are handsome ones, were shut, and it is notorious that much of the trade, which the town once maintained with Sabará and the Northern parts of the province, is now removed to St. John.

A progress of three miles farther, in which we descended full four hundred and fifty feet, brought us to Registro Velho, where the toll of the province used to be paid, before that advantage was transferred to Mathæus Barboza. Itis situated close to the banks of the Rio dos Mortes, which is here about seven yards wide, and of considerable depth and rapidity. With its fiscal dignity, all marks of its former consequence are not vanished; for there are three ranchos, and four or five houses, as well as an office, full of old papers, much neglected.

The principal object of my visit to this place, was to examine a Manufactory of Cotton and Woollen Cloth, which had been established fifty years, and produced goods, which were celebrated over a great part of Brazil. Specimens of both, which I have seen, were certainly excellent of their kind. The old Government viewed this establishment with jealousy, and ordered the projector and owner of it to Lisbon, to answer for the breach of Colonial Laws; there, as in such cases was too common, he was kept without a definite hearing for twenty years, while the fabric was every day going to ruin. When the Court, after its settlement in this country, had leisure to attend to such matters, attempts were made to revive the manufactory, but it was too late, a new direction had been given to the industry of the people more congenial with their general manners and habits; the owner had become poor; agriculture offered a more sure and speedy mode of retrieving his fortunes; the raw material, which he would require, now sold for more in the city, by three hundred per Cent. than he had formerly given for it, with the important advantage, to the grower, of ready money, instead of ten or twelve months credit. British fabrics, also, were pressed upon the country with the usual spirit and urgency of our commercial adventurers, and rendered at a price far below that of the goods, whose place they usurped. It is not wonderful, therefore, that I found the manufactory expiring; nor less so, that great complaints were made of the deterioration of materials, —the common subterfuge of artizans, when their customers require

goods of a superior quality, and can obtain them from new sources at lower rates.

Conformably to the plan arranged, we took advantage of a moon then approaching her last quarter, and proceeded, in a dark and damp morning, over some barren and elevated land, to the head of a small stream, on the bank of which we descended rapidly, until, at the end of nine miles, at a place called Borda do Campo, the edge of the open country, we re-entered upon the region of trees. I confess that the sight of them, as they darkly shadowed through the dawn and the mist, gave me pleasure. So soon are we tired of uniformity! so readily pleased with change! As the morning drew on, the fog was dissolved apace; the torrent had become considerable, and the roar of its waters, mingled with the clank of the Araponga and the screech of other birds, produced a singular sort of harmonious discord. During the darkness too, we had been translated from the wild wastes of a desert to scenes, in which the Naiads might revel at their ease. All nature was dripping; but seemed to rise from her morning bath refreshed, and exulting in her vigour.

At this point, the Mountain of Juruocca showed itself on the right, a large, isolated mass, and though remote, formed no inconsiderable feature of the landscape. Wonderful tales are told concerning it, originating probably in some unusual natural appearances and sounds. The rocking stones on its surface astonish those who touch them; its caverns resound with subterraneous noises; and it is confidently asserted, that when artillery is fired at Rio, the report is distinctly heard in this distant region. There, also, rises the Rio Grandé, a genuine wonder, though not adding to the prevailing impressions. This river, according to general report, after becoming a large stream, is absorbed by the soil of very extensive plains, under whose surface it makes its way, and clothes the ground with a rich, perennial verdure. Some maintained, that previous to being thus absorbed, the stream had flowed a hundred and fifty miles, that on the border of the Province, it again becomes visible, in a contracted form, and takes the name of Pará, but one Gentleman said he crossed these plains in going from St. John D' El Rey to St.

Paul's, and intimated that they lay in the direct line between the two places.

As we proceeded down a narrow dell, the Mountains on either hand became more lofty and picturesque; the tops of those on our right we could not see; those on the left, across the stream, rose with great majesty to the height of eleven hundred feet, covered to the summit by a fine sheet of variegated forest, relieved by many projections of naked rock. In such a situation the people of Mantiqueira have their residence, but seem to have thought it unnecessary to add to their advantages those of industry and cleanliness.

