

PARA PANDA

PILADO

FUENTE MADRID

LA TORRE.

*Spence & Co. Ltd. London.*

JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

CONSEJO REGULADOR DE LA PRODUCCIÓN Y COMERCIALIZACIÓN DE VINO DE LA DENOMINACIÓN DE ORIGEN PROTEGIDA BARRIO DE SAN JUAN DE LOS RÍOS

Generalife

of La Torre cottage in accordance with the Duke's necessities, and make contracts for the interior work, provide proper workmen to go out and put it in place, as the buildings were being raised for it. The work being done, it was most carefully packed, and sent out to La Torre; the freight and Spanish duties were paid for it, and the agreement was made with the mechanics by the architects in due form. The stables and other outbuildings were planned by myself, and handed over to the architect to complete them in all their details, with the necessary drains both for the cottage and stables, to be carried off to a sufficient distance down the hill at the back, where a large tank was built to receive the soil, and covered in. This would in time become very valuable to promote the growth of the new olive-plantation.

The habitation for the expected distinguished visitors being thus arranged, furniture of every kind suitable for persons of the Duke's rank was supplied for their use, while a hogshead of my old wine was sent from Montilla, and with it three dozen ounces of quinine, bought upon the recommendation of Don Luis Jurado, and intended as an antidote against the autumnal fevers. These are very prevalent, often arising from a very low diet of bread, oil, and radishes, water-melons, and such food, which is not unwholesome up to September and till the autumnal rains set in. At this crisis these fevers

kill many of the people, and I have myself seen the labourers dropping in the trenches—as many as fifty in a day—and carried off by their fellow-workmen. On their way home to Illora, Alomartes, or some other village, these poor sufferers would pass the cottage of La Torre, and call out to see the señora (Mrs. Hammick), the ‘heavenly Maria,’ who used to put as much quinine in a wineglass as would cover a threepenny piece and fill the glass with old Montilla wine, and give it them, when away they went with their apparently dying fellow-labourers ; but so marvellously relieved were they by the effect of the medicine that the next day I have often seen the previous day’s patients in the trenches at work, and seemingly as well as ever. On seeing me pass they would invariably start up and leap out of the trenches, step forward, cross themselves, and thank me most heartily for the life that had been preserved by the good and holy señora.

## CXII.

Meanwhile the information received from the capatazes or overseers in charge of the training of the vine-plants became most encouraging : several large bunches of the grapes were sent to his Grace, and it was certain that thirty butts (900 arrobas) of wine, more or less, would be made that year. I was reminded again and again in every letter that ‘the Duke had

nothing whatever provided for it, that there were no wine-presses, no receiving *tinajas*, or vats for the fermentation to work in, no casks, and no cellars to put the wine in. The Duke's agent, Mr. Edye, could not be made to understand anything about it, and none of these things could be had at a moment's notice, for Spain is a backward, helpless, sleepy community, and unless I, who did understand, provided for all these necessities, the whole crop would be lost.' This is what all the vine-planters said.

All their letters were translated by my order, and forwarded to the Duke for his information, one by one, as they came to hand ; but weeks passed away, and I foresaw that if I waited for the Duke to make up his mind any measure I might resolve upon would be too late. I was therefore compelled to turn to my own resources, and to work as best I could ; for had the thirty butts of wine then in grape been suffered to perish from want of the necessary utensils, it might have been set down to failure on our part, and result in serious injury to me.

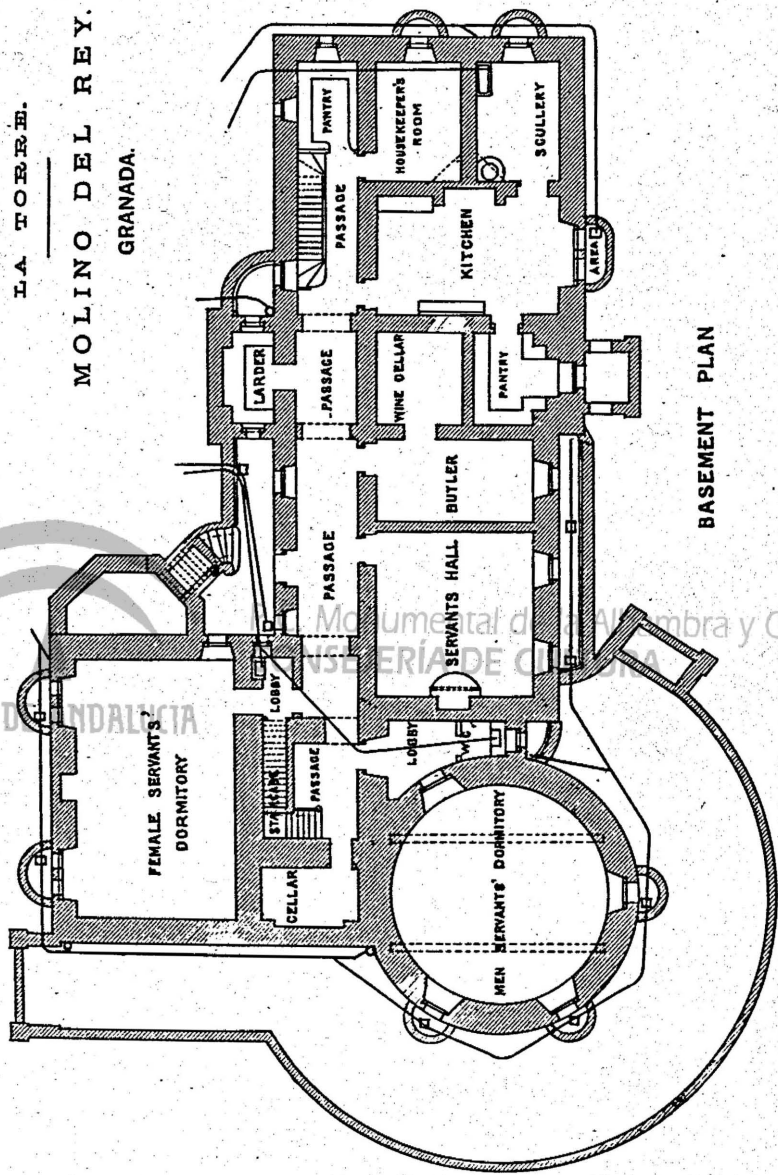
### CXIII.

