz. Parapanda, Pilada, and Fuente Madrid, situate north of the town, and consists of some six thousand fanegas of uncultivated land. Molino del Rey, called the lower heath, is entirely encircled by these mountains from north-west to south-east, and from its base to its highest point rises from two to three thousand feet. It looks due south towards the Mediterranean Sea, from which it is only one day's ride. The ridge of this lower heath (Molino del Rey) is very like a couchant lion looking down due north upon the town of Illora, which is the judicial part of Loja in the province of Granada. The old Moorish tower of La Torre is four miles from the town, but is so hid by hills and ravines that it cannot be seen until you are really in it.

Don Luis Jurado suggested that I should send out from England a variety of chosen plants, so that when the Duke and Duchess came to visit their magnificent vineyards they would be pleased with the sight of the garden laid out by our forethought, adding beauty and charm to all they would see.

I had therefore made the following selections out of the nursery grounds of Messrs. Lucombe, Pince, and Co., and sent them to Molino del Rey, where they were successfully established as a nursery, ready to be transplanted when required. The following is the list:—

2 <i>Abies Menziesii</i>	2 <i>Forsythia Fortunei</i>
6 <i>Acer Negundo variegata</i>	2 Silver variegated Tree-IVica
2 <i>Arundo conspicua</i>	1 <i>Ilex nobilis</i>
2 <i>Arundo Donax variegata</i>	1 „ <i>Fortunei</i>
1 <i>Aucuba himalaica</i>	2 <i>Ligustrum coriaceum</i>
1 „ <i>japonica mas</i>	2 Myrtle-leaved Portugal Laurels
1 „ „ <i>vera</i>	6 <i>Osmanthus ilicifolius</i>
1 <i>Aucuba Limbatii</i>	2 „ „ <i>variegatus</i>
6 <i>Bambusa Fortunei</i>	2 „ „ <i>variegatus</i>
2 „ <i>Metalu</i>	<i>diversifolius</i>
6 <i>Berberis Bealii</i>	2 <i>Osmanthus ilicifolius nanus</i>
2 „ <i>nitens</i>	6 <i>Podocarpus chinensis</i>
2 „ <i>stenophylla</i>	2 <i>Raphiolepis ornata</i>
2 <i>Berberidopsis corallina</i>	2 <i>Retinospora squarrosa</i>
2 <i>Biota aurea</i>	2 „ <i>leptoclada</i>
2 „ <i>orientalis elegantissima</i>	2 „ <i>pisifera aurea</i>
2 <i>Buxus pendula variegata</i>	6 <i>Skimmia japonica</i>
2 „ <i>latifolia</i>	2 „ <i>oblata</i>
2 <i>Deutzia crenata flore pleno</i>	6 <i>Thujopsis dolabrata</i>
2 <i>Eleagnus japonica variegata</i>	2 <i>Vaccinium plicatum</i>
2 <i>Euonymus japonica aurea</i>	1 „ <i>microcephalon</i>
2 „ <i>latifolia albo-variegata</i>	1 „ <i>japonicum</i>
2 <i>Euonymus radicans variegata</i>	2 <i>Weigelia grandiflora</i>
	2 „ <i>rosea</i>

