A British Hospital had been established for many years, and placed under excellent management. It seemed, in some few instances, to unite the advantages of an Infirmary and a place of discipline; some few, I hope, went out from that house at once cured of their diseases, and mended in their morals.

As one of the smaller circumstances connected with public improvement and with the Hospitals, it may be noted that the places of public interment had been placed under better arrangement, the occurrence of the former disgusting scenes was prevented, and the last offices were performed with greater decency, and more privately. General attention to the dead, and the places of their repose, is a strong indication, in any country, that public manners are humanized: it may certainly be so managed as to promote the best affections of the heart.

Public justice, that basis of all good government, received a share of attention, although the infamous practices of the lower Courts and the inferior Judges remained unaltered. In one part of Brazil, at least, this body of men had even publicly maintained that they possessed a right to sell their sentences, and vindicated such a practice by alledging that they had been appointed to their posts as places of emolument; and that the stipends which they received evidently could not be considered as a remuneration of services, because the expenses which the Court required of them exceeded the amount of salaries which it gave. Nevertheless, in the higher departments, vexatious suits were discountenanced, claims respecting disputed titles were held to have no validity after sixty years undisturbed possession of an estate, and uncertain and rigorous quit rents were abolished. Causes of minor consequence were ordered to be decided by the Ouvidors of Comarcas, those of more importance by the Governor of the Province in which they occurred, and only those of the greatest weight by the Camaras, or Chambers in Rio. So early as 1814 a judicial decision, which had been obtained by a priest in a distant province, against a common soldier, was set aside by the Regent, who thus showed to the people that the Church should not always prevail in litigation. In criminal cases he brought offenders more speedily to trial, and punished by degradation, public exposure,

and transportation; but could not bring himself to sign a sentence of death even for murder. In such cases his humanity as a man prevailed over his judgment as a sovereign, and prompted him frequently to say, "Surely because the man has killed one person, I am not compelled to kill another." Much, therefore, in this part of jurisprudence remains to be amended, and will do so until the Sovereign, amiable as such a spirit is in a private person, shall surmount his superstitious scruples, and cease to be afraid of sending a soul, unprepared, into eternity. Pains had been taken likewise to amend the national temper and habit, particularly the impetuous desire of vengeance, and the taste for gambling. The latter object, in some measure, had been obtained; houses notoriously bad had been suppressed; gambling was more private, though perhaps not less ruinous than formerly; but the spirit, checked on one hand, was encouraged on the other by the establishment of monthly lotteries, as sources of gain to individuals or public companies. As to private revenge it must mainly depend on the temper, education, and habits of a people; if accustomed to carry weapons, it is vain to think of wresting from them, by force, this imagined privilege; and, if they remain uneducated and savage, their knives and stilettos will occasionally be used.

In this period it was peculiarly pleasing to observe how new schools were successively established, and the means of valuable knowledge diffused among every class of the people. In the Gazette of Rio, of July 9th, 1814, is a long advertisement to this effect—"Whoever may wish to send their daughters, female servants, and SLAVES, to learn to read, write, and account, &c. may speak with a person resident in the Rua do Lavradia." The Brazilian phrase is "as suas filhas, e as suas crias, e escravas," which, though differing some little, I believe, from the elegant Lisbonian dialect, conveys the meaning I have given to it.

Nevertheless the stimulus most prompt and efficacious in promoting the internal improvement of which we are speaking, and particularly in forming a national character and feeling, of which Brazil was almost destitute, and for want of which the country had nearly fallen, like the Colonies

of Spain, into a number of disjointed states, arose out of the measure which gave to this important part of the Portuguese Dominions privileges and honours similar to those enjoyed by the mother country. The period for assuming this new distinction, under the title of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil, and Algarva, was judiciously fixed for the anniversary of the Queen's birth-day, in December, 1815. All were pleased with the circumstance, and though the projectors evidently saw little more in it than a change of title, the people felt that they entered upon a new era of their political existence, appeared to think themselves elevated to a higher rank in the scale of human beings, beheld an irrefragable proof that their destiny was fixed,—that Brazil would, in future, be considered as one of the nations of the world, and be no longer sacrificed to the interests of any other state. The event infused into the public mind a sense of independence, a proper consciousness of its own importance, and a determination to support the new dignity.

