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dereliction of principle, made them first contemptible, and then criminal.

As they grew more completely vicious, they also became sunk in effeminacy. They stored their seraglios, like the princes of the east; and when satiated with enjoyment, forced the victims of their inordinate passions to betake themselves to the most slavish employments, and to yield to their cruel masters the produce of their labours. They copied all the excesses of the people they had subdued; indulged themselves in the Asiatic pleasures of singing and dancing girls, the only part of the natives which they did not involve in indiscriminate oppression; they learned to recline on sofas, and to be carried in palanquins; and at last carried on war in that luxurious and dissipated manner which had enabled themselves to subdue the aboriginal inhabitants.

The natural consequence of such depravity was, the contempt of the natives among whom they had established themselves: at first they were the objects of terror; at last they became the butts of ridicule. The natives, deprived of luxurious indulgencies, began to recover their natural energies, and they meditated to expel the invaders. Rising in resolution, as the Portuguese sunk in effeminacy, they actually attacked one of their principal settlements; but by the vigorous conduct of Don Juan de Castro, who had now succeeded to the chief command of the Portuguese forces in India, they were repulsed; and the dying embers of European spirit seemed, for a time, to revive, and to dispel the enervating fumes of Asian luxury.

But this gleam was of short duration; the gloom returned with deeper shades; for no sooner