

tenure was precarious.—They were not the *rights of inheritance*, nor the *acquirements of purchase*; but we rather consider them as enjoyed under the title of conquest. The rightful heir had, as historians relate, been disappointed by the testament of the late Count Loftonzo Hume-Eli, over whose imbecility Henrico so far triumphed, as to compel to a surrender of his maternal demesnes into the hands even of Henrico himself. But still, tho' the enjoyment of those possessions was delightful, the duration of that enjoyment appeared to the fears of Henrico as capable of doubt. The free-will gifts of captivity, and the disposing powers of mental incapacity, were matters at which the laws might cavil.

This apprehension in the mind of Henrico was to be a new key to his conversion; for the management of which, an instrument entirely proportioned to the purpose had been selected.

There was at that time in Barataria a man named *Philip*——who was by birth a Moor, by profession an advocate. He was become the first companion and counsellor of Sancho; into the dark repository of whose bosom did he pour the sallies of his jocularly, and the secrets of his administration. Don Philip was likewise *General Attorney* of the States, and Judge of the Testamentary Court.

Whether we consider the qualities he had, or those he had not, we find him alike accomplished for the present undertaking. He

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