

engaged in the mines. Excavations have been made under the town, which, like Paris and Rome, has its catacombs; but in a country where earthquakes are common, it is not prudent thus to dig the grave of a city, lest the first shock might complete the burial. These mines were discovered by a shepherd, who found in the morning under the ashes of his evening fire, many drops of pure silver, for he had made his camp upon a rich bed of ore, and like Martin Waldeck, converted his brands to precious metals.

On my return to Mazatlan, a Chinese, (whom sailors call a Chinaman), gave me such language that I tapped him with a crabstick, and he walked away making vows to the Furies. On the same day I went out after game, and was warned that Achong, with pistols and knife, was hunting *me*. I came back by the house of the commandant who gave me a file of soldiers to seize the Chinese, and carry him aboard. We took him from a crowd of Spaniards. He had two double barreled pistols loaded and bearing the mark of Don Ludovico Tirado, my very good Spanish friend who wished me out of his way. The pistols I determined to keep; but going ashore I was captured myself, and forced to surrender them for ransom. The Don's brother, however, reconciled us; whereupon we shook hands, and (as Le Sage says,) have hated each other ever since.

At about this time, as the weather, in seaman's phrase, looked *ugly*, the ship put out to sea, to have room enough to ride. I, however, was on shore and happened to be at a house where there were five or six ladies, with the commandant. At noon commenced a fresh gale, which in two hours was a hurricane: and at three o'clock, a brig and a schooner were driven upon the rocks. Our house was near the beach, shaded by a large tree of iron wood, but in other respects exposed to the gale. In