

afflicts, or urges more the spirits of the poor, than scarcity and hunger.

“Do not put out many new orders; and if thou dost put out any, see that they be wholesome and good, and especially that they be strictly observed; for laws not well obeyed, are no better than if they were not made, and only shew that the prince who had the wisdom and authority to make them, had not the resolution to see them executed; and laws that only threaten, and are not kept, become like the log that was given to the frogs to be their king, which they feared at first, but at last scorned and trampled on.

“Be a father to virtue, but a father-in-law to vice. Be not always severe, nor always merciful; choose a mean between these two extremes; for that middle point is the centre of discretion.

“Visit the prisons, the shambles, and the public markets; for the governor’s presence is highly necessary in such places.

“Comfort the prisoners that hope to be quickly dispatched.

“Be a terror to the butchers, that they may be fair in their weights, and keep hucksters and fraudulent dealers in awe, for the same reason.

“Shouldst thou unhappily be inclined to be covetous, given to women, or a glutton, as I hope thou art not, avoid shewing thyself guilty of those vices; for when the town, and those that come near thee, have discovered thy weakness, they will be sure to try thee on that side, and tempt thee to thy everlasting ruin.

“Read over and over, and seriously consider the admonitions and documents I gave thee in writing before thou wentest to thy government, and thou wilt find the benefit of it in all those difficulties and emergencies that so frequently attend the function of a governor.

“Write to thy lord and lady, and shew thyself grateful; for ingratitude is the offspring of pride, and one of the worst corruptions of the mind; whereas he that is thankful to his benefactors gives a testimony that he will be so to God, who has done, and continually does him so much good.

“My lady duchess dispatched a messenger on purpose to thy wife Teresa, with thy hunting suit, and another present. We expect his return every moment.

“I have been somewhat out of order by a certain cat-encounter I had lately, not much to the advantage of my nose; but all that is nothing, for if there are necromancers, that



misuse me there are others ready to defend me.

“Send me word whether the steward that is with thee had any hand in the business of the Countess of Trifaldi, as thou wert once of opinion; and let me also have an account of whatever befalls thee, since the distance between us is so small. I have thoughts of leaving this idle life ere long; for I was not born for luxury and ease.

“A business has offered, that I believe will make me lose the duke and duchess’s favour; but though I am heartily sorry for it, that does not alter my resolution; for, after all, I owe more to my profession than to complaisance; and, as the saying is, *Amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas*. I send thee this scrap of Latin, flattering myself that since thou camest to be a governor, thou mayest have learned something of that language. Farewell, and Heaven keep thee above the pity of the world.

“Thy friend,

“DON QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA.”

Sancho gave great attention to the letter, and it was highly applauded, both for sense and integrity, by every body that heard it. After that, he rose from table, and calling the

secretary, went without any further delay, and locked himself up with him in his chamber, to write an answer to his master Don Quixote. He ordered the scribe to set down word for word what he dictated, without adding or diminishing the least thing; which being strictly observed, this was the tenor of the letter:—

*Sancho Panza to Don Quixote de la Mancha.*

“I am so taken up with business, that I have not time to scratch my head, or pare my nails, which is the reason they are so long, God help me! I tell you this, dear master of mine, that you may not marvel why I have not yet let you know whether it goes well or ill with me in this same government, where I am more hunger-starved than when you and I wandered through woods and wildernesses.

“My lord duke wrote to me the other day, to inform me of some spies that were got into this island to kill me; but as yet I have discovered none, but a certain doctor, hired by the islanders to kill all the governors that come near it. They call him Dr Pedro Rezio de Anguero, and he was born at Tirteafuera. His name is enough to make me fear he will be the



death of me. This same doctor says of himself, that he does cure diseases when you have them, but when you have them not, he only pretends to keep them from coming. The physic he uses, is fasting upon fasting, till he turns a body to a mere skeleton; as if to be wasted to skin and bones were not as bad as a fever. In short, he starves me to death; so that, when I thought, as being a governor, to have my belly-full of good hot victuals and cool liquor, and to refresh my body in Holland sheets, and on a soft feather-bed, I am come to do penance like a hermit; and, as I do it unwillingly, I am afraid the devil will have me at last.

“All this while I have not yet so much as fingered the least penny of money, either for fees, bribes, or anything; and how it comes to be no better with me I cannot for my soul imagine, for I have heard, by the by, that the governors who come to this island are wont to have a very good gift, or at least, a very round sum lent them by the town before they enter. And they say too, that this is the usual custom, not only here, but in other places.

