

THE CALLIOPE.

perty of the inhabitants must be protected; *third*, They must be left to enjoy the free exercise of the Protestant religion.

The herald immediately replied, that such preposterous conditions could not for a moment be listened to; adding, that the garrison was known to be weak, and concluding by again demanding the instant surrender of the place.

"My good friend," answered the Shepherd, "do not be too rash. I advise you to inform your general from me, that nothing but my desire to avoid bloodshed could make me think of surrendering on any terms whatever; and please to add, that if he does not choose to agree to those I have already stated, he will gain possession of the town only at the point of the sword; for I swear to you, by the faith of an honest man and a Christian, as well by the honour of a gentleman, that the garrison has lately received a reinforcement he little dreams of."

So saying, the shepherd lighted his pipe, and puffed away with an air of the most consummate *nonchalance*. Confounded by this appearance of boldness and security, the herald thought it prudent to return, and state to Gonsalvo the demands which had been made. The Spanish general, deceived by this show of resistance, and being unwilling to waste either men or time in reducing this paltry town, resolved to agree to the conditions offered; and, followed by his troops, approached the gates. This lenient determination was announced by the herald to the shepherd, who only vouchsafed in reply, "I find your command is a man of some sense." He then left the walls, let down the drawbridge, deliberately opened the gates, and allowed the Spanish troops to pour into the town. Surprised at seeing no one in the streets but a strange-looking fellow, whose caricature of a military costume hung upon him like patch-work, Gonsalvo began to suspect treachery, and, seizing the shepherd, demanded to know where the garrison was?

"If your highness will follow me I will show you," answered the rustic.

"Keep by my stirrup, then," exclaimed Gonsalvo; "and on the least symptom that you mean to betray me, I shall send a bullet through your heart."

"Agreed," said our friend. "Follow me Spaniards! for I swear by the word of an honest man and a Christian, as well by the honour of a gentleman that the garrison will offer you no injury."

He then placed himself by Gonsalvo's stirrup, and, followed by the troops, passed through several silent and deserted streets, till at length, turning into a narrow lane, he stopped before a mean-looking house, and having prevailed on Gonsalvo to enter, he led him into a small room, where lay his wife with her little boy beside her.

"Noble General!" he said, pointing to the former, "this is our garrison; and this," he added, taking his son in his arms, "is the reinforcement of which I told you."

Aware, now, of the real state of matters, the absurdity and cleverness of the trick moved even Spanish gravity, and Gonsalvo gave free course to his mirth. Then taking off a rich gold chain which decorated his own person, he passed it round the neck of the infant.

"Permit me to offer this mark of my esteem," he said, good-naturedly, "for the valiant garrison of Ogersheim. By the hand of a soldier, I envy you the possession of such a reinforcement, and you must let me present you with this purse of gold, for the use of the young recruit."

He then stooped down and kissed the delightful mother and her boy, and quitted the house, leaving the shepherd to boast for many a summer day and winter night of the success of his stratagem.

"Have you 'Blasted Hopes?'" asked a lady of a green librarian, whose face was much swollen with the toothache. "No, ma'am," replied the youth, "but I've a blasted toothache."