

lant—scrupulously neat in attire—a perfect master of all the 'petits soins' of the drawing room—and expert in all elegant triflings permissible in the 'laissez aller' of the 'sala.' Don Felipe Le Brun would have been a formidable rival against any worshipper of kid or eau de Cologne, that ever smirked and simpered over a Brussels carpet, and whose accomplishments were confined to carving a merry thought, singing on a flute, or tenderly composing a sonnet to the shadow or the shoe string of his lady love.

Add to all these accomplishments the recommendation of a father, and none need be surprised that he was a favored suitor of Anita Mendoza.

Such was Don Felipe Le Brun. We have given every characteristic except that of honesty or principle; and yet there could not have been more upright honourable principles than those with which Le Brun first commenced and flourished in business.

He had every requisite, and all the knowledge necessary for business on the largest and most accurate scale, and every accomplishment that could adorn the active and solace the retired life of a gentleman. And in such uprightness of conduct Le Brun might and probably would, have continued under any ordinary circumstances.

He lived under one of the most suspicious, corrupt, and tyrannical governments that ever existed. The suspicious tyranny of Buenos Ayres extended even into the private and domestic relationship of life; and to effect this, spies of every grade and quality were employed.

Now Le Brun being of foreign extraction, and yet a native born and bred, moving in good society, being a respectable merchant, and in a line of business that brought him in daily contact with every moment man in the city, and even made him more or less acquainted with their means, resources, and transactions, was in every way suited to be an admirable agent of Rosas, and it was determined that it should be so, cost what it might in time, money, and political influence.

And well the secret agents knew how to lure the ambitious, tempt the effeminate, force the timid, bribe the sordid, and flatter the vain.

Slow and insidious were the approaches made to undermine the honor of Le Brun. No difficulty was ever experienced by him in shipping gold and silver without permits. A passport for a friend in trouble was always at his command; his goods were the first to pass through the custom house, and the first intelligence that could affect paper currency and exchange was always communicated to Le Brun.

Such was some of the substantial proofs of favor, and still more numerous were the polite attentions showered on the intended agent of tyranny.

Now when an individual finds himself thus highly favored, without any exertion used, or any return required on his part, he becomes naturally disinclined to believe any reports to the prejudice of those who treat him so well; and disposed to attribute the blame more to the complainant than the party complained of; or wrapping himself up in his own selfishness and self security, to go upon the maxim of 'praising the ford as he finds it.'

So it was with Le Brun: from being a passive supporter of Rosas, he was led on to be his justifier. He had so often been indebted to the good service of government officials, that he considered himself indebted to them 'personally,' and then politically—and then—'facilis descensus'—poor Le Brun!

Luis Mendoza had long been an object of avaricious suspicion to the government. He was rich, fond of foreigners—intelligent. All these were crimes; and it was known that he held correspondence with the friends of the enemy, if not with Rivera himself.

Be this as it may, he was no partisan of the government, and the maxim of Rosas is, 'those that are not for me are against me.' Mendoza was a marked man, and Le Brun was set to mark him; and observe this, others marked Le Brun.

O, how he now loathed his position! the suitor of his intended victim's daughter—the friend, the private friend of the very man whose every motion he was to watch and 'report'—to betray the friend who reposed in him implicit trust.

Can the ingenuity of tyranny go further than this? Le Brun well knew that he held correspondence with the Unitarian party, who were opposed to Rosas, but this he never reported. He knew well that Mendoza hated the tyranny and policy of the Federals, and the Unitarians expected to find in him a rich and influential supporter if ever their party predominated; and this he did report, because he knew full well that government was aware of it.

Thus did Le Brun seek a middle course, until he almost began to fancy that he was suspected himself; and thus, thoroughly disgusted with his position, he determined at last to free himself from his ignominious espionage, give Mendoza warning of his perilous situation, and when everything was arranged for his escape from the country, he would then take the credit of giving information when it would be too late.

Thus, he would gain time to arrange his own complicated affairs, seek out Mendoza in his exile, and fulfil his dearest hopes, by marrying Anita Mendoza.

Such was the scheme which Le Brun had formed to extricate himself from the troubled waters in which he perceived himself beginning to flounder; and in this scheme he would no doubt have succeeded, had not the accidental incarceration of our honest friend Tom Thorne, and the bold freedom of his speech before the

magistrate, forced him to commence his scheme at once and prematurely, if he wished to avoid the suspicions of friends whom he wished to save, or employers whom he wished to deceive.

