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amount, was equally unsuccessful. The only debt acknowledged by the signature of the debtor, was that of an old and intimate friend, who could ill spare the money, and from whom it was very painful to me to exact it; but forbearance would have been a dereliction of duty, and would have been no otherwise serviceable to my friend, than to defer the time of payment. Accordingly, I recovered from him an amount about equal to one-fourth of that due me from Arismendi.

When I was convinced that nothing more was recoverable under the power of attorney, I wrote to Arismendi, under the assumed name of Don Fausto Corral, as agreed on, to this effect; assuring him of my conviction, that he would never obtain any thing through the intermediation of an agent, and that the only course which presented any prospect of success, was to come to this country and prosecute the business in person. This, however, I did not believe he would do, from the circumstance, that there were large demands against his house, in this country.

Nearly two years elapsed after writing this letter, and I heard nothing from him, when suddenly, and without any previous intimation to any body, he made his appearance in Boston. He was accompanied by a nephew, who, like himself, spoke no other than the Spanish language. They were in very obscure and ordinary lodgings, kept by a foreigner, which circumstance, combined with their having brought no letters, was evidence of their desire of concealment.

After the usual salutations of so unexpected a meeting had passed, I rendered to him an account of my stewardship, of which he had previously been informed by my letter. I now felt security, and consequent exultation, in the recovery of my property, which I had not experienced before; indeed, I perceived no way in which it could be eluded; but the short-sightedness of man is proverbial, and scarce a day passes, that it is not self-evident. As Arismendi was indebted ten thousand dollars for short sight on a ship belonging equally to myself and a merchant in Providence, I did not imagine that any mischief could arise from informing him of it, though the result but too clearly proved, that this information had better been delayed. With ill-judged impetuosity he sent his papers, proving the debt, to a lawyer of this city, with directions to institute a suit, notifying me, at the same time, of his having done so. Perceiving at once the mischief that would result from precipitate action, I went to the lawyer, and persuaded him to wait a week, with a view of giving Arismendi time to ascertain the prospect of recovering the property of which he was in pursuit. This engagement, owing to some misapprehension, was not adhered to, the writ was issued, and for want of bail he was imprisoned; thus depriving him the power of making those calculations on which mainly depended the chance

of obtaining our payment. It was literally destroying the bird that was destined to lay the golden egg.

This error being manifest, one of the partners of the Providence house came on, in the hope of retrieving it; and with this view, we united in an act which rendered the matter worse, that of releasing him from prison, on his promise of making a settlement; for it soon became evident, that his object was only to be emancipated, and that he had no intention of fulfilling his engagement. - On being satisfied of this, recourse was had to the instituting a new suit; but before the writ could be served on him, he absconded.

This act, no less disgraceful on the part of the assistant, than of the principal, was effected by the aid of a Boston merchant, who enabled him to elude the vigilance of the officer charged with the arrest, concealed him until a vessel for St. Thomas was ready to sail, and then conveyed, or caused him to be conveyed, on board; thus assisting a fraudulent debtor to flee from justice, and preventing honest creditors from recovering their just demands.

In judging of actions, we often err, and are guilty of injustice towards the individual whose motives we undertake to scan; but in this instance there can be no mistake. As there existed no personal hostility or animosity to me, it was palpably no other than sordid interest. Arismendi crossed the Atlantic for the purpose, principally, of collecting a debt of upwards of one hundred thousand dollars, alleged to be due him from this Boston merchant.

It was very evident that I must relinquish all hope of ever recovering this debt, or any part of it; a debt so considerable, that its loss was productive of serious inconvenience to me; a debt, for the recovery of which I made two voyages to Europe; had induced the debtor to come to this country, and when in possession of the means of compelling payment, by a concurrence of unfortunate circumstances, already detailed, missed profiting by those means; thus truly verifying the adage of "many a slip between the cup and the lip."

An uninterrupted correspondence with my friend Shaler, during his long residence at Algiers as consul-general of the United States, kept alive that friendship whose origin was of so remote a date. After his return to the United States, being appointed to the consulate of Havana, he invited me to accompany him, on terms of perfect equality in every thing essential. Takking charge of the consulate in October, 1829, we remained there together until the melancholy occurrence of his death by cholera in March, 1833, when it raged at Havana with unparalleled fatality. In the death of Mr. Shaler the country lost a most excellent and patriotic citizen; the government, a devoted and highly-talented officer; and myself, a long-tried and deeply-lamented friend.