

secutor of authors, and the¹⁸⁷ murderer of printers, he yet pretended¹⁸⁸ to the protection of learning; the¹⁸⁷ assassin of Palm, the¹⁸⁸ silencer of de Stäel, and the¹⁸⁷ denouncer of Kotzebue, he was the friend of David, the benefactor of De Lille, and sent his academic prize to the philosopher of England.

7. Such a medley of contradictions, and at the same time such an individual consistency, were never united in the same character. A¹⁸⁹ royalist; a¹⁸⁹ republican and an¹⁸⁹ emperor; a¹⁸⁹ Mohammedan; a¹⁸⁹ Catholic and a¹⁸⁹ patron of the synagogue; a¹⁸⁹ subaltern and a¹⁸⁹ sovereign; a¹⁸⁹ traitor and a¹⁸⁹ tyrant; a¹⁸⁹ Christian and an¹⁸⁹ infidel; he was, through all his vicissitudes, the same stern, impatient, inflexible original; the same mysterious, incomprehensible self; the man without a model, and without a shadow.

PHILLIPS.

XXXIV.

CAPTURING THE WILD HORSE.

1. We left the buffalo camp about eight o'clock, and had a toilsome and harassing march of two hours, over ridges of hills, covered with¹⁹⁰ a ragged forest of scrub oaks, and broken by deep gullies.

2. About ten o'clock in the morning, we came to

¹⁸⁸ Téngase presente que *to pretend* no se traduce por *pretender*, sino por *fingir*.
¹⁸⁹ Nótese que en estos el artículo indefinido no se expresa en español.
¹⁹⁰ *To cover* exige la preposición *with*, y no *of*.

where this line of rugged hills swept down into a valley, through which flowed the north fork of Red River. A beautiful meadow, about half a mile wide, enamelled¹⁹¹ with yellow autumnal flowers, stretched for two or three miles along the foot of the hills, bordered on the opposite side by the river, whose banks were fringed with cotton-wood trees, the bright foliage of which refreshed and delighted the eye, after being wearied by the contemplation of monotonous wastes of brown forest.

3. The meadow was finely diversified by¹⁹² groves and clumps of trees, so happily disposed, that they seemed as if set out by the hand of art. As we cast our eyes over this fresh and delightful valley, we beheld a troop of wild horses, quietly grazing on a green lawn, about a mile distant, to our right, while to our left, at nearly the same distance, were several buffaloes; some feeding, others reposing, and ruminating among the high, rich herbage, under the shade of a clump of cotton-wood trees. The whole had the appearance of a broad, beautiful tract of pasture-land, on the highly-ornamented estate of some gentleman farmer, with his cattle grazing about the lawns and meadows.

4. A council of war was now held, and it was determined to profit by the present favorable opportunity, and try our hand at the grand hunting manœuvre, which is called "ringing the wild horse." This requires a large party of horsemen, well mounted. They extend themselves in each direction, at certain dis-

¹⁹¹ Lo mismo debe advertirse de *to enamel*, y de los demás verbos análogos que en español rigen la preposición de.

¹⁹² Consiguiente á lo prevenido en las notas 181 y 182, *with* hubiera sido aquí mas correcto que *by*.

tances apart, and gradually form a ring of two or three miles in circumference, so as to surround the game. This must be done with extreme care, for the wild horse is the most readily alarmed inhabitant of the prairie, and can scent a hunter at a great distance, if to windward.

5. The ring being formed, two or three ride toward the horses, which start off in an opposite direction. Whenever they approach the bounds of the ring, however, a huntsman presents himself, and turns them from their course. In this way, they are checked, and driven back at every point, and kept galloping round and round this magic circle, until, being completely tired down, it is easy for hunters to ride up beside them, and throw the *lariat* over their heads. The prime horses of the most speed, courage, and bottom, however, are apt to break through, and escape, so that, in general, it is the second-rate¹⁹³ horses that are taken.

6. Preparations were now made for a hunt of this kind. The pack-horses were now taken into the woods, and firmly tied to trees, lest¹⁹⁴ in a rush of wild horses they should break away. Twenty-five men were then sent, under the command of a lieutenant, to steal along¹⁹⁵ the edge of the valley, within the strip of wood that skirted the hills. They were to station themselves about fifty yards apart, within the edge of the woods, and not advance or show themselves until the horses dashed¹⁹⁶ in that direction. Twenty-five men were sent across the valley, to steal in like manner along the

¹⁹³ *Second-rate*, esto es, de segundo órden.

¹⁹⁴ No sea que.

¹⁹⁵ Deslizarse.

