

to reply to a remark which he, no doubt, considered very impertinent, but, evidently altering his mind, he seated himself, and allowed the monk to proceed, which he did in the following terms :—

"The Captain-General is our Sovereign, and you will be surprised to learn that he is his own counsellor—in short, the law, the police, and the departments of war and marine are concentrated in one man, so that the government of this island is quite a despotic administration. A great deal has been said about the slavery of the blacks, but nothing is ever mooted about the slavery of the white population; in point of fact, the true policy pursued by the Mother-country is to hold the white population *in terrorem*. You will the better be enabled to judge of the power of the Captain-General, when I relate the instructions given by Ferdinand VII. to the newly-appointed Captain in 1825. They ran as follows :— 'His Majesty invests your Excellency with that power which is granted to the governors of cities placed under a state of siege; consequently, his Majesty confers on your Excellency the most unlimited power, and authorises you to banish from the island any person or persons, whether holding office under Government or not, whatever be their professions, rank, or birth, in the event of your Excellency deeming the private or public character of the said persons dangerous to the tranquillity of the island. In short, your Excellency will act, under all circumstances, to the best of our royal interests.' "

"But this antiquated edict has no doubt been revoked?" inquired Mr. Smith.

"No, Mr. Smith, this order is still in force."

"Then we live here in a species of a state of siege?"

"Undoubtedly. But what is to be done? Young Cuba ill brooks such tyranny, but young Cuba is no match for well disciplined troops on the one hand, and thousands of slaves on the other."

"We have troops to America, I guess, ready to help 'em," said Peabody.

"But these creoles are very aristocratic," remarked Miss Hardy.

"Hav'n't we democratic Americans also been aristocrats? It's all very fine for young gals, like you, Miss Hardy, to talk about aristocratic creoles, but you take no note that the young men as is educated to the States, to Paris, and to other liberal places, changes their notions mixing with free and enlightened citizens. Heaven and airth, they'd sooner see their island annexed to the States, and have representatives of their own to Washington, than go on as they do. Tow and fire! I say we'd help 'em to disannex 'emselves from Spain, and larf till we actilly turned blue!"

"England would never permit the stripes to be unfurled on the Morro," said Mr. Smith.

"We won't ask her leave, anyhow," replied Peabody.

"Did the creoles ever send representatives to Madrid?" asked the poet, to turn the conversation.

"They did, Mr. McGuinness, but Ferdinand VII. deprived them of this right. Nevertheless, the year 1820 proved a new era for Cuba. The constitution was proclaimed, and the ancient privileges were restored to the island. This joyful news was received on the 15th of April, 1820,