To begin with the cellars. I had planned the construction of a *bodega*, as it is called, or breeding-cellar for the growing-up and preserving of his Grace's wine in the highest state of beauty and purity. But his

Grace told me he had a friend whom he wished to serve by making him a present of 50*l.* 'He would,' said his Grace, 'get this friend, who was an architect by profession, though he is no longer so now, to make some drawings for me.' These drawings were sent to me, and I soon saw that, although perhaps they might have been suitable for an English house, they could be of no use to me, and I should only waste my time if I attempted to make anything out of them, and at the same time be a waste of his Grace's money. In my tours and rides to and from the mountain vineyards of Montilla and Moriles I had often noticed how carefully and judiciously buildings of that description had been constructed by raising four high square walls with an entrance of two very heavy strong doors, a well in the centre of this square, and the roofs pitched from the four walls to rest on stone pillars on the inside, thus forming an overseer's dwelling, adjoining the gateway ; next to that stables for the mules, etc. ; and on the other two sides the *tinajas*, wine-presses, etc., and in the rear the cellar for the wines. As I inspected these buildings the capataz who showed me the place and gave me a taste of the wines would first give me a glass from the bottom cask, then one from the second tier, and lastly one from the top. I at once would tell him that the bottom tier was last year's wine, the second tier the year before, and the third or top row

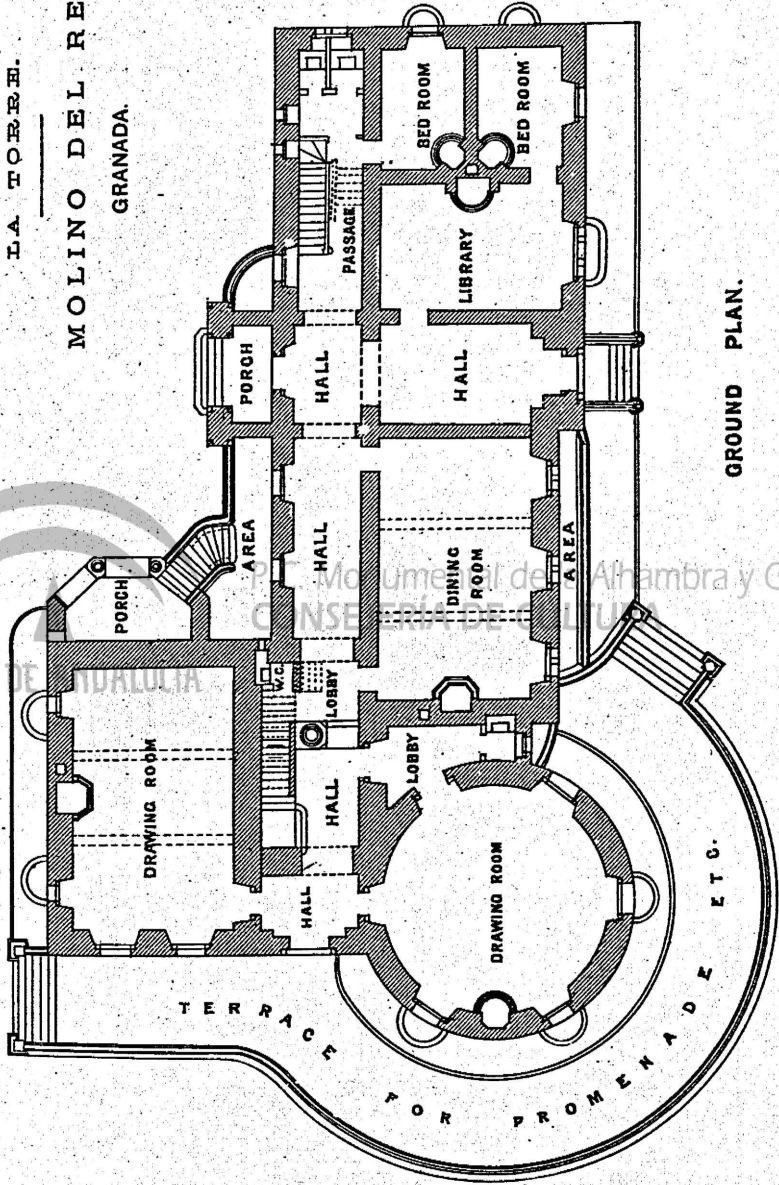
L. A. TORRE.

MOLINO DEL REY.  
GRANADA.



BASEMENT PLAN

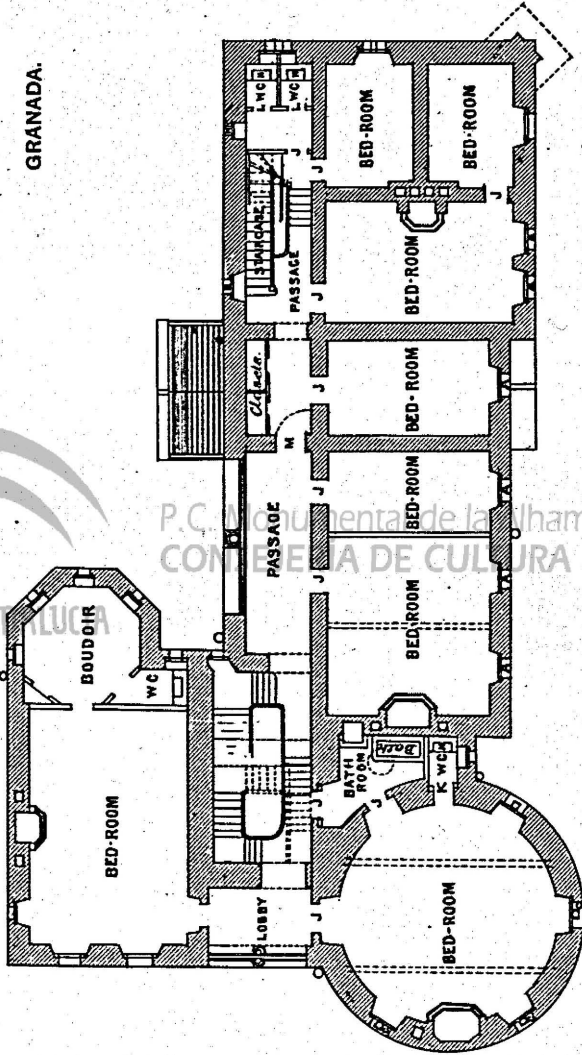
LA TORRE.  
MOLINO DEL REY.  
GRANADA.