¹⁹⁶ El imperfecto de indicativo por el de subjuntivo: *Should dash*, esto es, viniesen galopando.

river-bank that bordered the opposite side, and to station themselves among the trees.

7. A third party of about the same number was to form a line, stretching across the lower part of the valley, so as to connect the two wings. Beattie, and our other half-breed, Antoine, together with the ever-officious Tonish, were to make a circuit through the woods, so as to get to the upper part of the valley, in the rear of the horses, and drive them forward, into the kind of sack that we had formed, while the two wings should join behind them, and make a complete circle.

8. The flanking parties were quietly extending themselves out of sight, on each side of the valley, and the residue were stretching themselves like the links of a chain across it, when the wild horses gave signs that they scented an enemy—snuffing the air, snorting, and looking about. At length, they pranced off slowly toward the river, and disappeared behind a green bank.

9. Here, had¹⁹⁷ the regulations of the chase been observed, they would have been quietly checked and turned back by the advance of a hunter from the trees; unluckily, however, we had our wildfire, Jack-o'-lantern little Frenchman to deal with. Instead of keeping quietly up the right side of the valley, to get above the horses, the moment he saw them move toward the river, he broke out of the covert of woods, and dashed furiously across the plain in pursuit of them. This put an end to all system. The half-breeds, and half a score of rangers, joined in the chase.

¹⁹⁷ Nótese aquí *had*, imperfecto por cuyo motivo se da á la frase de subjuntivo, y la elipsis del *if*, la forma interrogativa.

10. Away they all went over the green bank; in a moment or two the wild horses reappeared, and came thundering down the valley, with Frenchmen, half-breeds, and rangers, galloping and bellowing behind them. It was in vain that the line drawn across the valley attempted to check and turn back the fugitives; they were too hotly pressed by their pursuers: in their panic they dashed through the line, and clattered down the plain.

11. The whole troop joined in the headlong chase, some of the rangers without hats or caps, their hair flying about their ears, and others with handkerchiefs tied round their heads. The buffaloes, which had been calmly ruminating among the herbage, heaved up their huge forms, gazed for a moment at the tempest that came scouring down the meadow, then turned and took to heavy rolling flight. They were soon overtaken: the promiscuous throng were pressed together by the contracting sides of the valley, and away they went, pell-mell, hurry-skurry, wild buffalo, wild horse, wild huntsman, with clang and clatter, and whoop and halloo, that made the forests ring.

12. At length the buffaloes turned into a green brake, on the river-bank, while the horses dashed up a narrow defile of the hills, with their pursuers close at their heels. Beattie passed several of them, having fixed his eye upon a fine Pawnee horse that had his ears slit, and saddle-marks upon his back. He pressed him gallantly, but lost him in the woods.

13. Among the wild horses was a fine black mare, which in scrambling¹⁹⁸ up the defile, tripped and fell.

¹⁹⁸ *In scrambling.* El participio presente inglés, regido por la prepo-

A young ranger sprang from his horse, and seized her by the mane and muzzle. Another ranger dismounted, and came to his assistance. The mare struggled fiercely, kicking and biting, and striking with her fore-feet, but a noose was slipped over her head, and her struggles were in vain.

14. It was some time, however, before she gave over rearing and plunging, and lashing out with her feet on every side. The two rangers then led her along the valley by two strong lariats, which enabled them to keep at a sufficient distance on each side, to be out of the reach of her hoofs, and whenever she struck out in one direction, she was jerked in the other. In this way her spirit was gradually subdued.

15. As to Tonish, who had marred the whole scheme by his precipitancy, he had been more successful than he deserved, having managed to catch a beautiful cream-colored colt about seven months old, that had not strength to keep up with its companions. The mercurial little Frenchman was beside himself with exultation. It was amusing to see him with his prize. The colt would rear and kick, and struggle to get free, when Tonish would take him about the neck, wrestle with him, jump on his back, and cut as many antics as a monkey with a kitten.

16. Nothing surprised me more, however, than to witness how soon these poor animals, thus taken from the unbounded freedom of the prairie, yielded to the dominion of man. In the course of two or three days the mare and colt went with the lead-horses, and became quite docile.

W. IRVING.

sición *in*, vale el infinitivo español *bling up the defile*, al trepar por el precedido de *al*, como: *in scrambling* - desfiladero.

XXXV.

NIAGARA FALLS.

1. The form of the Niagara Falls is that of an irregular semicircle, about three-quarters of a mile in extent. This is divided into two distinct cascades by the intervention of Goat Island, the extremity of which is perpendicular, and in a line with the precipice, over which the water is projected. The cataract on the Canada side¹⁹⁹ of the river, is called the Horse-shoe, or Great Fall, from its peculiar form; and that next the United States, the American Fall.

