

affairs, how different would have been the conduct of Lloyd's in a similar case, and, I doubt not, of most of our own insurance companies. Such an occurrence is the more remarkable from its being in the Commercial Emporium, where such a spirit of generosity is prevalent, that there is scarcely a captain of a packet-ship, who, for merely conveying his passengers in safety across the Atlantic, has not been complimented with a piece of plate.

But there was one individual among the directors, whose great wealth gave him a preponderating influence in the affairs of the office. The greater deference paid to his opinions, than to those of any of his associates, was very perceptible; and it is probable that the president, taking it for granted that a handsome compensation could not honourably be withheld, had the temerity to assure me of it before consulting him, and thus caused the defeat of his intention. However it may have been, it is a fact, that all I received was the unofficial thanks of the president, and that I suffered a deduction of two and a half per cent. from my commission.

That corporations have no souls, and that men in a corporate capacity are often guilty of acts of injustice and oppression, such as, individually, they would be ashamed of, is an old observation, the truth of which almost every day's experience confirms. But comments on so clear a case are superfluous; and I will only add the curious fact, that almost simultaneously with the discovery that ten per cent. was too much for the laborious, hazardous, and eminently successful services I had rendered the company, one of the directors of this very company did not perceive, that ten per cent. was too much for merely paying the disbursements in the building and equipment of the Greek frigates.*

More than twenty years have elapsed since the occurrence of the transactions above narrated, and those of the actors, who have not passed off the stage, may be surprised at a recurrence to affairs which probably have long since been forgotten by them. This, they may be assured, has not arisen from any hostile or vindictive feeling toward them, but from the circumstance alone of perceiving that my narrative would be incomplete if they were omitted.

The voyage just narrated, in the Beaver, was the close of a series of voyages to most parts of the habitable globe, comprising a period of

* A letter which I received at this time, from the house of Tooke Robinson and Co. of London, places a strong relief to their conduct, when compared with that with whom I had recently been brought in contact. Its object was to inform me of their holding a hundred and twenty pounds at my disposal, as principal and interest on a sum arising from a mistake accidentally discovered in accounts relative to transactions in wheat eight or ten years previous; and which, they remark, I must consider somewhat the light of a prize in the lottery. This was paid me by draft at sight.

twenty-four years, in various kinds of craft, from the boat of twenty-five tons to an Indiaman of one thousand tons; and on the most laborious and hazardous enterprises, as will have been seen. But a remarkable fact, which is worthy of note, may have escaped the observation of the reader, that during that long period, some portion of which was passed in the most sickly climates of the globe, I never lost but three men—two by fever, and the third by a fall from the mast-head. Although I have repeatedly been five months on a single passage, I have never been under the necessity of putting my men on allowance of provisions or water; and to this circumstance, combined with guarding them against unnecessary fatigue and exposure, I was probably indebted not only for the happiness of escaping that scourge to seamen on long voyages, the scurvy, but almost all other kinds of sickness.

Although the private affairs of an individual may generally be considered to possess little attraction for the public, yet, to those who have followed me thus far, I have supposed that some details of my subsequent course might not be destitute of interest.

Acting in opposition to the maxim, that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," I was destined again to see swept off, in less than a year after my return, the greater part of my hard earnings. A most unfortunate enterprise to Gibraltar; incompetent, selfish, and careless agents; and, more than either, a most shameful abuse of the confidence I had placed in the commercial house at Lima, with which I had been so long doing business (Abadia and Arismendi), were the causes of these misfortunes. Soon after these reverses I received information of the revolution in Peru, of the consequent confusion in the commerce of Lima, of the breaking up of the house of Abadia and Arismendi; and of the escape of the latter, with a large amount in silver, in an American brig, for Manilla, was received here not many months after my arrival.

During the viceregal government, no stranger of respectability ever visited Lima without enjoying the hospitality of Don Pedro Abadia. It was he who gave to the house the character of respectability which it possessed, and which was such as to inspire a degree of confidence, which secured to it, almost exclusively, the foreign business of the place.

Don José de Arismendi was the active, business man of the house; a man who possessed the capacity of accomplishing much and varied business, with a degree of dispatch and adroitness very rarely seen among his countrymen. While present with him he would conduct the business with which he was charged on fair, honourable, and liberal principles. By this semblance of honesty and fair dealing I was deceived, and was induced to confide in the house to an extent which I discovered, when too late, was entirely unmerited, and which has been attended with ruinous consequences to me. It