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MISCELLANEOUS.

From the New-York American.

Struck with the following passage in Colombian periodical work, recently published, of which we have received the first number, we translate it from the Spanish, as a specimen of the spirit and feeling that animate the cause of liberty among a portion, at least of our southern brethren—and also as it presents a short, but strongly drawn picture of the situation of the colonies under the withering influence of Spanish despotism. Whether the present struggle for independence will be generally successful, or whether the colonies are in a fit state to establish and enjoy any well-regulated system of constitutional liberty, may be a question with some even of their best wishers; but all most unite in the opinion, that whatever may be the eventual result of their past and present struggles; the continuance of them is preferable to an endurance of their antecedent misery; and we should hope that the most rigorous opponent of revolution would not refuse his assent to its necessary benefits, in at least the solitary case of the Spanish dependencies. All who read the following, will, we think, arrive at one and the same conclusion—that at all events, the old system of colonial oppression, as depicted in it, cannot be re-established, even though a re-union with the mother country should be effected, and thus a partial good must follow the struggle for independence, although dearly bought by bloodshed and suffering.

"The revolution which now agitates the continent of Columbia is not the fugitive episode of an isolated history, but an universal movement towards happiness. In truth, it is at length time that reason should overturn the walls by which she has been surrounded by her oppressors, and that justice should reclaim her usurped rights. For three centuries, unhappy Colombia has been ruled by all that is most horrible in tyranny, most detestable in superstition, and most contemptible in imbecility. The evils that have been inflicted on her by the dynasties of Austria and Bourbon, from the discovery until the present day, almost exceed exaggeration; Spain, although sunk to the lowest grade of European nations, had established a continental system detestable, unjust, and tyrannical, but withal, the best calculated to prolong the dependence of her colonies. The despots of Madrid were the centre of all power. They created at will distinctions of right and wrong, and as their caprice led them, dictated and abolished laws; while the instruments of their tyranny enjoyed a license oppressive and revolting, in proportion to the distance which gave impunity to their crimes.

"The Inquisition, that horrible minor of consciences—that infernal agent of the most iniquitous projects of the Spanish cabinet, had in all parts imposed insuperable obstacles to improvement; kept enveloped in the most obscure mists of ignorance all who had the misfortune to see the light of nature on our soil; and uniting the influence of despotism and superstition, succeeded in depressing the characters and enervating the minds of the children of Columbus. Unjustly shut out from the higher places of honour and profit, to which we had a natural and even recognized right, the church and the bar were the only avenues opened to us for the acquisition of subordinate distinction. By the force of a perverted authority, all our remonstrances against cruelty and debasement were sent to moulder unnoticed in the archives of Madrid; and, treated as the contemned slaves of rapacity, corruption, and injustice, we were left no alternative but mental endurance or despair. Commerce was a monopoly, and the price of consumption was regulated exclusively by penurious avarice. The establishment of the most necessary manufactures was prohibited, and the cultivation and disposal of indisposable articles of use were subject to the most unjust restrictions to favour the mistaken interests of Spain. The miserable natives were disposed of like beasts of burden; they were subjected to the payment of an odious tribute, the source of their moral degradation and vices, that were

additionally fomented by the wretched masters; and they disappeared by thousands from the wretched scene of their misery, under the dispensation of the ferocious and infernal Mit. Even this was not enough; but laws themselves were devised to impede the growth of population, by placing impediments to the lawful union of the sexes. In a word, the New World, so extensive, so varied, so fruitful of all that has been prepared in dreams of fancy or the illusions of poetry—abounding in the precious metals—embellished by the most brilliant ornaments of nature, the most elegant and useful plants of the torrid and temperate zones—the New World, I repeat, in which it appeared that nature had reposed from her labours, was so deserted, so languid, so depressed, that, under a longer continuance of the vile administration of Spain, its inhabitants would have dwindled into mere automata, and its rich and beautiful face into a desert and sterile wilderness.

"The hour of expiation and retribution at length arrived—Napoleon cast his withering glance on Spain, and snapped asunder the chain which bound Colombia in the dust."

Kingston, (Jam.) May 24. EXECUTION OF PIRATES.

