

railway which would unite the capital with the rich district of Guines. General Tacon was delighted to have another opportunity to testify his anxiety for promoting the welfare of trade, and a railway, about one hundred and twelve miles long, was planned and executed. It is conducted by English engineers, with as much speed, regularity, and comfort, as any established in Great Britain. The Captain-General in the meantime built barracks, quays, and a custom-house. He laid out a botanical garden with great taste, and caused spacious and splendid avenues to be planted where fashion resorts in the cool of the evening; it is called *El Pasco Tacon*. A number of fountains, placed at regular distances, refresh the air and embellish the promenades. In short, Tacon renovated and beautified the Havana—rendering it far more salubrious by watering and ventilating the streets.

"In 1836, when the news of the revolution of La Granja reached Cuba, General Lorenzo, then Governor of St. Jago de Cuba, proclaimed the constitution. He was supported by many of the inhabitants of that town and of the southern districts. Tacon lost no time in sending troops to put down the revolutionary movement. He adopted every precaution to prevent the revolutionary mania from spreading: the merchants at the Havana organised a body of militia, chosen from amongst themselves, amounting to upwards of 1,500 strong, to guard the capital, thereby proving to the rebels, if I may so term them, that they felt no sympathy in the movement. General Lorenzo was forced to surrender on the 22nd December, and on the following day he set sail for Spain. Tacon arrested many who had supported the movement, banished them from the island, and re-established order and tranquillity without shedding a drop of blood. His prudence unfortunately was not appreciated, and a great uproar was created because of his numerous arrests.

"Disgusted, and probably sick of holding the reins of power, he requested Government to recal him and appoint a successor. When the news that his resignation had been accepted arrived at the Havana, his admirers were overcome with sorrow, but his enemies indulged in unfeigned joy. On the day fixed for his departure he was accompanied on board of his vessel by numerous friends, grieved to lose a man who had conferred such benefits on the island. The commercial community, grateful for all the privileges and benefits he had conferred upon them, loudly demanded that a statue be erected in honour of his memory, whilst those who had been deprived of a father or a brother by banishment, imperatively clamoured for his impeachment. The authorities, the foreign consuls, his friends, and many deputations, accompanied him for several miles out to sea, in four steamers freighted for the occasion, and Tacon sailed for Spain, blessed by many, cursed by others."

"And where is General Tacon now?" inquired Mrs. Smith.

"He resides at Majorca, in the enjoyment of all worldly honours, consoling himself that he has benefited his country by preserving one of her most precious jewels—the island in which we have now the felicity of seeing such worthy persons as those who have done me the honour to listen to my lengthy narrative."