GROUND PLAN.

L.A. TORRE.H.

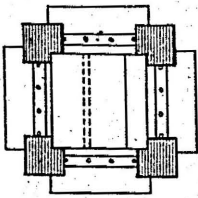
MOLINO DEL REY.  
GRANADA.



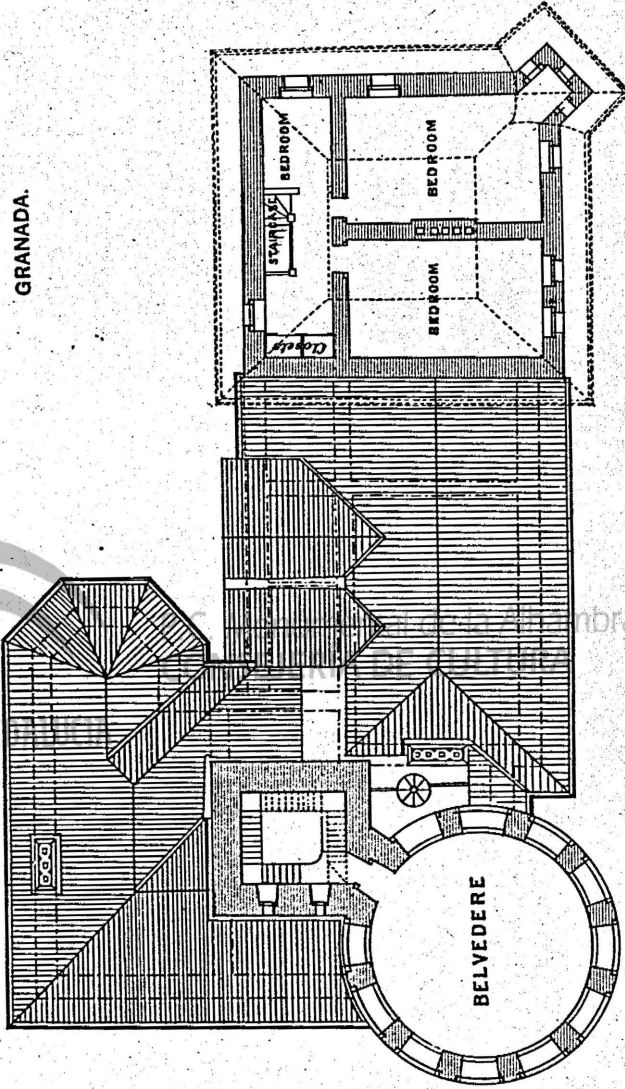
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

P.C. Documental de la Alhambra y Generalife  
COMISIÓN DE CULTURA

LA TORRE.  
 MOLINO DEL REY.  
 GRANADA.



PLAN OF TOP OF TOWER



SECOND FLOOR & ROOF PLAN.

the year before that ; but the capataz answered, 'No, señor: the age of the wine is the same, but these wines nearest the tiles or top row have the benefit of more heat of sun and air, consequently they are more advanced in maturity than those underneath.' From these rude buildings, and the hints I received from their overseers, I made my plan of the Duke's *bodega*, and, having made proper measurements for the ingress and egress of large casks, vats, etc., I handed the plan over to the architect, to make a drawing for it, as much in the Moorish taste and character as would make it harmonise with the style of the cottage of La Torre. All this was done, and as much material as was necessary for the first year was sent out, and with it proper stone-masons, bricklayers, and carpenters to do the work, all chosen by the architects, the agreements being properly entered into and signed by all these men according to rule.

## CXIV.

Previous to my leaving the Duke's estates in the spring I had looked out for two very able accountants, a Mr. Segastume and his assistant, and had instructed them to set to work with Mr. Edye, the Duke's agent, and, with the aid of the old clerks in the establishment, to get up for me an inventory of the property on the Duke's estate. In course of time this inventory was

completed, and by this means I began to understand the state of the Duke's affairs.

On looking through this inventory I found the following articles, which no doubt constituted a part of the furniture of the Royal House (Casa Real), and gave some idea as to the manner in which it was governed up to the year 1814, when the property came into the possession of the Iron Duke.

In this inventory there were one hundred of the Duke's tenants in debt to their landlord to the aggregate amount of 4,000*l.*, the debts in many cases of several years' outstanding, and in reality of little value. There were one hundred and seventy other debtors owing between them about one thousand fanegas of corn, and some small sums of money not exceeding one hundred reals, and there were eighty-eight other outsiders indebted to his Grace for ground-rent to the sum of 2,561 reals, and forty-five other persons indebted for rent of mills to the amount of 12,840 reals ; further, we find thirty-one debtors for law expenses incurred in 1865, and judgment summonses still hanging over them.

#### CXV.

I visited many of these poor creatures, and found them—man, wife, and one, two, or three children—at home in some mill fallen out of use through dilapi-

dition. In one I found two children—a boy about six years of age, and a girl a year or two older. In one corner of the room was a little heap of *paja* (chopped straw), in which they buried themselves at night, their nakedness being only covered by a rag tied round their loins. A small table, four low reed-bottomed stools, a wooden spoon, and a few sticks to light the fire at night made up all their house property ; the walls were black as coal, as there were no chimneys in the room, and the light was from the doorway. Some of the houses might have been a little less wretched, but such was their ordinary condition. I asked the two children—

‘Where are your father and mother?’

