covered with barnacles, may be approached in still weather without danger, though almost surrounded by rocks.

Among places of public amusement and recreation in a great city, the Theatre usually holds a principal place. So it may be with that of Rio, in the estimation of the inhabitants; but few, who have seen other houses of the kind, other scenic arrangements and performances, can unite with them in admiration of what is to be found here.

The Theatre is situated close to the Palace, and is a poor, small, dark house. Its form on the inside is an oval, at one end of which is the stage, and on the other the royal box, which occupies the whole Northern side of the building. Other boxes, cut off from all communication with the air, and hot, almost beyond endurance, extend round the sides of the house, and have an open, clumsy railing in front, most gaudily painted. The pit is divided into two parts; that before the royal box has forms, with a rail, against which the shoulders may be leaned; the division behind this, and beneath the seat of Royalty, is separated by a barrier, and the part of the audience, stationed there, must stand and listen. The house is lighted from tin sconces, fixed to the pillars, which support the boxes, and a chandelier of wood, with tin branches. With this elegant furniture, the scenery and other decorations thoroughly correspond. Sentinels, with fixed bayonets, are placed in every part of the house, and in all the avenues leading to it.

The Performances are worthy of the place and style in which they are brought out. The orchestra is small, inconvenient, and ill-supplied. Many of the dramatic pieces contain representations, which a small portion of good sense and taste would banish for ever from the stage. One of the last scenes which I witnessed, during my first stay at Rio, was the catastrophe of a tragedy. The heroine, dressed in white muslin, was supposed to be put to death, while the curtain was down, by severing her head from the body. Here, I think, would have been an end of her part, on any other than a Brazilian stage; but, after a little time, the curtain was drawn up again, for no other purpose

than to shew the audience the headless body of the lady, seated upright in an arm-chair, with the blood bubbling from her neck, and flowing down her raiment.

As little needs to be said about the Performers, who, in general, were scarcely less contemptible and shocking than the pieces. The actresses are, one of them formal and ranting, another insufferably pert. Of the male performers, one alone displays any thing like the true spirit of comedy; while another stupid fellow seems as if he had no business on the stage, but to exhibit his teeth and his buckles; a third acts the villain well, especially in the garb of a priest. I was surprised at the boldness, with which rascally Ecclesiastics are brought forward, until it was observed to me, that all admitted the existence of such characters, while no individual applied the lesson to himself.

Certain moralists have discovered an intimate connexion between theatrical exhibitions and the only species of public buildings and institutions in Rio, which remains to be noticed at present. Without taking any farther advantage of their theory, I beg permission to introduce the Calabouça, or common Whipping-Post of the city, where many earnest attempts are made to correct moral disorders. It is now placed within the old fort of St. Iago, but was formerly near the palace, in the public street. The name, which is a corrupted words, signifying in Brazil "hold your tongue," is inscribed on the top of the post; in seeming mockery of the sufferings inflicted there, as well as of the ignorance of the sufferer, who very seldom can read. The punishments of poor rogues on this spot, are sometimes dreadfully severe; and such, as to be unfit for minute description, inflicted also on slaves alone.

The common Jail is in the neighbourhood of the Bishop's palace, a strong and heavy building, around which all is filthiness, all within is sickening. The first room is barricaded much like our dens for wild beasts, and the prisoners roam about it in much the same style, and with no better accommodations. There is, however, here, what our places of confinement sometimes want, a separation of minor offenders from those, who are charged with greater crimes. While the latter are in the den

just mentioned, the former are in two spacious rooms above, one of which is furnished with a long table and forms. A few additional prison comforts may be obtained in the jailor's house, but the cost is heavy, and the prisoners are seldom able and willing to defray it. I am told that there is in no shape a jail delivery, and that some of the prisoners have remained in custody until the crimes, for which they were committed have been forgotten. No one, it is probable, would dare to set at liberty a culprit thus circumstanced; few, it may be, would presume to account him already punished beyond measure.—The fort of the Ilha das Cobras contains the State Prisons, and these also, are large, damp, and hopeless.