Yet in order fully to understand the extent and importance of this national feeling, it will be necessary to recollect that, in old times, the Provinces were almost wholly unconnected with each other,—that they had scarcely any stronger common bond than the similarity of language, the circumstance of receiving their respective triennial governors from the same Court, and the commercial one, which led their views and their interests to the same European city;—that, between some of these provinces there existed an opposition of interests, and between others open and avowed jealousies. Hence it was that when the Court arrived in Rio, the Colonies were found to consist of portions so disjointed as to be ready, on the slightest agitation, to fall in pieces, and render the situation of the Royal emigrants very precarious. There were required all the address of Government, and all the powerful support which it received from Britain, to preserve the administration from positive disrespect,—to keep the whole of Brazil within one common bond,—to turn the people's attention from Lisbon to Rio,—to make them feel that the latter city had become the centre of their union, the Capital of their widely diffused

people, the source of their security, the focus and fountain of their wealth and their honour. The first effort toward accomplishing this important work was made when the ports of Brazil were opened to foreign commerce, and a wonderful alteration it produced in the people's views and modes of thinking; yet it left them without any strong bias to one particular country, and served rather to incline each province, without regard to the general interest, to the side where its commercial advantage was most considerable. But no sooner was the country declared a Kingdom, than it displayed an individuality of sentiment, and joined in one common act of homage to the throne. Addresses of exultation and gratitude to the Sovereign poured in, by one simultaneous movement, from every part of the country, and the most remote and obscure township felt proud of the privilege which admitted it to address its own Sovereign under a Brazilian title, on Brazilian ground; it perceived itself to be, however humble, an integral part of the extended whole. All the blessings of a Revolution, which the people had formerly wished for, had fallen upon the country, almost without their being sensible of the change.

This feeling of Nationality was still further promoted, soon afterwards, by an event of a different nature. Within a few months Brazil had to mourn the death of its first Queen, whose funeral obsequies being celebrated by every city, town, and considerable village in the Kingdom, called the people again together, with their attention fixed upon one common object. On this occasion they displayed all the talent for show, all the taste for decoration, sculpture, oratory, and verse, which the country possessed. By such attractions the Brazilians were induced to leave, for a time, their recesses in woods and deserts, to assemble in the principal towns of their districts, became better acquainted with each other, and with their rulers; they acquired and riveted new degrees of civilization, new attachment to the Sovereign who succeeded to the throne, who was already known, and had been long beloved as Regent.

The elevation of Brazil to the dignity of a Kingdom required a new bearing for the country, and a new device for the flag. In that which was adopted, the Government has been thought, by persons ignorant of Heraldic mysteries, to have displayed a little of its vanity, if not of its designs, and to have given to the people a lesson which they are not slow to comprehend, nor reserved enough to conceal. The old shields of Portugal and Algarva are placed upon a sphere, so as nearly to cover one half of it, and the six banded crown is suspended over the whole, destitute, as yet, of decoration.

By those who have observed the influence of events upon national character and union, the Acclamation of the first King of Brazil will not be overlooked. The ceremony did not take place until many months had elapsed after the death of the late Queen, and a variety of reasons were given for the delay; some of them, no doubt, the offspring of fancy alone, others with at least the appearance of truth. It was said that the King did not choose to be acclaimed, until his mother had been dead full twelve months; until she was not only gone from this world, and had done with all sublunary things, but also until the priesthood should declare, — and they only could know, — that she had passed from the state of Purgatory. On this point the wise men unfortunately differed; the Priests of the Chapel Royal declaring, that she had entered upon perfect bliss, while those of the Candelaria warmly maintained, that she was not yet purified; evincing to the people, if such a people, or any people equally influenced by superstition, could be convinced, that they knew nothing about the matter. Others stated that the King was unwilling to be regularly installed in his office until the arrival of the Austrian Princess, which would render the festival more splendid, and more generally interesting. It was even maintained, that it would be dangerous to bring the people together in the present temper of the country and the military; and I believe there were some weak headed and timid men near to the throne, who whispered such insinuations into the Royal ear.