‘They are out at their little patch of ground.’

‘I want to see them,’ and led by the little girl I found the man and wife seated under a tree. As I came in sight they bade me ‘good morning.’ It was eleven o’clock, their breakfast time, and they greeted me with the usual Spanish *Gusta Vd.?* (Would you please to share with us?), an invitation never-failing with the Spanish peasantry to a stranger coming up to them at meal-time, however poor and wretched their fare may be. In this case all they had to offer was bread and salt and their little cruse of oil and radishes ; and many others I saw not better provided. I wondered how this man got his money day by day to buy his bread and salt and oil and chocolate, and whatever else he lived on,

and I found that I had lent him the seed to sow his lands, and that when he could not find work he borrowed a dollar now and then from some money-lender; and gave a *pagaré*, or promissory note, to pay it back at harvest time, with a *peseta* (10*d.*) per month for every dollar as interest. What prospect has the poor man of ever being able to meet the judgment summons, and pay both debts and costs? He holds the land, as he believes, on a sort of hereditary right by paying a fee at the office for leave to transfer it, or any part of it, to another tenant, and often succeeds in getting some other man to lend him money for all or a portion of his holding; and thus this miserable population goes on living and multiplying amidst increasing poverty, and when harvest time comes the Duke gets his rent paid in wheat when and as far as it may be collected. Then in comes the money-lender with his *pagaré*, and must be paid with the interest, and thus they manage to live till November, when the floods break in, the waters overrun the land everywhere, the bridges, rotten and rickety, are swept away, the peasantry are cut off from their distant pieces of land, and if fever or other ailment falls upon the father or mother, or if neither of them finds work to do, starvation stares the whole family in the face. An awful sight it is to visit these poor people at Christmas.

## CXVI.

The inventory gives the account of the stud of horses, of the number of mares and stallions, of the heads of cattle, the implements, old winnowing machines, ploughs, etc.—old-fashioned articles, the accumulation of ages ; but those which follow are part and parcel of the properties of the Royal House itself, and may serve to throw some light on the state in which the house was kept up, and the estate administered, at the time it became one of the possessions of the great Duke in 1814.

‘Two large chests, one large window with sash and iron plates, three sets of kings’ portraits and other portraits, two round pictures of Philip III. and his queen, one of Charles II. and his queen, one of Isabella the Catholic, one of Fernando of Aragon, her consort, a view of Casa Real, a landscape, three screens, a large stone sundial, two stone basins from Sierra Elvira, one large money-box with two keys, six large mass books from the royal chapel, one large chest once containing the plate belonging to the royal chapel, 108 books, large and small, 156 old account books, a map of Spain, a box full of papers, some of them important documents, fifteen other account books, 300 important parchment deeds with seventeen boxes to contain them, twelve leather chairs, gilt, a marble table, etc., etc.’

## CXVII.

All this property—mere rubbish most of it, hardly ever overhauled or dusted since the Casa Real came into ducal hands—was to be set in proper order before the time of his Grace's intended visit; for the Duke and his friends wished to see everything connected both with the buildings and the lands, the olive-grounds, vineyards, cellars, and wines, of this Anglo-Spanish establishment. These honoured guests—about twenty-five of them, as I have before enumerated—would probably travel from London to Madrid, and thence direct to Granada. The best way for them would be to come by rail down the southern line as far as Menjibar, and from that station proceed by coach to Granada. The old city of Jaen is rarely seen, yet worth seeing. The road from it to Granada is very picturesque, and one enters Granada through its gardens, driving in close under the walls of the Alhambra, where I should be prepared to receive and entertain them. But the question was, How could I get them there? Railroads in Spain were being made, though slowly, and, as a consequence, the coaches and diligences—soon to be disused—were getting more and more rickety and dirty, and a breakdown on the road—not a rare occurrence—would be a serious matter, with no farrier, no wheel or cartwright, no

inn, no house of any kind, perhaps, for many a mile round the place of the untoward accident. Besides, if they travelled in spring, they might come in for a smart hailstorm, and I have seen hailstones in May as large as peas and beans. The best thing for them, I thought, was to have a large omnibus built for the purpose, to fit it with extra roof to keep out the heat, and a hood over the front seat to protect the Duke and such of his friends as might wish to ride outside. The coach being provided, I would send up relays of the Duke's own mules, and thus convey his Grace and his friends all the way from the Menjibar station to the Alhambra.

P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife  
CONSEJO DE CULTURA

Having thus settled the matter, and prepared the mules, harness, carriages, liveries for the drivers, provisions, and all other things necessary, so that a very short notice would be sufficient to set all this gear in motion, I laid the whole plan of the Duke's journey before Colonel Sir Robert Loyd-Lindsay and Viscount Bury, when they paid me a visit, and they expressed themselves delighted with the whole arrangement.

The Alhambra and Granada are soon seen. Three or four days are sufficient for most travellers, and now I should have to entertain the Duke and his friends by showing them his Grace's estate. I have

described the condition of the Molino house, with its two rooms and its poisonous water. I could not think of harbouring the distinguished guests there. I have also dwelt on the state of Casa Grande, the rambling mansion situated at the Duke's village of Fuente Vaqueros, with its shortcomings and all-pervading filth. That would be no abode for the Duke and his guests. All that remained, therefore, was the Casa Real to be prepared to entertain them at the Soto de Roma, and the cottage at La Torre at the Molino del Rey. Both these places must be set in order; and, having thus settled what was to be done, I would start with the Duke's company from the Alhambra, and drive them to Casa Real, a distance of ten miles, passing through the outskirts and market gardens of the city, until we entered the Duke's woods. Our further progress would be through a green sward, about as wide as Rotten Row, with woods and plantations on both sides, and thus we should reach the avenue of elm-trees (very like our Mall in St. James's Park), and through it the main entrance to Casa Real. From this Royal House there are three other broad avenues, branching out like a fan. The one on the left, crossing a bridge, leads to the Duke's villages of Fuente Vaqueros and Santa Fé. This avenue is over two miles long, and has in some places four, in some six, rows of very old elm-trees, not unlike

the avenue at Strathfieldsaye. The other avenue on the right leads to the Duke's farms, and to a plantation of elm-trees and woods. The third avenue is the way to Molino del Rey.