CHAPTER IV.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

A. D. 1808.

RANKS.—EMPLOYMENT.—MANNERS.—CHARACTER.

VICEREYS.—THE QUEEN.—REGENT.—ROYAL FAMILY.—PALACE.—EQUIPAGE.—CONDE' DE LINHARES.—COURTIERS.—ECCLESIASTICS.—LAWYERS.—MERCHANTS.—SHOPKEEPERS.—ARTIZANS.—PORTERS.—ITINERANT DEALERS.—BEGGARS.—WOMEN.—THEIR DRESS.—PERSONS.—EMPLOYMENTS.—CHILDREN.—DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS.—FURNITURE.—VISITS.—DINNER PARTY.—EVENING.—VISIT AT ILHA DOS FRADRES.—EDUCATION.—IGNORANCE.—FILTH.—VICES.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

PREVIOUS to the arrival of the Royal Family in Brazil, the country was governed by Vicereys, sent from Portugal, who enjoyed almost absolute authority. Hence those, who depended upon the great man's opinion, or were any way connected with his Court, became disposed to pay him even servile attention; and indemnified themselves, as well as they could, for the humiliation which they underwent, by exacting a like deference from every one below them. In this way, servility pervaded all classes of society. When the representative of Royalty appeared in the streets, all, who saw the distant shadow of his equipage, not only uncovered their heads, but bent one knee to the ground. No one thought himself entitled to pass a common soldier on duty, or to read a public notice stuck against the wall, without performing some act of homage. It is, no doubt, proper to pay the external and visible marks of respect to important officers and high characters; but in Brazil this principle is extended to a positive degradation of the manly character.

These modes of the country gave, however, to the Vicerey and his courtiers great facility in the distribution of graces and favours. A look, a smile, a bow,—for a well-bred Portuguese never uses the familiar nod,—but above all, a visit from him, were boons devoutly wished, and eagerly sought after. Such visits were bestowed with great condescension, and received with corresponding satisfaction. Among the higher classes, this led to frequent, extensive, and agreeable freedoms; for where the great man went, the lesser ones generally flocked, and the master of the house was as anxious to display the distinction with which he was honoured, as he was proud to receive it. He thus became habitually courteous and affable; the slightest acquaintance with the master was a sufficient introduction to the house, and gave authority to introduce also, the friend of a friend's friend, to the tenth remove. The person, who now presided, did not forget that the next evening he should become a guest, and that then he would have to seek the notice, which he now dispensed. A habit of ease and urbanity was, in this way introduced, which has been ill exchanged for more select parties and ceremonious behaviour.

None can more keenly feel, nor more sincerely lament, the change, than the middle classes of Brazilians. The poor also, partake of their regrets; for where the masters assembled, their dependants and slaves followed, and received and paid their humbler court with imitative ease and mimic politeness. Among their superiors, cards, music, and fruit filled up the evening; a fine climate, splendid moonlight or numerous lamps, good humour, and great gaiety of spirits, stole away the hours; and lateness alone dispersed the company.

But if the change of circumstances, occasioned by the emigration of the Royal Family and its followers, was thus painful to many of the Brazilians, they saw the new comers in much more serious distress.—None but those, who were allowed a frequent and near approach to the court, can conceive the straits, to which it was reduced.

The late Queen was advanced to an age, when changes make but slight impressions, provided the accustomed personal comforts be not

lost; and her state of mind was such as prevented her from feeling the whole extent of her misfortune. Her person was in Rio, but her imagination, it was said, generally presented Lisbonian scenes.