Preparations had been making for this great event, upon the largest scale, for several months. Oil for the illuminations was sought throughout the country, and even in Africa; triumphal arches were placed in several parts of the city; and, on one side of the Palace Square a long open arcade, raised about ten feet above the ground, covered with a tiled roof, intended for the ceremony of the day, which, with the Kings of Portugal, always takes place in public. They are, indeed, never crowned, since the unfortunate battle of Arzilla, where Sebastian lost his life and the diadem. At one end of the arcade, or open varanda, a throne was erected, and a small table, covered with crimson cloth, was placed before it, on which lay the sceptre and two books, one of them apparently a Bible; in the other all the Nobility present wrote something, and previously to doing so bowed to the King, who was seated on the throne. He was dressed in a scarlet robe, richly trimmed, and wore a general officer's hat and plume; the Prince Royal, his eldest son and heir apparent, standing at his right hand. Before the arcade, in the centre of the front, which had a low railing, was a small cannopied projection, with a floor a little higher than the rest of the platform. In the public square below was arranged a body of cavalry in open order, and the people were allowed to fill the intervals. Behind this compact body of men and horses the infantry were placed, and in their rear, close to the parapet of the beach, a line of light artillery, flanked by temporary towers for the discharge of fire-works. Beyond these, lay vessels of war, arranged in a pleasing order, and fully decorated with all their showy honours.

In the ceremony of Acclamation, the Constitution of Portugal introduces a very important personage, called the Juiz do Povo, that is, the People's Advocate or Representative. Formerly, this officer was chosen by the City of Lisbon, or rather by what is called the House of twenty-four; and as the Court had removed, the privilege was claimed by Rio de Janeiro, and warmly contested between the two Capitals. It was at last settled, that Deputies should be called from the towns of Brazil, to represent them in the ceremony, and that the person sent in that

character from Lisbon should act as Juiz. This and similar arrangements might sufficiently account for a delay of the ceremony without having recourse to other reasons.

When all the Fidalgos had taken the oaths, and inscribed their names, the King rose and took the Sceptre, the Prince Royal bore his train, and the Juiz do Povo conducted them along the front of the Gallery or Arcade. When the King presented himself at the first arch, though cordially received, he was evidently embarrassed; at the second, he had somewhat more confidence; at the third, he recollected himself completely, and complied with the usual custom on such occasions, by taking off his hat, which he had previously forgotten to do, and the shouts of the people were redoubled. On arriving at the centre, the Juiz and the Sovereign entered the projection mentioned before, and were distinctly seen in this station by every one. It is usual for the Judge, in the name of the people, to ask of the King three important questions, relative to the support of Religion, the Laws, and the popular Privileges. To each of them the King gives a distinct promise, that he will maintain them, and the Judge as distinctly replies aloud, "then you shall reign." This part of the ceremony being performed, the Judge publishes to the people, the promises of the King, and announces him as Sovereign. The people receive him as such, by shouting Viva El Rey; upon this, the salute from the Artillery, the Shipping, and the Forts commenced in the most lively manner, and continued for about half an hour.

The hesitation of the King at the first and second arches, where I was quite close to him, appeared to arise from some vague suspicions generated by the evil reports, which had been continually poured into his ear. I had a similar opportunity of observing him within half an hour before the time when the ceremony began. He was then dressed in a plain blue coat, with a black handkerchief about his neck, was quite alone, and his countenance expressed marks of deep solicitude. Yet if this arose from suspicions of the people's loyalty, I am persuaded there was not the slightest ground for them, at least, among the middle and

inferior classes. I had mingled among them without reserve, noted their disposition, and was convinced that there never was a more affectionate Capital than Rio de Janeiro at that time. I was therefore pained and disgusted, on finding that a quantity of ball-cartridge had been served out to some of the troops, and that no person was permitted to speak among the crowd in any foreign language. When a native of Venice addressed me in English, he was ordered, with a tone of rudeness, by a soldier, to speak Portuguese, or hold his tongue. One circumstance occurred, which did great honour both to the Sovereign and the subject. The Conde dos Arcos, whose excellent conduct while Governor of Bahia, has already been noticed, arrived in Rio the evening before the ceremony, and being late in his appearance, the King positively refused to proceed until he came. As the Count walked up the Gallery, the King met him, gave him a warm embrace, and acknowledged his services with strong emotions of gratitude.

The erection of Brazil into a Kingdom, was attended by a circumstance more beneficial than any which has yet been stated. When the Merchants of Rio met to congratulate their Sovereign, they subscribed a considerable sum of money, to form a fund, whose proceeds should be appropriated to the purposes of general education; and he passed a decree to render it secure and effective. Literature and Science had not been quite neglected down to this period, for Halls had been opened, where the most useful branches of Military Knowledge were taught; and many works were published for the use of soldiers.