## CXIX.

In front of us, as we advance, is an open space full of pits, where stagnant water abides throughout the winter. Passing over this waste piece of land we come to the door of the royal chapel, and find it cumbered with lumber; pieces of wood, which have been brought from the priest's quarters, now lying in ruins on the ground. We enter the chapel: on our left stands the royal pew with its gilt balustrades, and the remains of other grand things, showing that royalty once occupied it when in attendance at church service, and on our right is the altarpiece of beautiful marble, green marble with strata of various other colours, all of the finest stone to be seen in the world. The tiles of the chapel roof are broken, and nothing remains but the bare damp walls. On turning round the chapel, to the left, we have Casa Real in front of us. On the left-hand corner, at the end of the chapel, stood the priest's quarters, now a mass of ruins. When Casa Real was planned, the builder's intention evidently was to rebuild these priest's quarters as part of the plan of

the royal residence, the whole forming a square and inclosing its area.

As we enter Casa Real, we find that it originally consisted of three large rooms opening into one another on the ground floor, and three large rooms above these; and at the end of these six rooms there were four other rooms of smaller size, and next to these, again, followed the stables.

These rooms now we find have been divided into twenty cells, forming one room for each tenant, and let off at 100 reals (20s.) a year to twenty different gipsy tribes or families. There is no vestige of door or window to be seen. Everything has been burnt for firewood, and no rent has been paid for three years.

And this is the Royal House that I have to make ready for a duke and duchess, one of the most eminent solicitors, the able editor of the greatest newspaper in the world, and other persons of importancé, with their domestic attendants!

## CXX.

The first point to consider was how to gain possession by driving out the gipsies. The Duke's guards were unwilling to meddle with them, being afraid of them. What could I do? I bethought myself of my English mechanics at work at Molino del Rey. I

brought them forward, and set them to work to pull down the partitions of the rooms, and to clear out the rubbish and filth. My sturdy English fellows had no fear of the gipsies, and heeded not their threats, and by the aid of them Casa Real was soon in my possession. But week after week swarms of these swarthy vagrants crept in late at night, and squatted in what they claimed as their old quarters. When these newcomers had been driven out, another batch of them did the same two or three weeks later, until I found out that they belonged to that ubiquitous race of gipsies who roam all over Spain, and make themselves at home wherever they find an unoccupied hole to shelter them. It became an absolute necessity to inclose the whole house and the waste ground from the high-road to the bridge, a line several hundred yards in length, leaving two gateways—one for Molino del Rey, and the other for Granada, and put a pair of very handsome iron gates to each gateway, raising the walls eight feet in height, and putting a coping that should overlap the top. Thus was the Casa Real made safe from these vagabonds' intrusions, and reserved for his Grace's habitation. I had the twenty cells thrown together again into separate rooms of a convenient size, as they were formerly in the king's time, with fireplaces and marble hearthstones suitable for wood-fires, added several chimneys, repaired roofs and floors, put in new doors and

windows, and raised a marble staircase leading to the upper rooms. I also made a large drain underneath the whole building, which could be flushed with water at will. The rooms being ready, I sent out from England the furniture, plate, and linen which might be required, together with a store of preserved provisions. I kept fifty sheep, some lambs, and swine in good condition, besides poultry, and I knew that by sending to Granada market just at break of day, when the fish came in from Motril, I could make sure of a good supply of large soles, turbot, and a variety of other fish.

## CXXI.

Casa Real became after this a very favourite resting-place of mine. I kept two large bloodhounds and a guard in possession, and frequently repaired to the spot for relaxation from my labours from the Saturday to the ensuing Monday, charmed with my rides in the early morning in lovely spring weather, with the songs of the numerous nightingales and other birds, and the budding of the trees. This repose I greatly needed after the excessive toil of looking after the labourers in the vineyards, the labourers in the olive-grounds, the labourers at the farms, the labourers in the brick-yards, the mechanics repairing the Royal House, the masons building broken bridges and digging out choked canals,

the mechanics building huts and sheds and stables, and offices and machinery, all over the estate ; altogether a little host of from 700 to 1,200 men constantly employed. The harvests had been very bad—never so bad since the year 1825 ; petition after petition followed me, pressing more and more labourers upon me ; and the authorities passing a ' Forced Labour Law ' upon me, which placed me in the alternative either of finding the men labour or paying them two reals per day without it.

## CXXII.

To give an idea of the vastness of the work I had in hand, I need only refer to the inventory of the manufactory of bricks, established at a short distance from Casa Real.

An English machine for bricks and tiles worked by horse-power, an English machine for making tiles on various models, 31 moulds of various patterns, 27 iron shovels, 25 wheelbarrows, six mills for working the clay, four tables to cut the bricks, eight wheelbarrows for earth, 18 mats to cover the bricks and tiles, 22 iron covers for the ovens, five iron peelers, twelve pickaxes, 30 covers for the brick ovens, and seven ladders and other necessary implements ; so that, besides what had been used at Casa Real, and for the repairing of canal-bridges, 170,000 bricks had been carted to the Bodega

and La Torre, together with 6,600 fanegas of lime, 98 wrought stones from the quarries of Tajira, and eleven large wrought stones carted to La Torre, 24 wrought steps, 15 in place, six wrought stone steps for front doors, and 71,297 bricks, all carted to the Molino house, thirty loads of the same stone from the quarries at Tajira, three loads of timber, 230 round poles for scaffolds, fourteen other poles, eighty cross beams, 16,000 bricks, and ten loads of lime ; such were the preparations necessary for the Duke's visit, and other preparations for wine and oil, stores, huts, stables, etc., the whole material having to be carted seven miles, more or less, from different parts.