About five o'clock, on Thursday morning, Cayetano Aragoniz, Josef Antonio, Manuel Rebout, Antonio Fernandez, Tomaso Gregal, Francisco Ronandez, Francisco Gutierrez, Miguel Mio, Josef Cevito, and Pedro Saragosan, were taken from the Gaol of Kingston, escorted by a company of the 50th regiment, commanded by Lieut. G. Tew, to the Wherry Wharf, when they were delivered over to the City Guard, and were put on board two wherries which were towed to Gallows-Point, near Port-Royal, by some boats from the men of war. The Commodore had, with his usual attention, directed the vessels in the harbor under his command, to afford the Marshal of the Admiralty every facility in carrying into effect the law. A party of the 91st received the prisoners at the Point designed for the scene of execution. On the prisoners landing, Aragoniz (their late Captain) exclaimed on beholding the preparations which were to close the bloody tragedy he had so long acted, "O Dios mio! Oh, my God! This was the only desponding sentence he was heard to utter. The Catholic Priests, who were in attendance, having commenced their exhortations, Aragoniz desired them not to forget what he had said to them respecting the Court (el Tribunal) which had found him and his comrades guilty; his fate should be a warning to the Judges, to act with less precipitation in future. He afterwards addressed himself, saying that he did not intend to accuse the Court; he would blame any one; the English were at fault. He was understood to refer to the application which had been made to postpone his trial till documents from Cuba could be obtained. To his latest breath he persisted in declaring his innocence, exclaiming, as he addressed the by-standers, "May you all, may the whole world pardon me, as I pardon those who have injured me, and as I trust that the Almighty Father will forgive us all. I die innocent—I have wronged no one." He was the first who ascended the ladder, and he preserved his calmness to the last. Even when the executioner was drawing the cap over his eyes, we did not observe his countenance change. His whole appearance corroborated a pretty well authenticated report that he had, in his native country, (the province of Valencia, Old Spain,) moved in a superior station of life. He was well known in Kingston by many inhabitants, and had, we understand, a strong predilection for gambling. His sole request was, that the executioner should not torture him, as he had, he said, never tortured others. This, we have too much cause to know, was not ungraciously granted. He declared to the executioner, that he should direct a sum to be paid him, under the expectation of his not allowing him to linger in torment.

"We believe he must have alluded to some conversation he had with his confessor. He was anxious to have his hands tied in the posture of prayer; but this desire could not be complied with. He retired from the crowd with a Priest, to confess himself in private. The officer commanding (Lieutenant Fraser) afforded every facility to procure the necessary secrecy in this last rite of the Roman Catholic ritual. Some of the prisoners shed tears and sobbed aloud. A few Spaniards standing by, desired them not to disgrace their country, but to die firmly, and like brave men, as they could have no hope of life; that, therefore, their thoughts should be on another world. What said their consoler is death? It

is but the pain of a moment; why should we fear it, when its bitterness is so soon past. "Ah," replied a culprit, "you never felt its bitterness." The Priest assured them of pardon through their Redeemer; and that as they sincerely repeated whatever crimes they had committed, a reconciliation was unnecessary.

Saragosan was a fine looking young man, about 18, and just before the drop fell, turning to the Captain, who stood next him, said "Adios Capitau," (farewell my Captain.) Aragoniz prayed fervently, but inaudibly; the others were louder in their devotion. Aragoniz never lost his firmness; not even when the cap was drawn over his eyes did he shrink from his fate. He met death with a heroic fortitude, worthy indeed of a nobler cause. He manifested a degree of resignation as remote from foul hardness on the one hand, as from puerile timidity on the other. Had not his guilty deeds been so unequivocally proved, he would have induced the spectators to imagine him a martyr.

The unhappy wretches ascended the scaffold with great firmness, and followed their Captain. The timidity of those who had been weeping, seemed to yield before the calmness of him who had once been their commander. Miguel Mio requested the bystanders that when the drop fell to pull him by the legs to put him out of agony. Aragoniz died immediately, the vertebrae of the neck being dislocated.

One of the prisoners, Manuel Rebout, had, in August last, been employed as a seaman on board a drooping vessel trading round this Island, the Five Sisters, Capt. McCudden. On that occasion he had behaved most disorderly, drawing his knife on some of the crew of the Five Sisters, and refusing to work.

The execution was conducted with that solemnity which should ever accompany the awful decree of the laws. The officers and soldiers of the 91st, who guarded the scene of execution, merit the public approbation for the decorum they preserved on this occasion. The commanding officer, at the same time that he took every necessary precaution which the case required, shewed a degree of humanity to the wretched culprits which did honor to his feelings as a man.

On the way down, the Dead March was played in one of the men of war boats, which added much to the solemnity of the occasion.—Courant.

