

Quixote de la Mancha, written by a certain person, a native of Tordesillas. "I have heard of that book before," said Don Quixote, "and really thought it had been burnt, and reduced to ashes, for a foolish, impertinent libel; but all in good time. Execution-day will come at last.\* For made stories are only so far good and agreeable, as they are profitable, and bear the resemblance of truth, and true history the more valuable the farther it keeps from the fabulous." And so saying, he flung out of the printing-house in a huff.

That very day, Don Antonio would needs shew Don Quixote the galleys in the road, much to Sancho's satisfaction, because he had never seen any in his life. Don Antonio, therefore, gave notice to the commander of the galleys, that in the afternoon he would bring his guest, Don Quixote de la Mancha, to see them; the commander, and all the people of the town, being, by this time, no stranger to the knight's character. But what happened in the galleys must be the subject of the next chapter.

\* Martinmas, or about the feast of St Martin, is the time for making bacon for winter. Hence the Spanish proverb.

### CHAPTER LXIII

OF SANCHO'S MISFORTUNES ON BOARD THE GALLEYS,  
WITH THE STRANGE ADVENTURE OF THE  
BEAUTIFUL MORISCA (MOORISH LADY).

MANY and serious were Don Quixote's reflections on the answer of the enchanted head, though none hit on the deceit, but centred all in the promise of Dulcinea's disenchantment; and, expecting it would speedily be effected, he rested joyfully satisfied. As for Sancho, though he hated the trouble of being a governor, yet still he had an itching ambition to rule, to be obeyed, and appear great; for even fools love authority.

In short, that afternoon, Don Antonio, his two friends, Don Quixote, and Sancho, set out for the galleys. The commander, being advertised of their coming, upon their appearance on the quay, ordered all the galleys to strike sail; the music played, and a pinnace, spread with rich carpets, and crimson velvet cushions, was presently hoisted out, and sent to fetch them on board. As soon as Don Quixote set

his foot into it, the admiral's galley discharged her forecastle piece, and the rest of the galleys did the like. When Don Quixote got over the gunnel of the galley, on the starboard side, the whole crew of slaves, according to their custom of saluting persons of quality, welcomed him with three hu, hu, huz, or huzzas. The general, (for so we must call him,) by birth a Valencian, and a man of quality, gave him his hand, and embraced him. "This day," said he, "will I mark as one of the happiest I can expect to see in all my life, since I have the honour now to see Signor Don Quixote de la Mancha; this day, I say, that sets before my eyes the summary of wandering chivalry collected in one person." Don Quixote returned his compliment with no less civility, and appeared overjoyed to see himself so treated like a grandee. Presently they all went into the state-room, which was handsomely adorned, and there they took their places. The boatswain went to the forecastle, and, with his whistle, or call, gave the sign to the slaves to strip, which was obeyed in a moment. Sancho was scared to see so many fellows in their naked skins, but, most of all, when he saw them hoist up the sails so incredibly fast, as he thought could never have been done but by so

many devils. He had placed himself a-midship, next the aftmost rower on the starboard side, who, being instructed what to do, caught hold of him, and, giving him a hoist, handed him to the next man, who tossed him to a third; and so the whole crew of slaves, beginning on the starboard side, made him fly so fast from bench to bench, that poor Sancho lost the very sight of his eyes, and verily believed all the devils in hell were carrying him away to-rights. Nor did the slaves give over bandying him about, till they had handed him in the same manner over all the larboard side; and then they set him down where they had taken him up, but strangely disordered, out of breath, in a cold sweat, and not truly sensible what it was that had happened to him.

Don Quixote, seeing his squire fly at this rate without wings, asked the general if that were a ceremony used to all strangers aboard the galleys? for, if it were, he must let him know, that, as he did not design to take up his residence there, he did not like such entertainment; and vowed to Heaven, that if any of them came to lay hold on him, to toss him at that rate, he would spurn their souls out of their bodies; and with this, starting up, he lays his hand on his sword.