P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y General  
 CONS. CXXIII. DE CULTURA

It was, of course, impossible that either the Duke or his advisers could conceive any idea of the general dilapidation and ruin into which these once really beautiful estates had drifted during the half-century's absence of their English proprietors. Such will always be the fate of any property of absentee landlords, and this is a sample of what Ireland will be brought to, unless something is done to put a stop to the downward rush it has taken towards destruction. Whenever you give these poor people power, and call upon them to help themselves, they will only work out their own ruin and that of their landlords. During the seven years in

which I have been connected with these estates on behalf of the Duke, I have laboured hard to search out the nature of every grievance, and if any one could have pointed out a remedy I would gladly have adopted it ; but no one could suggest the least idea—all the people knew was that they were always for one half of the year in a state of starvation, and the other half borrowing seed to cultivate their lands, and applying to usurers for loans at ruinous interest to live on in expectation of harvest time, when the rent and the debt would absorb all ; and by the end of November the old tale of helplessness, misery, and starvation begins anew. The system adopted and sanctioned by many past generations of allowing the men to hamper their lands by letting them, or portions of them, to others by paying fines, has so rooted the poor man to his little lot of ground that nothing will induce him to listen to any other arrangement whatsoever. It is painful to hear these poor wretches incessantly cry out, ' Why does not the Duke give us the land ? It is of no use to him, he never gets anything from his agent (*apoderado*), whose subalterns, with the guards and other middlemen, gather up everything and spend nothing, merely robbing both, the landowner on the one hand and the land-labourers on the other.'

Ignorant as these poor men are, instinct prompts them to lay their finger on the real cause of their

starvation. They understand, what ought to be universally understood, that if property has rights it should also have its duties ; and that if this principle extends to property all over the world it ought most especially to apply in the case of these estates, which were given to the great Duke as a proof of the admiration and gratitude of the Spanish nation for his heroic deeds, but never in the expectation that their foreign owner should utterly and for ever neglect and forsake them, and suffer them to fall out of cultivation ; for even if the late Duke himself and his predecessor cared nothing for the income accruing to them from their possession, they had at least no right to defraud the poor peasantry—born on the spot and belonging to it as if they were *adscripti glebæ*—of the only means of subsistence the soil bountifully yielded to their fathers and forefathers.

Nor would it be justice to say that the evil is of indigenous growth, that it must be looked upon as one of the evils of Spain, that the condition of that country has always been the same, long before 1814 ; the Peninsula always being, both before and after that date, in a revolutionary state, and a prey to the most shocking misgovernment. For in the case of Molino del Rey and Soto de Roma the landlord for seventy years has been an Englishman, a powerful lord who would in any emergency be backed by all the might and

influence of his free country, and who ought never to have allowed his tenants and labourers in Spain to fall into a state of degradation such as would form the most painful, the most heart-rending contrast to the condition of his well-to-do peasantry in England. Look on this picture, and on that ! The starving wretches near Granada acknowledge the same proprietor as the well-lodged, well-fed, well-clad farm labourers of Strathfieldsaye !

No doubt the evil was great at the beginning and is so now, and, as the downward drift which has brought matters to the present state of ruin has been slow, so any attempt at cure and improvement must needs be only gradual ; but something should and could most certainly have been done. The first duty of the landlord was to proceed to the spot and see things as they were with his own eyes ; the second was to intrust the direction of his affairs to the most able agent really deserving of his confidence.

I am not without hope that before I have given the full narrative of my seven years' acquaintance with the property I may be able to place before the reader a real method of treatment for the disease of the estate of Soto de Roma ; but the cure is not to be effected in a moment. It must be achieved by knowledge acquired among the people, and by taking into account their wants and enabling them to win their daily bread—*i.e.* supply-

ing them with regular work, of which with some foresight and intelligence more than enough could be provided for their sustenance, and which would prove highly remunerative to the estate and its owner. Hitherto, if the estate has proved little better than a *château en Espagne*, the fault lies partly with the owner, but in a greater measure with the agents. But whoever may be to blame, one thing is certain, that a happier state of things must be contrived; for if one give way to evil and run away from it, the end must be starvation, or revolution beyond limit or control. All the news from the Peninsula foreshadows this gloomy result.

P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y General  
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA

#### CXXIV.

As a retrospect of the condition the estate was in in previous ages, I think the following document may prove interesting.

A royal decree, dated from the early part of the last century, says: 'Whereas for the preservation of the game, fish, woods, and plantations of the Soto de Roma schedules or documents exist by which the boundaries were distinctly defined, and all that is included in its territories and parks minutely enumerated; and whereas owing to the old date and diverse purpose of the said royal schedules, and to the lightness of the penalties lately enforced on trespassers, so much milder than the

finer imposed by the ancient schedules, the said estate (inheritance) is nearly stripped of the trees which are so necessary for the riding schools which are held in it for the service of the royal artillery, and for the military evolutions.

‘And whereas in the territories comprised within its boundaries and parks no attention is paid to what is ordered to be done, and no steps are taken to prosecute the offenders who break through the rules and orders prescribed for the preservation of the Soto de Roma and its parks, without any consideration of the said royal schedules, ancient and modern, or of what has been prescribed and enjoined by the Junta or Board of my Royal Works and Woods.

‘I have resolved to order and command that the boundaries, limits, and orders following be kept and observed for the royal estate or inheritance of the Soto de Roma, and of its game, fish, and plantations.

‘1st. The proper limits of the Soto de Roma, as they are declared in ancient schedules, begin, and must be kept as such.

‘From the Tower of Gualcal to the culminant point of the mountain chain Sierra Elvira, and in the mouth (gorge of the pass) of the Bath, which is beside the road leading from Granada and the Atarfe to the place called Peños de la Puente, bounded by the said road towards the part of arable land, where is fixed a large

stone from the Elvira Mountain, forming the limit and division of the land belonging to the said inheritance or estate of Soto de Roma.

‘From this stone, along the said road, onward towards Peños, as far as a large round rock, apparently movable, placed on the arable land; and from this place, following the said royal road towards the place called Peños, and before arriving there, as far as a spot which is called the Divider of the water of the Acquia, which flows at the edge of the Bridge.

