

may freely and openly express their opinions, criticise the doings of ministers, point out abuses, and petition for reform. A *lapsus lingue* is frequently attended with danger, where the people are subjected to despotism; and as Spain trembles lest the Cubanos should take it into their heads to leave her, in imitation of South America, so she endeavours by all the means in her power to strengthen the fetters which binds Cuba to the Mother-country, without in any degree lightening the bonds. Italians complain, and not without reason, of the austerity of Austria; Poles vent their indignation against the Autocrat of the north; but there is no functionary whose power is so arbitrary as that of the Captain-General of Cuba. His *will* is *LAW*. Nought save an appeal to Madrid can revoke his decisions; and as these appeals are generally treated with contempt, the insane petitioner is exposed to the hatred of the Military Dictator. Yes, Spain fears to lose Cuba, the priceless gem that adorns her crown! Meanwhile the Colony is subjected to a dictatorship, the remnant of feudal barbarity, which fetters her resources, and displeases its inhabitants, who, without being desirous of shaking off the yoke of the Mother-country, would nevertheless wish to enjoy that liberty which all men have a right to claim to a certain extent. Spain forgets the lessons she has received; she will not open her eyes to the truth, for she dreads to acknowledge that the policy she pursues paralyses the efforts of a virtuous and energetic Colony. It is her egotism that has deprived her of almost all her Colonies."

"Bravo!" exclaimed McGuinness, interrupting the monk.

"Wisdom, 'tis said, doth govern all mankind;  
It may be so—and yet I ever find  
That vanity and folly sway the mind!"

"Is that your'n?" inquired Peabody.

"A little impromptu of mine," replied the poet.

"Ah! it's frightfully true, I guess. Go on, Fray O'Donnell; your remarks is considerable to the point, I reckon."

"Mr. McGuinness never made a truer observation," continued the monk; "as you will perceive in the sequel."

"I am very much surprised," observed Mr. Smith, "that governments will persist in appointing naval or military men chief magistrates in the Colonies. In my humble opinion they are the last persons who should fill situations which require commercial, but not military skill. Let the military governor attend to his duties, and let government appoint a civil governor, one fully acquainted with the wants of trade, to look after commerce. Military and naval men, generally speaking, turn up their noses at commercial men; but I should like to know how they would get their pay if it were not for the wealth which commerce brings to the shores of England? Do you know what the celebrated Monsieur Ouvrard once remarked to Napoleon?"

"I guess I don't," replied Peabody.

"He said, laying great stress on the words. 'Sire! commerce can make shift without kings, but sovereigns cannot dispense with commerce!'"