The remaining ten prisoners, namely, Josef Pastore, Josef Hemenis, Pedro Medallus, Cusa Fusta, Antonio Yole, Bartolome Castro, Miguel Palermo, Juan Peres, Raphael Victory, and Joachim Martin, were carried to the place of execution in a similar manner to that which we detailed yesterday. The greater part wept bitterly, particularly two young men. A prisoner who had been wounded, requested that in tying his hands, his wound which he shewed, might not be lacerated. Another of the prisoners, an old man, named Perez, after praying devoutly from the scaffold, addressed the spectators, declaring, that as he hoped for pardon thro' his Redeemer and the Holy Virgin, he was guiltless of the charge for which he was that day to suffer. He was, he said, a sinner, culpable in the eye of his Creator on other accounts, but having in his present situation nothing to hope, by denying his guilt, he trusted he would be believed in his dying declaration. He had been on his way to Neuvitas, when he had been captured by the Zaragozana. He had not received one rial of prize-money nor pay; and whatever might have been the crimes of his fellow-culprits, he was guiltless of them. This old man seemed to be of superior rank to the others.—He delivered a suitable prayer extempore, and died with great firmness and resignation. Another, a young man, whose name we could not learn, (but we believe was called Palermo) about 17, of fine form, and an expressive Grecian countenance, wept agonizingly. He was a native of Minorca, and was one of these recommended to mercy. At one period he seemed to be quite insensible to all surrounding objects, his eyes were turned to Heaven, while, almost mechanically, he responded to his confessor. The Roman Catholic Priests, in attendance, seemed to feel much, and manifested great attention to the wretched culprits' spiritual welfare. The old man prayed with sincere devotion; the Minorca youth with the extremity of enthusiasm. We never witnessed more ardent religious emotions than those which seemed to pervade all the prisoners. Whilst they were ejaculating the name of their Redeemer almost inaudibly, from the convulsive sobs of some, the drop fell. The ropes being badly fixed, the execution was not so instant as on the previous day.

In closing our description of the execution of these guilty men, we may be

pardoned for commencing upon one circumstance, which, though no alleviation of their guilt before the tribunal of man, will, doubtless, plead for them at the bar of their Maker. Scarce any among them were aware of the atrocity of the crimes they had committed; they seemed to conceive that whilst they restrained their hands from murder, they might commit any other crime with impunity. The ignorance of most of these wretched culprits was deplorable; but even this palliation of crime did not apply to their Captain. He was not by any means an illiterate man, and unquestionably possessed talents which he had prostituted to the most horrid and atrocious purposes.

In the cell of Aragoniz (the Captain) two papers were found. One is a narrative of his conduct, from his embarkation at the Havana, till his capture. The other is a list of questions he wished to put to the Crown witnesses. They are very incoherently written, as if composed by one who knew not what excuse to forge for manifest guilt. The first paper seems to be the outline of the defence he wished made to the Court; in fact, it is a summary of what his counsel endeavored to prove. In this paper, written by his own hand, he states himself to be a native of Villajoyosa, and a pilot of Alicante; that he sailed from the Havana on the 12th of January last, in the schooner Zaragozana, as her Captain; that he had sundry goods on board, and some passengers, with ten Spanish soldiers. The soldiers & some of the passengers were destined to Neuvitas; the other passengers were bound to Gibara. That on arriving at Neuvitas he discharged such part of his cargo as was consigned to that port; that one of the owners having refused to prosecute the voyage, had ordered him to discharge the crew, who had mutinied; whereupon the several circumstances, detailed in the defence of Mr. Batty (see Courant of the 16th inst.) had taken place.

* A pilot in Spain is considered a very respectable officer, and is instructed in the several branches of the mathematics.

WAR HORSES. From Southey's History of the Peninsular War, just published.

Two of the regiments which had been quartered in Fuenes were cavalry, mounted on fine black long-tailed Andalusian horses. It was impossible to bring off these horses, about 1100 in number, and Romana was not a man who could order them to be destroyed, lest they should fall into the hands of the French. He was fond of horses himself and knew that every man was attached to the beast which had carried him so far and so faithfully. Their bridles therefore were taken off, and they were turned loose upon the beach. As they moved off, they passed some of the country horses and mares which were feeding at a little distance. A scene ensued, such as probably never before was witnessed. The Spanish horses are not mutilated, and these were sensible that they were no longer under any restraint of human power. A general conflict ensued, in which, retaining the discipline they had learnt, they charged each other in squadrons of ten or twenty together, when closely engaged, striking with their fore feet, and biting and tearing each other with the most ferocious rage, and trampling over those which were beaten down, till the shore, in the course of a quarter of an hour, was strewn with the dead and disabled. Part of them had been set free on a rising ground, at a distance; they no sooner heard the roar of battle than they came thundering down over the intermediate bridges, and catching the contagious madness, plunged into the fight with equal fury. Sublime as the scene was, it was too horrible to be long contemplated, and Romana, in mercy, gave orders for destroying them; but it was found too dangerous to attempt this; and after the last boats quitted the beach, the few horses that remained were seen still engaged in the dreadful work of mutual destruction.