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | <i>Picea Nordmanniana</i> | 2 | <i>Cupressus Correyana</i> |
| 2 | „ <i>nobilis</i> | 2 | <i>Podocarpus andina</i> |
| 1 | „ <i>lasiocarpa</i> | 2 | <i>Thuja tatarica</i> |
| 6 | <i>Pernettya mucronata</i> | 4 | <i>Cupressus Lawsoniana glauca</i> |
| 6 | <i>Retinospora ericoides</i> | 1 | <i>Torreya nucifera</i> |
| 2 | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> | 2 | <i>Tree-Ivies</i> |
| 2 | „ <i>flagelliformis</i> | 2 | <i>Retinospora pisifera</i> |
| 2 | <i>Arthrotaxus cupressoides</i> | 2 | <i>Arbutus Menziesii</i> |
| 2 | <i>Taxus elegantissima</i> | 2 | <i>Salisburia adiantifolia</i> |
| 2 | <i>Cupressus thuyoides variegata</i> | 2 | <i>Arbutus Andrachne</i> |
| 2 | <i>Erica codonoides</i> | 2 | <i>Cupressus Lawsoniana viridis</i> |
| 2 | <i>Berberis Hookeri</i> | 2 | <i>Libocedrus chilensis</i> |
| 1 | <i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i> | 2 | „ <i>viridis</i> |
| 2 | <i>Schizostylis coccinea</i> | 2 | <i>Grevillia rosmarinifolia</i> |
| 2 | <i>Stauntonia latifolia</i> | 2 | <i>Cupressus Goveniana</i> |
| 2 | <i>Eugenia Ugni</i> | 2 | <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> |
| 2 | <i>Berberis nepaulensis</i> | 2 | <i>Thuja plicata</i> |
| 2 | <i>Wistaria sinensis</i> | 2 | <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> |
| 2 | „ „ <i>alba</i> | 2 | <i>Thuja Lobbii</i> |
| 2 | <i>Arthrosperma moschata</i> | 2 | <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> |
| 2 | <i>Pittosporum Tobira</i> | 2 | <i>Thuja gigantea</i> |
| 2 | <i>Wellingtonia gigantea</i> | 6 | <i>Pinus insignis</i> |
| 2 | <i>Araucaria imbricata</i> | 2 | <i>Eurybia ilicifolia</i> |
| 2 | <i>Arbutus Andrachne</i> | 2 | <i>Swammerdamia antennaria</i> |
| 2 | <i>Berberis aquifolia</i> | 2 | <i>Escallonia Pterocladon</i> |
| 2 | <i>Cotoneaster Simmonsii</i> | 2 | <i>Escallonia macrantha</i> |
| 4 | <i>Cotoneaster thymifolia</i> | 2 | <i>Prunus triloba</i> |
| 2 | <i>Alexandrian Laurels</i> | 2 | <i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i> |
| 2 | <i>Ceanothus azureus</i> | 2 | <i>Veronicas</i> |
| 1 | <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> | 2 | <i>Buxus Fortunei</i> |
| 2 | <i>Berberis intermedia</i> | 2 | <i>Quercus glabra</i> |
| 2 | <i>Berberis Darwinii</i> | 6 | <i>Euonymus, silver-striped</i> |
| 1 | <i>Cephalotaxus Fortunei</i> | 2 | <i>Aristotelia Macqui variegata</i> |
| 1 | „ <i>drupacea</i> | 2 | <i>Euonymus nanus</i> |
| 2 | <i>Garrya elliptica</i> | 2 | <i>Myrtle-leaved Portugal Laurels</i> |
| 2 | <i>Griselinia littoralis</i> | 6 | <i>Lonicera aurea</i> |
| 2 | <i>Aralia Sieboldii</i> | 2 | „ <i>brachypoda</i> |
| 2 | <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> | 4 | <i>Berberis Fortunei</i> |
| 2 | <i>Weigelia amabilis</i> | 4 | <i>Fabiana imbricata</i> |
| 2 | <i>Berberis glumacea</i> | 2 | <i>Vitis polymorpha</i> |
| 6 | „ <i>Wallichiana</i> | 2 | <i>Eurybia speciosa</i> |
| 2 | <i>Cotoneaster Roylei</i> | 2 | <i>Thuja tatarica variegata</i> |
| 4 | „ <i>Wheelerii</i> | 2 | <i>Eugenia apiculata</i> |

2 <i>Podocarpus nubigenus</i>	2 <i>Skimmia laureola</i>
2 <i>Ilex dipyrena</i>	2 <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>
1 <i>Berberis hybrida superba</i>	2 <i>Azalea amcena</i>
2 <i>Hydrangea japonica variegata</i>	1 <i>Colletia spinosa</i>
6 <i>Cratægus crenulata</i>	2 <i>Tartarian Arbor-vitæ</i>
1 <i>Ilex Tarago</i>	6 <i>Silver Box</i>
15 Apples of sorts	6 <i>Euonymus</i>
15 Pears of sorts	4 <i>Minorcan Box</i>
1 <i>Dacrydium Franklynii</i>	12 <i>Aucuba japonica</i>
1 <i>Abies Mertensii</i>	12 <i>Variogated Hollies of sorts</i>
1 <i>Diselma Archerii</i>	2 <i>Buxus pendula</i>
1 <i>Olea ilicifolia</i>	1 <i>Berberis microphylla</i>
2 <i>Desfontainea spinosa</i>	

CX.

I have already referred to the fact that in my morning rides in Rotten Row I was frequently met by the Duke, who joined me purposely to talk with me on these matters. And for the same purpose he invited me on several occasions to go out to Strathfieldsaye to stay with the Duchess and himself. His Grace told me that he was husbanding his income with a view to go out to Spain as soon as I could make things ready for receiving himself and a party of friends in a becoming manner. He mentioned among his fellow-travellers the Duchess and her friends, Mr. Farrer, Mr. Delane; and later on, in one of his Grace's letters, he added that Mr. Lloyd, the doctor of his Grace's regiment, would also be of the party. I had thus to provide for four gentlemen, and I presumed four ladies; for I felt sure that the Duchess would have some other ladies to bear her company,

and to these eight I might reckon a suite of at least as many servants, besides a courier or two, with a couple of *cuisiniers*, or kitchen helps, his Grace's coachman, and one or two grooms. Altogether I expected the suite to number some five-and-twenty persons at the least.

For such a number of visitors the Duke expected me to find suitable accommodation in the cottage at La Torre; for I had repeatedly suggested to his Grace that in order that the vineyards might prosper it was necessary for himself and his successors to pay occasional visits to his property, assuring him that his presence might be the only possible cure for the evils which were daily growing worse and worse, and that unless his Grace consented to do so all my labour would be thrown away: the whole property would fall into utter neglect, and go to wreck and ruin.

The Duke seemed to approve of my suggestions; he assured me again and again that all his promises to accede to my requests were made in real earnest, and held out his hand and shook mine heartily, as if fully determined to carry out his good intentions.

CXI.

The Duke having given me an idea of his requirements, I bade the architects enlarge the plans