Her son, the Prince Regent, has often been accused of apathy; to me he appeared to possess more feeling and energy of character than friends, as well as accusers, usually attributed to him. He was placed in new and singularly trying circumstances, and submitted to them with patience; when roused, he acted with vigour and promptness. Perhaps he was too often guided by the timid and insincere; he was certainly surrounded by such as are always dangerous to rulers, by cowardly sycophants and hypocritical priests; and it is no less certain that they possessed great influence over his mind. Yet the firmness with which he refused to stop at Bahia, in opposition to the wishes of some of his followers, ought not to be forgotten. Without pleading that he displayed any great degree of heroism and devotedness to his country, without denying that he congratulated himself on what has been called his escape, we are surely not obliged to coincide with those who charge him with insensibility and baseness; and it is well remembered, with respect to some who thus charged him, how lively and open their rejoicings were, that they also had placed the Atlantic between themselves and their invaders.

There was not, I am persuaded, a British subject in Brazil, who did not most sincerely feel for the distressing situation in which the Prince was placed, and who would not willingly have done all they could to assist and protect him. He was truly kind and attentive to all, and warm in his gratitude to the British nation. His tenderness towards his companions in banishment was unaffected and paternal.

Little circumstances often showed his regard for our countrymen. On one occasion a very young midshipman had drawn his dirk upon the royal guard, close to the palace, and was boyishly defying the whole of it. An elderly Portuguese, indignant at the sight, exclaimed to the soldiers, "why don't you cut him down?" "He is an Englishman," was the reply, "and we should disobey the Prince's orders were we to

hurt him." At another time, passing by the church of the Carmo, the Prince observed a number of Englishmen standing about the door; they were waiting for the funeral of a Brazilian child, with whose family some of them had become acquainted. The Royal carriage was stopped, and a servant sent from it to inquire, whether any thing unpleasant had occurred among the British. The message was delivered in tender and anxious terms, apparently in the same as the Prince had used. Such instances of kind and respectful attention might be multiplied to a great extent, if any candid mind, witnessing or believing such facts, could possibly doubt the Regent's grateful regard for us and our government.

The Princess Regent,—so called, perhaps improperly, in Brazil,—appeared to have more of masculine feelings than was lovely either in the Princess, the wife, or the mother. She displayed great energy and active habits, bustled about, saw and determined for herself, and seemed bent upon governing, though she should rule only a house. What she could obtain, as an allowance for her private establishment, was a miserable pittance; she expended it with generosity, as well as economy, and pledged her faith for larger sums. There was a dignity in her manner of submitting to privations, yet this was tainted with great pride and imperiousness. In no instance would she yield her place, as the second subject of the realm; she insisted upon the distinctions due to royalty, and could never forgive the slightest disrespect. Her resentments were frequently carried to a disgusting extent, and at length were little regarded.

The widow of the Regent's elder brother is of mild, sedate, and even cold and uninteresting habits. She has long withdrawn, as much as possible, from public life; and seems to find that resource in religion of which no enemy can deprive her, nor any change of circumstances abate the value. This was much the same with the Queen's sister; when her personal wants were supplied, and her established modes of life unthwarted, she had no more to wish for; she continued to live, as she had lived in Lisbon, without ambition and regardless of influence.

Besides these Royal personages, the Regent's family consisted of

seven children, and a relation from Spain, the Infante Don Carlos de Bourbon. All these, thirteen in number, with their attendants amounting to nearly three hundred, were crowded into a miserable abode for Royalty, though, of course, dignified with the name of a palace. They had, indeed, in addition, the range of small buildings before mentioned, on another side of the square; but still the accommodations must have fallen greatly short of their wants. The house stood upon a piece of ground measuring seventy yards by twenty-six; and from this contracted space must be deducted an open court in the centre. The lower story, or ground-floor, was wholly occupied by piazzas, guard-rooms, and other offices; above them were apartments for the elder branches of the family, and their immediate attendants; about half the house has another story, and in these attics the children, with their servants, were lodged. This building, before it became a Royal residence, contained within its walls the mint and a prison; from both of which the occupiers were soon ejected, and the house united, by a sort of covered way, with the Convent of the Carmelites. It was thus rendered much more spacious and commodious, though still very defective in these points; the lower part of the convent being converted into kitchens and offices, the upper into domestic apartments of a superior cast. The Carmelites were translated to the Lapa, where had been a school, previously suppressed.