Some years ago, this place was much talked of as the scene of murders, superstition raising her edifice on the basis of facts. The passage through it had long been an object of terror, and vows were made to the Patron Saints, for safe convoy, under whose guardian care the great body of travellers passed without molestation, but many disappeared, and not a trace of them remained. At length, a young Priest being desired to convey a letter to the Mines,—the Post not being at that time established,—dreamed, as he alleged, that it contained some villanous information; and attributing the dream to the Holy Virgin, whose votary he was, he determined secretly to communicate the letter to a person in office. On being carefully opened, it was found to contain the description of a person, who was about to leave Rio with a large sum of money, of his attendant and the animals which they rode. It mentioned, also, the day he was to set out, and the places where he intended to rest. The letter, being re-sealed, was conveyed to its address, and proper means were taken to secure the writer, and preserve the victim. He was, however, exposed to some danger. Approaching a trough, placed by the side of the road, to water his horse, he was suddenly laçoed by an unseen hand, his servant seized, and they and their mules dragged away towards the woods. Sufficient help being at hand, they were soon rescued, and the banditti taken. On their trial it came out, that the principal agents in the business were three brothers, wealthy and respected, one of whom, residing in the city, was accustomed to collect and transmit such inform-

ation as has been described, while the others acted upon it according to circumstances. They pillaged and murdered the victims, and buried, in some secluded spot, the bodies, clothes, trunks, animals, bridles, saddles, and every thing belonging to them.

Such is the general outline of a story, which is related with some variety of circumstances, but with a perfect agreement as to the effect of these events on the mind of the Priest. He thought that, as a Minister of the Catholic Faith, it was mortal sin in him to betray a secret, and to fail in the discharge of a trust, and that he was, on no account whatever, except in the service of religion, to hasten the death of a human being; and, fancying that he had sinned in all these points, he became insane.—A little more firmness of mind, a slight change in his modes of thinking, or even a tinge of that corrupt lightness, which in so many cases modifies the superstition of his fraternity, might not only have saved him, but led him to rejoice that he had been an instrument of saving many from death, and promoting the ends of justice. "So complicate, so wonderful, is man!"

A few miles farther on, we left the stream, and entered a country of singularly irregular features, yet exceedingly rich, inclosed with fine fences of Espinho, a species of Mimosa, and, comparatively speaking, well peopled. Our route was very uneven, and we descended the slippery hills with more speed than we wished to use, for every step was insecure and hurried us forward; at the same time, a number of loaded mules, which we passed going up a steep hill, seemed to me, from the same causes operating in a different direction, to go twice, or even three times, over the ground. From one of these heights we looked back to the spot where day had broken upon us, traced the whole line of intervening mountains, and, on the East and North-East, contemplated valleys, through which rolled the streams of the country toward a grey expanse, seemingly the bed of a principal river.

Having outridden my companions, I halted at a place where was a small church and a house or two; and employed myself, till they came up, in shooting parrots, some of which I wished to secure for dinner.

They were of a small species, yet larger than the green Paroquet, and more delicate than the Terrivel. They invariably returned to the tree, whence the discharge of my gun had driven them, as if seeking their companions. I found leisure, also, for the contemplation of human beings, and was gratified by the sight of uncommon industry. Two women were spinning cotton on the old three-pronged distaff and spindle, and said that their master would not allow them to be idle, though by selling his cotton in the city, and buying his cloth there, he might save more than the produce of their labour. The Tropeiros of the neighbourhood gave proofs of a willingness to accommodate for the sake of being employed. They appeared to have caught the spirit of activity and rivalship, the sure indications of a prosperous country. In the maintenance of such a spirit the people must flourish and be happy, though they continue, as at present, confined to one narrow spot, and absolute strangers to the larger communities of men. In them, wonder that I should leave my home, for the mere pleasure of rambling, seemed much more natural than in many, who expressed a similar feeling.

Travelling onward in the cool of the afternoon, I received another gratification in the sight of a flock of sheep, following their shepherd, down the side of a hill. I also shot a Coaracý, probably the Sun-bird; and though it fell over a precipice and was lost, I could discern that it was about the size of a Kite, all dark brown, except the tail, the legs, and a long taper bill, which were of a bright yellow.

Having completed about thirty miles, we arrived at the Fazenda of Pedro Alves, a well-managed establishment, displaying many appearances of wealth. It was surrounded by negro huts, among which prevailed the utmost order and decorum, maintained by strict discipline. Yet all seemed to be happy; the children played at a little distance from the house, while the aged people formed a group of observers; the able slaves were diligently occupied, and disease was unseen. Little care, however, had been employed on the internal part of the house; when the door of the room, destined for my use, was opened, so offensive a smell issued from it, that I ventured to request a translation to some

different place. But this could not be granted, and we were obliged to resort to cleansing and fumigation. An abundance of odoriferous herbs, particularly of rosemary, being consumed in it, according to the Brazilian fashion, the apartment was rendered not only tolerable, but pleasant.