And with this view, the moment he was free from the presence of the 'juez de paz,' he flew to the 'chacra' of Mendoza.

'And how came you to know of the body that was found opposite my door?' said Mendoza to Le Brun, as they were riding together.

'Why, sir, Mr. Thorne with a friend encountered it on coming from a party in the evening. They encountered some of—of the 'Masorcheros,' said Le Brun (looking around him, and whispering the phrase); 'and taking fright, I suppose they requested to be taken to the police office for security; and before the magistrate he told what he had seen.'

'And how happened you to be there?' urged Mendoza.

'Sir,' replied the other, mingling truth and falsehood with great tact, 'I had heard, nay knew, that the government were suspicious of you; the number of massacres the preceding night alarmed me for your safety. Making an excuse of a criminal complaint against a servant, I repaired to the 'juez de paz,' to find out, if possible, upon what grounds their suspicions were founded. Thus we were engaged when Thorne entered. Whether he heard your name mentioned, I know not, but Mr. Thorne, sir, is suspicious of me. Yes, sir, I verily believe that Mr. Thorne, in his jealousy—yes, it must be jealousy of my favor in the eyes of your daughter, that makes Thorne suspect me. Good God! Mendoza, to what have I fallen when I should be suspected by an idle, champagne-swilling babbler, of betraying the man to whom I am so much indebted, who, I may say, has made me what I am, and who has it in his power to make me happy or miserable for life. Oh, sir, what a wretched country this is, when one learns to distrust even their best friends.'

'Come, come, Le Brun, not so bad as that yet. But Don Felipe, have I not often told you that you were in too high favor with these hypocritical cut-throat miscreants in office.'

'And if I have found favor, which I never sought for, have not you reaped the benefit more than me? What have I to fear from them, I, who am supposed to be of their party, rat them! Should your skins have passed the custom house? Could Mendoza's gold, in Mendoza's name have been shipped to invest abroad? Could Mendoza the Unitarian, have procured passports for the Unitarian brothers or 'compadres?' And now, sir, at this very moment I am seeking to do for you what you have often asked me to do for others. That remark of yours, Mendoza, has nearly driven me distracted.'

'Don Felipe, forgive me, we are too much bound up together for me to suspect you now. Have you not the promise of my daughter's hand? have you not the command of my means? I believe, I know that I am an object of suspicion. I know that at the present time, the miscreants stand at no obstacles; that my money would be instruments to strengthen their hands. I know you have saved my friends, and I believe you are anxious to save me. Forgive me for expressing my sentiments of horror against those who render it necessary that honest men and quiet citizens should seek means of security at the hands of others.'

'Aye, sir, and these others not only thereby risk their own safety, but may be branded as traitors for so doing.'

'So, Don Felipe, you think that body on my pavement was a warning for me?'

'No, Don Luis, it was not intended as a warning to you, but you are intended for the same fate.'

'You can have no proof of that, Don Felipe.'

'No, Don Luis, I have no 'proof' of that; but those who order such deeds only to inspire terror, will not scruple at higher victims for greater advantages. Thorne's bold accusation, I may call it, of indifference or neglect on the part of the magistrate, and the way your name was alluded to, will protect you from open attack. The prison will be your first doom—I shudder to think of what may follow. Thorne is a brave fellow, but he was made to brave them as he did. There is not a 'Masorchero' in the city who does not thirst for his blood. Thorne knows this, and defies them. I hate him for his suspicions, but yet Mendoza, I admire him—with a hundred men like him, this city would not now be a nest of cut throats. Yes,' continued Le Brun, who felt pungently the whole truth of what he said, 'their spies would be ashamed to show their degraded heads. Masorcheros, afraid, aye, afraid to execute the hated commissions intrusted to them, and an end put to the whole brutal cowardly system, which none can more detest and deplore than I do.'

To be concluded next week.

## POLITICS AND NEWS.

News by the last English Mail.

[From the European Times.]

### COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.

Since our last publication, we regret to state that commercial affairs have not improved to that extent which the increased facilities in the discount market might have been supposed to warrant. In the manufacturing districts there is more employment, but the markets for all descriptions of produce continue in a very de-

pressed state, and in the staples of Sugar and Cotton there is a further decline. The retail business of the country is also suffering extensively; and general consumption is not a little affected by the state of the public health, which occasions considerable alarm. Partial failures continue to occur at intervals in various parts of Europe, but they are chiefly of houses of secondary importance.