The King's Library had been arranged, and opened for public use, but contained few works suited to the present advanced state of knowledge, or to modern taste. The inhabitants of Convents too, had become less scrupulous about displaying the contents of their Libraries, and some Greek Works were unexpectedly found in that of St. Bento. The Correio Braziliensis, and the Patriota, had circulated widely, and diffused among the people more just knowledge of themselves and the world. Some years before, the Regent had made inquiries respecting

the Freedom of the Press, and seemed disposed to favour it; he was then prevented from following his inclination by the conduct of an ignorant and injudicious Magistrate, and now many ignorant and injudicious people exult in its continued restrictions. The Licensed Press however, has produced some useful works besides these, which relate to Military affairs. Among them, we reckon as the most useful, the Thesouro dos Meninos, which treats of "Morals, Virtue, and good Manners." It was dedicated, very properly, to Don Miguel, the King's second son, for no boy can require such instructions more than he does; his education has been most limited and unfortunate. A book entitled Lectures on Philosophy, contains too much of the dogmas of Aristotle and the dark ages to evince that the Author is either enlightened or judicious. We have also the History of Extravagant Illusions and Supernatural Influence; the Commercial Laws of Brazil; Several useful Works on Commerce and Navigation, particularly a Nautical Almanack, calculated for the Meridian of Rio, a Work badly executed, but followed by Tables of the Sun's Declination, of Latitudes, and Logarithms; one or two Works on Geography, and a Treatise on the Diseases of Negroes.

A Private Printing Press was established at the close of 1816; Philosophical Lectures were read and attended; the Cabinet which formerly belonged to the celebrated Werner was arranged and studied; Mineral Waters, found in Minas Geraes and other places, had been analysed; and Brazilians boasted of a native discovery, in the composition of Gunpowder, but I apprehend without reason, for it consists simply in mixing a quantity of fresh saw-dust with the grains; a Patent had been granted for making Bricks by Machinery, and another for the Navigation of the Bay by a Steam Boat; a Company had been formed even in Cuyaba, under Royal patronage, for improvements in the art of Mining.

The Arabian Camel had been introduced, and two small Goats from India, which I imagine to be Cashmerian; if they succeed, both animals will prove useful to the country.

In 1818, at a Sale of Books, English Works went off well, as did

some Latin ones; but few, I believe, fell into Brazilian hands. French Books are in demand; but it was impossible, by any means, to sell the Glasgow Edition of Homer's Iliad, in Greek; the Septuagint and New Testament in the same language, Hederic's nor even Schrevelius's Lexicons; nor did a Hebrew Psalter, with a Latin Translation, find a customer.

With the Sciences, the Arts, both mechanic and those which are commonly denominated fine ones, prospered in a high degree; and we had not only Blacksmiths, Carpenters, and Bricklayers, but Poets and Painters in abundance.

The state of Fashion and taste was displayed by the superior show and decoration of retail shops; and by the puffing advertisements which were published in a style suited to the French Capital. In 1816, a Hair-Dresser announced himself, and solicited patronage from the circumstance of having had the honour to be employed by Donna Carlotta of Brazil, the Princess of Wales, and the Duchess of Angouleme.

A Junta, or Committee of Commerce, Agriculture, Manufactures, and Navigation, had existed in Rio from the time when the Royal Family arrived, and had attained many objects proposed by its establishment. In June, 1816, a sort of Board of Trade was appointed, and some Resolutions passed in consequence, favourable to Brazilian Commerce. In taking a general view of this subject, it will be convenient to premise that, previous to the new order of things, almost every Fazenda produced all that it wanted, excepting Slaves, Implements of Husbandry and Mining, and a few Articles of Luxury belonging to the Table, Clothing, Furniture, and Parade. These were imported through Pernambuco, Bahia, and Rio, and created with these places some small degree of Internal Commerce, and some little Coasting Trade. But it is scarcely possible for persons, who have not paid close attention to the subject, to conceive how languid it was, how slow in its operations, and to what a great extent smuggling existed. The productions of Brazil created more activity. Being generally heavy or bulky articles, they were conveyed for the most part by water, and an Estate was of little value unless bounded by a navigable stream or enriched by Minerals. Hence