This establishment belonged to a Widow Lady, whom the etiquette of the country did not permit me to see; and the rites of hospitality were performed for her by a man of respectable appearance, and intelligence sufficient to render his company instructive as well as amusing. We learned from him that the Parahyba is supplied by six principal streams, between that place and St. Salvador, and that most of them fall into its Northern side. The distance of the two places he reckoned, not very correctly, I conceive, somewhat less than seventy leagues; to the falls of St. Fidelis upwards of sixty. To the Eastward, he said, the country was all open, and much of it occupied by domesticated Indians; while in the road to Campos fewer inhabitants were to be found, yet all was peace and quietness, and a man might travel thither without difficulty. The sum paid here for our accommodation may serve as a specimen how cheaply we travel in our present mode, for the cost of an ample supper for three men, and of corn and pasture for two horses and two mules, amounted to no more than two patacas, about three shillings English.

At a very early hour of the following morning, we entered upon our former track at Chapeo d' Ovas; and before we reached Juiz de Fora, obtained a fine view of the country we had left. Its outline appeared familiar, and I almost persuaded myself that we saw the Serro of Ouro Branco, the bluff head over Rodeiro, the Mountains near Caancunha, and the break, through which the Parapeba makes its way to Sabará. I found, too, that the bearing of these distant heights was correct, and that the angle, which they made with the level of our station, then nearly a thousand feet above Juiz de Fora, was about six degrees.

Amidst a hard day's ride, my heresy had nearly occasioned our want of a dinner, for without adverting to the circumstance of the day being Sunday, I thoughtlessly asked, at several different houses, for flesh. At

length a bait of some sort became absolutely necessary, and we were fortunate in obtaining, at the hut of a negro, a few patties made of Palmetto, which a little addition of seasoning, together with the sauce of hunger, rendered palatable. As the sun declined, we again pursued our way, and soon killed two snakes, one of which seemed to me singular in having arched and sharp vertebræ near the neck. The only instance of the kind which I ever observed, and owing possibly to some wound which the reptile might have received. It was about six feet long, and, if I may be allowed to judge from its appearance, was venomous. On my further progress downward, I had, as frequently before, an instance of the muscular power of the snake. One of these reptiles was crossing the road, a few yards before my horse; in an instant, it reared itself and stood erect upon a small single coil of its tail, fiercely looked at the horse, hissed in anger and slid away. Some of our older Engravers have represented the Arch-fiend in this position, when tempting Eve; perhaps modern ones have thought it an unnatural one, and for that reason may have preferred to represent him like a Boa Constrictor, and place his coils round the trunk of the Tree of Life. It is happy for mankind, that these disgusting creatures have not the power of darting themselves forward, nor of retaining their erect position long; but their motion in rising is astonishingly rapid.

A friend, on whose judgment I rely with great confidence, is inclined to place in this class of reptiles another, which afterwards fell in my way. It was dead, and appeared to have perished during the night, from the quantity of rain which had fallen. It evidently had possessed the power of extending and contracting its length, and most probably moved by so doing. From this circumstance. I had called it a worm, and not a snake. It was of a dirty blue colour, and measured in its contracted state eighteen inches long and two and a half round.

Long after it was dark, having been sixteen hours on horseback, and travelled about forty-two miles, we reached the miserable hut of St. Vincente; and finding no accommodation there, went forward to a large house, where we saw the master, were absolutely refused admittance

and with difficulty obtained permission to sleep in one of the filthy rooms on the other side of the river. A good supper was sent in after midnight, but my treatment in other respects was so uncivil, and so totally at variance with the usual customs of the country, that I thought myself justified in showing some resentment. For this, we had ample time, the mules and horses having strayed from their pasture, and detained us three hours in the morning; a good deal of punctilio was observed on both sides, and several messages passed between the house and the hovel. At length, having manifested my unwillingness to pay for my accommodation by respectful acknowledgments, and my determination not to receive a boon from the hand of such a man, I was allowed to discharge my debt, and the trifling sum of 240 reis, or eighteen-pence was all, which in rigour it amounted to. The man who received payment, made many apologies for his master's conduct; but they did not come from the right quarter, and furnished no remedy for the inconvenience which had been endured; nevertheless, as he seemed anxious upon the point, I took pains to convince him, that I complained only of his master's conduct, and left his premises with a conviction, that he disgraced himself even in his own opinion.