The Corn market since the beginning of the month has been remarkably steady. On the market day of the 6th inst., prices continued unaltered at our last quotations; but on that day se'nnight the trade evinced a decided disposition to make purchases, and the finer and best conditioned descriptions advanced about 2s., whilst the common runs fetched about 1s. per quarter above the previous week's prices. Foreign Wheat has been but in moderate demand, without a change in prices till Monday last, when prices improved 1s. per quarter. Flour has advanced 2s. per sack, and the best American Flour has become more free for sale, the nearest price being about 30s. per barrel for the best fresh Western Canal. Altogether, this week the Corn market has assumed a more active tone, to which the declaration of Ministers, that they do not contemplate any further suspension of the Corn and Navigation Laws, may have contributed. At any rate, there is a greater desire to get into stock, whilst holders are more firm. The stock of foreign Grain in our granaries is very large, but as regards Wheat the quality is inferior, and chiefly unfit for British consumption. Reports respecting the rot in the potatoes in various parts are again revived.

### DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT.

The long protracted debates on the currency have terminated in the appointment of a select committee in each House of Parliament for the investigation of the causes of the commercial distress in Great Britain, and how far it has been affected by the laws of 1819 and 1844. After a careful study of the arguments adduced on all sides during the discussion which took place, we can only come to the conclusion that an overwhelming majority of both Houses will inevitably maintain, under any circumstances, a convertible currency. For while it is notorious that the Bank Charter Act of 1844 broke down at the very critical moment when its principle was put to the test, it must not be inferred that any change will be made in the principle of convertibility established by the act of 1819, and rendered more stringent and compulsory on the Bank Directors by the act of 1844. Lord John Russell in his speech expressed some vague hope that, by the collision of intelligent minds in the committees, some modification may be hit upon so as to enable the currency to work more practically. It is impossible to read the speeches of the most intelligent members, as Sir Robert Peel, Lord John Russell, Mr. F. T. Baring, and his brother, on the opposite side, Mr. Thomas Baring, Mr. Milson, Sir Wm. Clay, Mr. Edward Ellice, and others, without feeling satisfied that they are all thoroughly convinced of the correctness of their several opinions; but whilst they all maintain the principle of a convertible currency, none of them would be indisposed to alter the act of 1844 if any improvement can be suggested. Mr. Thomas Baring, whilst with his party he condemns the act of 1844, and argues that the letter of the Government to the Bank of the 25th October was its original condemnation, does not venture for a moment to advocate such a state of things as existed antecedent to 1819. It was remarkable, also, that neither Mr. Spooner nor Mr. Muntz, the champions of unlimited and inconvertible issues, ventured to broach their extreme views in the House of Commons. From the strong language used by Lord John Russell and Sir Charles Wood, it is very evident that some reconstruction of the Bank direction is contemplated. Under the plea that there is great difficulty to procure competent and 'qualified' persons to fill the office of Governor of the Bank of England, the Bank Directors have intimated to the Government that they would not be averse to a modification of their charter in that respect. Now, the practical effect sought by such a change, would not be to mitigate the restrictive character of the act of 1844, but avowedly to place some one at the head of the Bank who would avoid the blunders lately committed, and who at the first indication of derangement of the circulation from internal drain, excessive speculation, or adverse exchanges, from whatever cause, would be expected to raise the rate of discount at once, and thereby put a stop to the mischief before it reached any alarming height. In point of fact, by this proceeding the Bank Act of 1844 would be made more stringent than ever. But as we doubt whether the vast island and foreign trade of this great country could be carried on profitably with a constantly fluctuating interest, ranging perhaps higher than five per cent., and as we should fear that commercial intercourse with distant countries especially, would be liable to perpetual interruption by the incessant interference of the Bank of England, we should be very sorry to see so much additional real power vested in that institution, which from its vast capital, and enormous public and private deposits, has exercised already much too despotic an influence over the destinies and fortunes of British and foreign merchants.

With reference to this complicated question, Major Beresford, on the part of Mr. Herries, has given notice of a motion in the House of Commons that, during the investigation of the committee, 'it is expedient that the limitations of the act of 1844 on the Bank of England, in