At the same time they lowered their sails, and, with a dreadful noise, let down the main-yard, which so frightened Sancho, who thought the sky was falling off its hinges, and falling upon him, that he ducked, and thrust his head between his legs for fear. Don Quixote was a little out of sorts too; he began to shiver, and shrug up his shoulders, and changed colour. The slaves hoisted the main-yard again with the same force and noise that they had lowered it withal. But all this with such silence on their parts, as if they had neither voice nor breath. The boatswain then gave the word to weigh anchor, and, leaping a-top of the fore-castle among the crew, with his whip or bull's pizzle, he began to dust and fly-flap their shoulders, and, by little and little, to put off to sea.

When Sancho saw so many coloured feet moving at once, (for he took the oars to be such,) "Beshrew my heart," quoth he, "here is enchantment in good earnest; all our adventures and witchcrafts have been nothing to this. What have these poor wretches done, that their hides must be curried at this rate? And how dares this plaguy fellow go whistling about here by himself, and maul thus so many people? Well, I say, this is hell, or purgatory at least."

Don Quixote, observing how earnestly Sancho looked on these passages, "Ah, dear Sancho!" said he, "what an easy matter now were it for you to strip to the waist, and clap yourself among these gentlemen, and so complete Dulcinea's disenchantment; among so many companions in affliction, you would not be so sensible of the smart; and, besides, the sage Merlin, perhaps, might take every one of these lashes, being so well laid on, for ten of those which you must certainly one day inflict on yourself." The general of the galleys was going to ask what he meant by these lashes, and Dulcinea's disenchantment, when a mariner cried out, "They make signs to us from Monjoui,\* that there is a vessel standing under the shore to the westward." With that the general, leaping upon the coursey, cried, "Pull away, my hearts, let her not escape us; this brigantine is an Algerine, I warrant her." Presently the three other galleys came up with the admiral to receive orders, and he commanded two of them to stand out to sea, while he, with the other, would keep along the shore, that so they might be sure of their prize.

\* Monjoui is a high tower at Barcelona, on which always stands a sentinel, who, by signs, gives notice what vessels he discovers at sea.

The rowers tugged so hard, that the galleys scudded away like lightning, and those that stood to sea discovered, about two miles off, a vessel with fourteen or fifteen oars, which, upon sight of the galleys, made the best of her way off, hoping, by her lightness, to make her escape; but all in vain, for the admiral's galley, being one of the swiftest vessels in those seas, gained so much way upon her, that the master of the brigantine, seeing his danger, was willing the crew should quit their oars, and yield, for fear of exasperating their general. But fate ordered it otherwise; for, upon the admiral's coming up with the brigantine so near as to hail her, and bid them strike, two Toraquis, that is, two drunken Turks, among twelve others that were on board the vessel, discharged a couple of musquets, and killed two soldiers that were upon the prow of the galley. The general, seeing this, vowed he would not leave a man of them alive; and coming up with great fury to grapple with her, she slipped away under the oars of the galley. The galley ran ahead a good way, and the little vessel finding herself clear for the present, though without hopes to get off, crowded all the sail she could, and, with oars and sails, began to make the best of their

way, while the galley tacked about. But all their diligence did not do them so much good as their presumption did them harm; for the admiral coming up with her, after a short chase, clapped his oars in the vessel, and so took her, and every man in her alive.

By this time the other galleys were come up, and all four returned with their prize into the harbour, where great numbers of people stood waiting, to know what prize they had taken. The general came to an anchor near the land, and perceiving the viceroy was on the shore, he manned his pinnace to fetch him aboard, and gave orders to lower the main-yard, to hang up the master of the brigantine, with the rest of the crew, which consisted of about six and thirty persons, all proper lusty fellows, and most of them Turkish musqueteers. The general asked who commanded the vessel; whereupon one of the prisoners, who was afterwards known to be a Spaniard, and a renegado, answered him in Spanish, "This was our master, my lord," said he, shewing him a young man, not twenty years of age, and one of the handsomest persons that could be imagined. "You inconsiderate dog," said the general, "what made you kill my men, when