Our ride from hence was well calculated to dissipate the fumes of displeasure; but being over ground already described, the few remaining occurrences of the journey shall be hastily related.

At the Patrulha, one of the Soldiers observing that my horse was beginning to be lame, through the loss of a shoe, set about preventing farther mischief; and when he had finished the work, strenuously refused every recompense, besides the pleasure of having done a kind and a generous action to a stranger. I have usually found the lower orders of people in this country, not only more civil, but more ready with their good offices, than those of superior circumstances. My baggage was strictly examined, and a few sealed letters detained. But this was done in a way very different from what I have had occasion to remark in some British Custom-Houses,—with a seeming wish to render an unpleasant duty as little grating as possible.

My old friends at Vargé requested that I would convey a paper for them to Roçinha; it contained a summons to a Clergyman to perform the last Rites of the Catholic Religion to a dying negro boy. However little I believe in the power of a Priest to forgive sins, I had no right to trifle with the prejudices of any one, especially those of a family from which I had received civilities, or to decline upon such grounds, the faithful delivery of an useless billet.

At Roçinha, I met with one of those impetuous characters, who continually thwart their own purposes, are dissatisfied themselves, and render every one miserable who is dependent upon them. He had lost seven mules, and left behind him two sick slaves, in the short distance between the Capital and this place; and as he seemed determined to oppose nothing but violence to such casualties, would probably lose and leave others of his train, ere he reached his home, on the Northern frontier of the province. He had with him a son, who promised fairly, in due time, "to out-herod even Herod." Few hours, in a life of some variety, have been passed with more extreme disgust than this.

In proceeding Northward, I came to Roçinha by a new road, and therefore now took the old one, towards the Parahybuna. The change involved in it some additional labour, but it was amply recompensed by new and charming views of the country.

My trunks were again opened on the beach, and searched by the Officers of the Register; but to no purpose. It is true, that, in the course of the journey, Gold-Dust and Precious-Stones had been repeatedly offered to me for sale; sometimes with the wish of transacting business in good faith, and sometimes, I suspected, as traps for the unwary. But smuggling bargains were not my object.

Crossing the river, we slept at a small Venda, having advanced twenty-eight miles in the course of the day. There, occurred one of the little circumstances, which often display the state of the country more strongly than greater events. On this South side of the river, no grass was to be obtained, and the person with whom we agreed to furnish us with this necessary article, had to go two miles beyond the Northern bank to cut

it. The evening became wet, and, as we expected, no grass arrived. Nothing but Indian Corn could be procured for the beasts which we rode, except its hard and tasteless husks. For myself I ordered dinner at three o'clock, not having tasted any thing during the whole day, and was compelled to wait for it six hours longer. It was prepared at the house of the Intendenté, a pretended friend, and in reality, a shabby fellow.

Hence we proceeded to cross the Parahyba, and took the direct road to Governo, which I had not before travelled. It led over woody and difficult hills, presenting, however, in a vale on the left, the finest field of Sugar Cane, which I ever saw, and reckoned by some to surpass every other in Brazil.

On the road I met, and was obliged to acknowledge as an acquaintance, a man, who had been guilty of assassination, but now roamed at large, under the protection of a Carta Segura, the disgrace of Brazilian Jurisprudence. It is a Royal Protection, which sets a villain above the reach of law, and leaves to the friends of a murdered person no other resource than private retaliation. Hence it sanctions a bloody revenge, which no one thinks of blaming, which, indeed, generally meets with open commendation.

At the Venda was a poor woman exhausted with fatigue.—She had been carrying a boy about four years old in search of a Doctor. Her husband was with her, but as it is not the custom here for these Lords of Creation to assist their help-mates in public, or in such cases as these, he never thought of offering, nor, I believe, she of asking him, to relieve her and carry the boy; so powerful is custom. In South America, he would have been ridiculed for submitting to the duty and drudgery of a slave; in Europe, despised if he neglected to aid any one in distress.

The child appeared to have been bitten in the foot by some venomous creature, and the parents could find no Surgeon to aid them; the limb was in a dreadful state, and I had the pleasure of recommending such remedies as I thought best calculated to relieve it. They soothed the mother's mind, if ineffectual to heal her son.