‘And from the foot of a cross standing on a round pedestal of limestone, near the said Divider, where on the side of the said royal road is fixed another rock of the said Elvira Mountains, crossing the river Cubilla, which flows from the said Divider of the waters, and blending its water with that of the river Belilla, the former river coming from the left, and the latter from the right; leaving this and the plantation of the Soto de Roma on the left hand, within sight of the farmhouse of Ansola belonging to the convent of the Jeromite monks (*Religiosos Geronimos*) of the city of Granada, which is at the said Place of Peños, where at the point near the junction of the rivers on the upper side is fixed another stone from the said Elvira Mountain.

And from this place, running downwards, on a straight line, and in view of the farmhouse called the *Asquerosa* (the *nasty* or *sickening* farm). Keeping its

buildings and inclosure, as well as the two rivers Cubilla and Belilla, now joined in one, and also the little grove which they call Palma on the left hand, with the parks of the Soto de Roma on the right, following in a straight line the royal road which from Casa Real proceeds to the village of Illora, as far as a great cross which stands by the roadside on the left hand, standing on a stone pedestal, and fronting the outhouses or premises of the said Asquerosa Farm.

‘And from there, at about a gunshot’s distance, more or less, close to the road on the lower side; there is placed and fixed into the earth a large stone from the Elvira Mountains, and from this stone, travelling in sight of the farmhouse called Lower Daimiez, leaving on the left hand the rivers Cubilla, Bulilla, and Xenil, now all joined together, as far as the royal road, which from the village of Illora goes down to the farmhouse of Ciguela, along the rivulet called Bylar, near the said road on the lower side, there is another stone from the said Elvira Mountain, about a gunshot from the said river, and from the buildings of the farmhouse of Upper Daimiez.

‘From this farmhouse, crossing the river, and in a straight line to the farmhouse of Larcha (said to belong to the heirs of Don Manuel Cañaverall, an inhabitant of Granada) and from the buildings of the

said farm, going in a straight line towards Santa Fé to the farmhouse of Ciguela, in the midst of the buildings of which is an old tower, in a straight line with a farm called Roma; and from this farmhouse, in a straight line, in sight of another farmhouse called Chauchina, by the side of the creek which runs down from this farmhouse of Chauchina, dividing into other creeks, there is another stone fixed in the ground, smaller than the foregoing.

‘And from thence, following towards the said farmhouse of Chauchina, the distance of a stone-throw from the canal, as far as the buildings of the same farmhouse, and from there following the road and the canal—where this joins the other canal Jan and the city of Santa Fé—there is a piece of ruin.

‘And from this place as far as the buildings of the said farmhouse of Jan, crossing the junction of the canals, and from the said farmhouse, returning to the left in sight of the Elvira Mountains in a straight road which runs down from Santa Fé to Soto de Roma, and near some mulberry-trees by the side of the road, on the higher part, close to a piece of land called Blanquilla, there is another mass of stone.

‘And from this spot, crossing the canal which runs from the farmhouse called Carrion, and about a stone-

throw from it, there are strewn in the field other ruins of an old house.

‘And from this spot, going on in a straight line to the farmhouse called Alama, whence in a direct road to the farmhouse of the tower called Guecar, whence we took our start in our definition of the proper limits of the said royal Soto de Roma.

‘To this must be added the forty-nine lots of arable land of the Dehesa of Illora, belonging to our royal patrimony, all of which lies under our absolute prohibition of the pursuit of game and fish, and the cutting of wood and grass and other trespasses, under the penalties which shall therein be declared.’

## CXXV.

I have deemed it expedient to translate all this long and quaint delineation, not only because it describes with great minuteness the landmarks of the Duke's estate as they were at some time, but also because it proves how difficult it was in Spain even for the head of the State to protect his own patrimony from the depredation of his faithful subjects, and how much easier it is for the King, the Ministers, or the Parliament of that unhappy country to have the wisdom required for making the laws than the energy necessary for enforcing them.

## CXXVI.

As the famine advanced, its severity became a grievous scourge, and petitions followed me about from all the villages surrounding the Duke's property. Meetings were held by the *alcaldes*, or mayors, and their *ayuntamientos* (town councillors), or municipal councils, beseeching me to press upon the Duke the necessity of providing for the people, as the number of the dead and dying was daily increasing, so that I was driven to my wits' end to find money to pay so large a demand daily for wages alone.

The foundation of the cottage of La Torre was excavated fourteen feet from the ground. All the soil was pure earth, lime, and rubble-stone; so I took a line and fastened one end of it to a pole stuck in the centre of the old tower, and ran it out seventy-five feet all round, depositing the soil that had been dug up for the foundation within the line mark. With the excavated soil I thus made a beautiful esplanade, with a fall of about six feet all round—thus forming a steep embankment of loose earth not easily to be got over by any trespasser or tramping vagabond from the outside beneath. The inclosure was to be, and was actually, planted with trees and shrubs, constituting the tower garden.

## CXXVII.

As the dark nights of winter came on, a clerk, Vega, brought the intelligence that for several days strange men, apparently under some disguise, had been seen at the Molino house asking minute questions about the habits and movements of Don Horacio, such as at what time he dined after he left his office, etc. As many as eleven horses and fourteen men had been counted, and the appearance of these strangers was that of brigands: indeed, information began to spread about that brigands were infesting the neighbourhood in bands of three and four, gathering together at night, when they were seen about La Torre in the twilight after the workmen were dismissed and had left the place. They made bold at last to enter the Molino house, but I had already left for La Torre, and then they hesitated and looked perplexed, but ended by going away in the direction of Loja. They seem, however, not to have gone far, for they were for some time lurking about the olive-grounds, at the foot of the hill of La Torre, though they kept out of sight of the house.

On receiving this information I made up my mind to give them battle on the first opportunity. With a view to draw them on and to have them at vantage, I kept within the house, and had all the doors and

windows securely bolted. For I did not know how far I could rely on my guards in the open, and had reason to fear that some of them whom I had discharged might prove treacherous and accept a bribe from the bandits. Consequently I deemed it prudent to have all the fastenings of the doors in my own keeping.