“Last night, in going my rounds, I met with a mighty handsome damsel in boy’s clothes, and a brother of hers in woman’s apparel. My

gentleman-waiter fell in love with the girl, and intends to make her his wife, as he says. As for the youth, I have pitched on him to be my son-in-law. To-day we both design to discourse the father, one Diego de la Llana, who is a gentleman, and an old Christian every inch of him.

“I visit the markets as you advised me, and yesterday found one of the hucksters selling hazle-nuts. She pretended they were all new, but I found she had mixed a whole bushel of old, empty, rotten nuts, among the same quantity of new. With that, I judged them to be given to the hospital-boys, who knew how to pick the good from the bad, and gave sentence against her that she should not come into the market in fifteen days; and people said I did well. What I can tell you is, that, if you will believe the folks of this town, there is not a more rascally sort of people in the world than these market-women, for they are all a saucy, foul-mouthed, impudent, hellish rabble; and I judge them to be so by those I have seen in other places.

“I am mighty well pleased that my lady duchess has written to my wife Teresa Panza, and sent her the token you mention. It shall go hard but I will requite her kindness one



time or other. Pray give my service to her, and tell her from me, she has not cast her gift in a broken sack, as something more than words shall shew.

“If I might advise you, and had my wish, there should be no falling out between your worship and my lord and lady; for, if you quarrel with them, it is I must come by the worst for it. And, since you mind me of being grateful, it will not look well in you not to be so to those who have made so much of you at their castle.

“As for your cat affair, I can make nothing of it, only I fancy you are still haunted after the old rate. You will tell me more when we meet.

“I would fain have sent you a token, but I do not know what to send, unless it were some little glister-pipes, which they make here very curiously, and fix most cleverly to the bladders. But, if I stay in my place, it shall go hard but I will get something worth the sending, be it what it will.

“If my wife Teresa Panza writes to me, pray pay the postage, and send me the letter; for I mightily long to hear how it is with her, and my house and children.

“So Heaven preserve you from ill-minded

enchanters, and send me safe and sound out of this government, which I am much afraid of, as Dr Pedro Rezio diets me.

“Your worship’s servant,

SANCHO PANZA, the governor.”

The secretary made up the letter, and immediately dispatched the express. Then those who carried on the plot against Sancho combined together, and consulted how to remove him from the government; and Sancho passed that afternoon in making several regulations, for the better establishment of that which he imagined to be an island. He published an order against the higglers and forestallers of the markets, and another to encourage the bringers in of wines from any part whatever, provided the owners declared of what growth they were, that they might be rated according to their value and goodness; and that they who should adulterate wine with water, or give it a wrong name, should be punished with death. He lowered the price of all kinds of apparel, and particularly that of shoes, as thinking it exorbitant. He regulated servants’ wages, that were unlimited before, and proportioned them to the merit of their service. He laid severe penalties upon all those that



should sing or vend lewd and immoral songs and ballads, either in the open day, or in the dusk of the evening; and also forbid all blind people the singing about miracles in rhimes, unless they produced authentic testimonies of their truth; for it appeared to him, that most of those that were sung in such a manner were false, and a disparagement to the true.

He appointed a particular officer to inspect the poor, not to persecute, but to examine them, and know whether they were truly such; for, under pretence of counterfeit lameness, and artificial sores, many canting vagabonds impudently rob the true poor of charity, to spend it in riot and drunkenness.

In short, he made so many wholesome ordinances, that, to this day, they are observed in that place, and called, "The Constitutions of the great Governor Sancho Panza."

## CHAPTER LII

A RELATION OF THE ADVENTURES OF THE SECOND DISCONSOLATE OR DISTRESSED MATRON, OTHERWISE CALLED DONNA RODRIGUEZ

CID HAMET relates, that Don Quixote's scratches being healed, he began to think the life he led in the castle not suitable to the order of knight-errantry which he professed; he resolved, therefore, to take leave of the duke and duchess, and set forwards for Saragossa, where, at the approaching tournament, he hoped to win the armour, the usual prize at the festivals of that kind. Accordingly, as he sat at table with the lord and lady of the castle, he began to acquaint them with his design, when behold two women entered the great hall, clad in deep mourning from head to foot. One of them, approaching Don Quixote, threw herself at his feet, where, lying prostrate, and in a manner kissing them, she fetched such deep and doleful sighs, and made such sorrowful lamentations, that all those who were by were