

nature 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 anybody, 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 on 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 a 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 freight on a ship, belonging equally to myself and to a merchant in Providence, I did not imagine 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 the 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