If the residence of Royalty was humble, its equipage and attendants, when it appeared in public, were still more so. The best vehicle which the rich colony of Brazil could afford to its sovereign was a small chaise, brought out by the same vessel in which she arrived. It was drawn by two very ordinary mules, and driven by a servant in an old and discoloured, if not tattered livery. She was attended, in her rides, by a maid of honour, in the same carriage with herself, two soldiers in advance, and an officer and twelve others following, by a single trumpet and a private footman. The military were wretchedly mounted and appointed; their horses were unshod, and most of them lame, blind, galled, or otherwise disabled; the clothing of the men was, generally

speaking, blue, but displaying all the shades of that various and varying colour. Their jackets were much worn and patched, they had no waistcoats, nor gloves, nor stockings; their boots old and torn, never blacked nor even brushed. The helmets and cartouch-boxes were such as must have been long out of use in Portugal, as well as every other part of Europe; the belts made of cotton-cloth, and as much unacquainted with a brush as were the boots. The swords of so small a party were not uniform, though every man had one; but several of them were without carbines, and supplied the want, some with one, some with two old ill-constructed pistols. Their faces and hands were perfectly guiltless of any consumption of so rare an article as soap, or of so common a one as water. The furniture of the horses was just of a piece with the dress and equipments of their riders; the bridles, in many cases, rendered useful by having their broken parts tied together by a strip of raw hide; which was then universally used in the colony instead of hempen string; the bits and stirrups, like the men's spurs, had not been scoured for years.

The Prince Regent appeared in public with much the same miserable state as his mother; indeed, his carriage was only a common Lisbonian one, something like our old single horse-chaise, with a head and curtains to it. It was exceedingly shabby, and bore on its pannels some of the ensigns of Royalty, though not the Royal arms. The Princess, his wife, when she did not accompany him in the carriage, sometimes went out on horseback, and, according to the custom of the country, rode astride. The children very seldom took the air, until a good strong family-chariot arrived, a present, it was said, from the King of Great Britain. About the same time each of these three parties had an officer appointed, something like what, at our Court, is called a Lord in waiting.

This representation, I am aware, may be regarded as a caricature, but it is not so; for its correctness an appeal may be made to every British subject who was in Rio, and who observed what was passing around him. The establishment, poor as it appears, required great exertions to support it. Grass, which was wanted in considerable quantities

does not grow naturally in the neighbourhood of the city, nor under the trees of a forest. Black people were sent out to cut the common Gramma of the country, a species of low growing flag, and the young Tacoará, a sort of cane, which flourishes in the woods. After every exertion was made, the supply of green food, for the horses and mules, was very scanty; until the two Capims, now so common, had been planted, and were fit to cut. There was, moreover, no stock of dry food in hand, and any thing answerable to hay-making is never practised in hot countries. There were then, also, neither stables attached to the palace, sufficient for the necessary beasts of draught, nor sheds for the carriages. Some idea of the low state of the colony,—low in the arts and conveniences of life,—may be formed from the fact, that on the anniversary of the Queen's birth-day, which occurred some months after my arrival, there were only six carriages mustered on the occasion, and these all open ones, with two wheels, each drawn by a miserable pair of mules, and driven by dirty negroes. Yet this was a gala-day, and the wealthy part of the community had done their utmost to make a show.