Washington's Dignity.—Mr. Niles, in a late number of his Register, gives the following anecdote, illustrative of the dignity of manner which so eminently characterized the illustrious Washington:

"The gentleman with whom I served my apprenticeship, in Philadelphia, kept a book store, as well as a printing office, in his house on Market street. He would not have more than two or three lads in the office, and liberally allowed us free access to the store for the use of his books. As I had a regular weekly task that I always performed, it was my practice to rise early in the summer and seat myself at the front door, where I enjoyed the fresh air, and generally read about an hour, before the rest of the family were stirring, and when but few persons were to be seen in the

streets. Whilst thus employed, Washington often passed me in the morning walk, and from repeatedly seeing me at the same place and in the same employment, frequently gave me an encouraging look, if care was happened to meet, to which I would sometimes add a kind nod of recognition. One fine morning, and just before the door I was sitting at, he was met by two apparently respectable gentlemen, whom at the first glance I put down for foreigners, just arrived in Philadelphia. They stared at him with remarkable eagerness, making a full halt to examine him, spontaneously, as it seemed to me, raising their hats. The general made a slight bow, as he passed; they then rushed eagerly up to me, and asked, "what gentleman is that?" I simply replied, "Washington." One of them then said, "By ———, it is the most majestic man that I ever beheld;" and they both rushed through the market house, retracing their steps, that they might meet and look at him again. By their dress, manners, and dialect, I thought that they were recently from London."

ROT IN COTTON.

From the Pendleton (S. C.) Messenger. To ascertain the cause of the rot in cotton; has caused less exertion of talents than perhaps any other evil which ever prevailed in the country, of equal magnitude. Instead of leaving it for the discovery of such superficial observers as have hitherto been engaged in the business, would a chymist undertake it, who is able to analyze the different parts of the plant, it is confidently believed the task would be found not to be a difficult one.

I have no pretensions to a sufficient knowledge in that science for such an undertaking; I therefore adopted the plan which next in order promised the greatest prospect of success.

I have lately visited all the plantations in my neighborhood for the purpose of observing the effect of previous crops, and the present method of cultivation—and have made the following remarks: First, that the injury is greatest in those fields, which have produced cotton the greatest number of years in succession—Secondly, that three methods have been pursued for several years past, of preparing the land previous to planting. One is, to open the old lands with a coulter—the second is to plough them down, and make new lands in the same place—Thirdly, to follow the land, and make new ones in the spaces between the old ones. Where the first method has been long pursued, the number of rotten pods are in proportion to the sound ones, as two or three to one—where the second method has been pursued equally long, about half, and considerably less where the land has been prepared in the way last mentioned; though the weed is generally not so large. From these remarks, I draw the following conclusions, to wit: that though vegetation of every kind feeds on the same substances, yet these substances are differently proportioned in different plants. One kind requiring more nitre, another more alkali, &c. That by raising the same plants for a great number of years in the same field, they will so exhaust that substance which constitutes their favorite or principle food, as to render it less productive than if cultivated in plants, whose principal food is some other substance. I acknowledge that the arguments thus far, only goes to show the necessity of a rotation of crops; but may not the want of that substance prevent the due organization of the sap and other substances contained in it, and may not that want of organization, during the six eight or ten weeks that the cotton is confined in a very wet state within the pod, occasion fermentation and putrefaction.

I have seen no field without some rotten cotton; but not more on fresh land, and on old land which had been at rest several years previous to the present, than might reasonably be expected to proceed from an hereditary complaint which many plants are subject to.

On land much exhausted by corn crops, the injury is greater. The cause of which may probably be, that the ear of corn and the pod of cotton, are fed principally upon the same substance—the pod of one, and the cob of the other, yield more alkali than any vegetable matter I have ever tried. The seeds of cotton contain much oil; so do the grains of corn, as may be ascertained by pressing them between two hot irons.

I have often observed, that some fields yield a much greater portion of rotten corn than others—the cause of which I supposed to be bad cultivation. My present opinion is that it proceeds from the same cause as the rot in cotton, that is, the want of rest, or change of crop. If any person has made the same remarks, and finds my opinion to be correct, by publishing the same he might