

of; and though he make immediate confession, even of the offence with which he is charged, yet he must ratify it on the torture, that being as they term it, "a witness," if he cannot recollect, or refuse to confess, he is put to the torture, for not exceeding one hour.

A counsellor is placed close to him on one side, to observe that all be done according to their rules, and the surgeon on the other, to ascertain the degree of torture he is able to support. If the accused survive this hour and does not confess, he is carried back to prison for another week, and then tortured again. Should he appear to make any effort to confess, he is borne up a little to relieve him while speaking; but at whatever time he confesses he is nevertheless tortured afterwards to confirm it, and must likewise undergo such punishment as the Inquisition please to inflict for the supposed crime. This is generally imprisonment in one of their horrid dungeons, for one, two, or three years, or more frequently for life; for few, very few, that are so unfortunate as to get into the Inquisition, live to come out. Numbers, notwithstanding the barbarous assiduity used to preserve them for further misery, expiring under the torture, or in a few days, sometimes only hours after.

Mr. Bower mentions three different kinds of torture:—

1st. That which they reckon the most exquisite, and therefore call it the queen of tortures. In this the criminal's hands are tied behind his back and fastened to a rope, which by means of four cords, drawn over pulleys at each corner of the lofty room, enables them to hoist him up to the ceiling in an instant, when he is let down again within a few inches of the ground. This process is thrice repeated; and by the sudden jerk all his bones are dislocated. The wretch is suffered to hang so disjoined until the hour is expired, or he confesses.

2nd torture. The second instrument is something like a smith's anvil, fixed in the middle of the floor, with a spike

not very sharp at the top. Ropes are attached to either corner of the room, as in the former instance, to which the criminal's legs and arms are fastened, and he is drawn up a little, and then he is let down with his back-bone exactly on the spike of iron where his whole weight rests.

3rd torture. Is that which they term a slight torture, and applied only to women. Matches of tow and pitch are wrapped round their hands and then set on fire, until the flesh is consumed.

While Mr. Bower was professor in the college, the Inquisitor General contracted a great intimacy with him. One day, as they were in conversation he said, "Mr. Bower, I have a design upon you,"—a speech, which, from an Inquisitor General, notwithstanding his avowed friendship, carried some terror in it. But he soon explained himself by stating that one of the members of the council was so ill, that he daily expected his death; and whenever it happened he intended him the honour of filling the place; Mr. Bower received this declaration with high satisfaction and proper acknowledgements. Soon after the sick member died, when the Inquisitor General sent for Mr. Bower, who though he had so much reason to guess the occasion, was somewhat alarmed, but went immediately. On his arrival the Inquisitor General informed him that he had sent for him to perform his promise, and embracing him said, "you are now one of us." A council was convened on the same night, and Mr. Bower was received and presented with the usual forms. After taking the oath of secrecy, a book called the directory was delivered to him, containing rules for the decision and conduct of the Inquisitor, and which, for greater caution, was in manuscript. When any member is dangerously indisposed, or is appointed to a higher office, he is obliged to seal his copy with the Inquisition seal; after which it is death to open or retain it.

*(To be continued.)*