Poor as was the resource to which the Court of Portugal flew, when driven from its ancient station, the change could hardly have taken place under more favourable circumstances. Had the Queen possessed the full vigour of her mind, and the Regent a more acute sensibility, the removal and its many inconveniences must have been more distressing to both. He found, indeed, that Royalty is no protection against misfortune; he felt as a man, and manifested the feelings of a good one. A Prince of more uniform vigour might, probably, have been less teased; one of more penetration might have detected the selfish views of those about him. Yet there was one of these who appeared to have no such views, his first minister, Don Rodrigo,—afterward Condé de Linhares. He nobly supported his Prince, not only acting with energy himself, but compelling others, in every department of government, to do the same. He saw the true interests of the state, and pursued them with an ardent affection to his sovereign and his country. He succeeded in attaching to both the good and the useful of every nation, who had been drawn within

the sphere of his administration. He detected, and endeavoured as much as possible to drive from the Palace wicked men; hence he was hated by them, and at length taken off by poison.

The Count de Linhares had few imitators. The people, among whom his lot was cast, are said to be singularly given to intrigue, and in Brazil this disposition had been greatly sharpened by the system of colonial policy, which had been acted upon from the first settlement of Portuguese subjects in the country. By the arrival of the Court a new field was opened for the exercise and display of this favourite passion. Few as were the honours and emoluments which the Prince had to bestow, all sought them with eagerness, all endeavoured to supplant each other in the good graces of persons in power. Hence jealousies arose, and, between the old Courtiers and the new, got to a high degree of virulence; hence frequent bickerings and open dissensions, until the parties gradually divided into Lisbonian and Brazilian.

The companions of the Prince, in his flight from Europe, had, of course, one considerable advantage over their rivals; they had been his friends or acquaintance at home, and were now his associates in banishment and its attendant evils; they pretended that they had sacrificed their all to loyalty, and he was not of a spirit to resist such claims. But here their influence ended. Royalty had reached the Transatlantic shores almost in a state of pauperism, "stripped of all but its honour;" and its followers were in no better case, their estates had been plundered, their places annihilated, the sources of their pensions had been dried, and many of them were literally without a home.

But the wealthy Brazilians had a home, and good things to spare; herein consisted their advantage. They were welcome visitors at Court, from a wish to conciliate them, and still more because they had it in their power to repay an empty honour with solid benefits. Indeed the government had not left it altogether at their option, whether to bestow or to withhold. One of the first public orders issued after the arrival of the Prince was, that no person should have in his occupation two houses; and some, who had little influence at Court, found it difficult to retain

even one. The same order extended to warehouses and shops, directing that they should be given up, not to needy emigrants from the mother country alone, but to commercial adventurers from every region. The high and equitable spirit of our countrymen will hardly allow it to be mentioned, as a thing much to their honour, that they unanimously disdained to take advantage of this order, preferred paying liberal rents, and making it the interest of the proprietors to accommodate them. Many were glad to secure themselves, by means of such tenants, from the rapacity of the Portuguese.

There was little occasion for a Royal order to induce men of rank and ability, among the Colonists, liberally to assist the unfortunate Strangers. Either through policy, or a real feeling of the distress which they witnessed, they were forward with their services, freely lending their money, their houses, and almost every comfort. Ere long, however, they discovered their error in supposing that, by such services, they were laying the foundation of their own fortunes. They discerned, what a small measure of consideration might have taught them before, that it was impossible for the prince effectually to attend to all the various conflicting claims of ambition with which he was assailed, and equally impossible that they should now be gratified by such social freedoms with the head of government as had been their delight in the viceregal times. It was quite out of etiquette that Portuguese Royalty should be seen in the house of a subject; the Regent and his family, it was intimated, were always at home in the evening, and ready to receive the compliments of their vassals; and, under such a government, an intimation differed little from a command; a command, if disregarded, was little short of a sentence of confiscation. All that the greater part of the attendants at Court had to expect in return for their compliance with its wishes, for their sacrifices and their struggles, were a few gracious words and unmeaning compliments from the Prince. Many, therefore, who had parted with their houses, and friends, and servants, which had enabled them to stand foremost in the ranks of their countrymen, and were indignant at the sight of inferiors favoured and advanced above them,