## CXXVIII.

After waiting some time for the expected attack, I ventured to sit down to dinner, and after eight o'clock, there being no appearance of the brigands, I sallied forth and walked all round the cottage on the esplanade which had been formed by the excavation of the basement of the house. From there I could descry, about a mile below, among the thick bushes of evergreen oak, some smoke ascending, and Vega the clerk cried out, 'There are the men! See! their leader rides a white horse.' Whereupon off scampered all my faithful and valiant servants, some to Illora, others to Alomartes, providing for their own safety, and leaving me alone to combat the enemy. Soon after they were gone, however, Vega made his appearance and tried to persuade me to 'run away to Illora.'

My answer was that 'Englishmen never run away, never turn their back upon an enemy. I mean to stay,' I said, 'here on this esplanade, and the first man

attempting to overstep the embankment I shall sho like a dog.'

As I said this I unbuttoned my coat and showed the clerk my six-chambered revolver, besides the double-barrelled rifle I had in my hand with a bayonet at its end. He might be sure, I added, 'that six of the blackguards would be stretched on the ground before I was taken.' My words had barely been spoken when he called out, 'Here they come! Lend me your double-barrelled gun!'

I ordered him to go and fetch it, at the same time forbidding him to attempt to kill any one, but only to try if he could frighten them; and away the brave fellow went down the ravine in front of me. He had not gone more than a few minutes when I heard the crack of my double-barrelled gun and saw the white horse of the bandit chief galloping away without a rider, the heavy shovel-shaped stirrups flying and flapping against the horse's sides, while what I took to be blood was running from his hinder parts. Presently the bushes were all alive with the reports of guns fired in every direction. But that was merely a vain demonstration, for the brigands were soon seen riding hard on the way to Loja. Vega said, 'Thanks to English powder, we have the leader.'

## CXXIX.

Thus ended the battle. But the wounded leader lagged behind, was taken and brought before me, and in his pocket I found a six-chambered revolver loaded and ready for action. Had I come up with him, there would have been a combat between us, as if we had been Christian and Moor of the old Spanish days.

I asked him what was the object of this meditated attack. It was to carry me off, he said, to get a large sum of money for ransom. 'What!' I said, 'and leave all these poor wretches to starve?'—for he said he was himself tired of work, he did not like work: anything, even death, was better than that.

His words so angered one of the foremen present that I had no little trouble to prevent his strangling the prisoner on the spot; for he had, according to custom, drawn a handkerchief round the prisoner's neck, as if threatening to throttle him, and by this means they drew from him the names of all the fellows in his gang. Having thus obtained all the information he could give, I had him conveyed under escort to Illora, whence the authorities sent him to Granada, and in about a fortnight they had the whole gang safely lodged in Granada gaol.

These men had, it appears, long been at this work, and the civil guards, or gendarmes, were after them.

It was hunger that drove them afield ; and, though ruthless and bloody-minded against defenceless persons, they had neither the strength nor the courage of the lusty well-fed English highwaymen of the good old times. They can get no work, or do not like it when they get it, and prefer to take to their murderous game, when they hope that surprise and numbers may easily overcome all resistance.

## CXXX.

Upon examining the ground the next morning it appeared by the hoof-prints of their horses that they had made attempts to leap and come upon the esplanade ; but their horses could not manage it, or fear deterred them, and they were evidently not sufficiently acquainted with the locality to find their way to the cottage in any other way. Had they been able to creep in by stealth through any bypath, they might and would have come upon me unexpectedly, overpowered and carried me off a captive, exacting a very heavy ransom for my release. That, at least, might have been more profitable for them than taking my life ; and that was their object, they said.

The Captain-General in command at Granada sent me word that these wretches were the most desperate gang in all Spain, and he professed himself greatly obliged to me for enabling him to get hold of them. As I was about to return to London, I informed the

Captain-General of my approaching departure, but told him that if I was wanted as a witness, and he had me summoned as such in good time, I would put off my journey to further the ends of justice. His answer was that I might go at my own convenience, for now he had the malefactors in hand he would know how to take care of them. And this is all I ever heard of the matter.

## CXXXI.

Reflecting on this affair, I considered: Suppose the Duke and Duchess and her companions, Mr. Farrer, Mr. Delane, and the others of the Duke's friends, had all been there—what a haul for a squad of fourteen bandits and cut-throats! They would have laid hold of the ladies and spirited them away, not with the gentlest or most persuasive, but with resolute and efficient, manners; they would have hurried them up among the wild ravines behind the great mountain wall of Parapanda. From there it was not iron or fire, but only gold, and much gold, that would or could rescue them. Or we should have risked a repetition of the tragedy that was performed not many years before at Marathon. It behoved me to think of that, and I felt it necessary to speculate upon what might be done to make the cottage perfectly safe against all attacks before the distinguished visitors arrived.

As the soil was finer for the growth of the vine on the hillside than on the lower grounds, I came to the resolution to plant the whole hill of La Torre with vineyards, as the plants when established are almost impenetrable; to have the trenching commenced for that purpose at once; and with the rubble-stones that came out of the ground I afterwards battened up the embankment and built a brick wall two feet high all round upon it, adding a brick coping that lapped over it: so that when the work was completed La Torre, with its castle and battened-up terrace and parapet coping, would become one of the safest residences in all Spain, and command the most magnificent of views in the world. Half a dozen servants, if worth their salt, could keep off hundreds of brigands and other *mal-hombres*.

## CXXXII.

By these contrivances I inclosed the tower and its cottage, with the stables, etc., within a beautiful esplanade, and erected two pairs of handsome iron gates, one pair for an entrance coming from the Bodega, the Molino house, and the Soto de Roma, and the other pair for an entrance from Illora and Loja, and planted it out with trees—altogether an area of several acres of gardens and pleasure grounds. The cottage I raised up to the first floor, but I had besides tents in