2. The Table Rock, from which the Falls of the Niagara may be contemplated in all their grandeur, lies on an exact level with the edge of the cataract on the Canada side, and, indeed, forms a part of the precipice over which the water rushes. It derives its name from the circumstance of its projecting beyond the cliffs that support it, like the leaf of a table. To gain this position, it is necessary to descend a steep bank, and to follow a path that winds among shrubbery and trees, which entirely conceal from the eye the scene that awaits him who traverses it.

3. When near the termination of this road, a few steps carried me beyond all these obstructions, and a magnificent amphitheatre of cataracts burst upon my view with appalling suddenness and majesty. However, in a moment, the scene was concealed from my

¹⁹⁹ *The Canada side*, esto es, el lado Canadense. Es frecuentísimo en inglés el emplear sustantivos adjetivamente.

eyes by a dense cloud of spray, which involved me so completely, that I did not dare to extricate myself.

4. A mingled and thunder-like rushing filled my ears. I could see nothing, except when the wind made a chasm in the spray, and then immense cataracts seemed to encompass me on every side; while, below, a raging and foaming gulf, of undiscoverable extent, lashed the rocks with its hissing waves, and swallowed, under a horrible obscurity, the smoking floods that were precipitated into its bosom.

5. At first, the sky was obscured by clouds, but, after a few minutes, the sun burst forth, and the breeze subsiding at the same time, permitted the spray to ascend perpendicularly. A host of pyramidal clouds rose majestically, one after another, from the abyss at the bottom of the Fall; and each, when it had ascended a little above the edge of the cataract, displayed a beautiful rainbow, which, in a few moments, was gradually transferred into the bosom of the cloud that immediately succeeded.

6. The spray of the Great Fall had extended itself through a wide space directly over me, and, receiving the full influence of the sun, exhibited a luminous and magnificent rainbow, which continued to overarch and irradiate the spot on which I stood, while I enthusiastically contemplated the indescribable scene.

7. Any person who has nerve enough may plunge his hand into the water of the Great Fall, after it is projected over the precipice, merely by lying down flat, with his face beyond the edge of the Table Rock, and stretching out his arm to its utmost extent. The experiment is truly a horrible one, and such as I would not wish to repeat; for, even to this day, I feel a shud-

dering and recoiling sensation when I recollect having been in the posture above described.

8. The body of water, which composes the middle part of the Great Fall, is so immense, that it descends nearly two-thirds of the space without being ruffled or broken; and the solemn calmness with which it rolls over the edge of the precipice is finely contrasted with the perturbed appearance it assumes after having reached the gulf below. But the water, toward each side of the Fall, is shattered the moment it drops over the rock, and loses as it descends, in a great measure, the character of a fluid, being divided into pyramid-shaped fragments, the bases of which are turned upward.

9. The surface of the gulf, below the cataract, presents a very singular aspect; seeming, as it were, filled with an immense quantity of hoar-frost, which is agitated by small and rapid undulation. The particles of water are dazzlingly white, and do not apparently unite together, as might be supposed, but seem to continue for a time in a state of distinct comminution, and to repel each other with a thrilling and shivering motion, which cannot easily be described.

10. The road to the bottom of the Fall presents many more difficulties than that which leads to the Table Rock. After leaving the Table Rock, the traveller must proceed down the river nearly half a mile, where he will come to a small chasm in the bank, in which there is a spiral staircase enclosed in a wooden building. By descending the stair, which is seventy or eighty feet in perpendicular height, he will find himself under the precipice, on the top of which he formerly walked. A high but sloping bank extends from its

base to the edge of the river; and, on the summit of this, there is a narrow slippery path, covered with angular fragments of rock, which leads to the Great Fall.

11. The impending cliffs, hung with a profusion of trees and brushwood, overarch this road, and seem to vibrate with the thunders of the cataract. In some places, they rise abruptly to the height of one hundred feet, and display, upon their surfaces, fossil shells, and the organic remains of a former world; thus sublimely leading the mind to contemplate the convulsions which nature has undergone since the creation.

12. As the traveller advances, he is frightfully stunned by the appalling noise; clouds of spray sometimes envelop him, and suddenly check his faltering steps; rattlesnakes start from the cavities of the rocks; and the scream of eagles, soaring among the whirlwinds of eddying vapor, which obscure the gulf of the cataract, at intervals announce that the raging waters have hurled some bewildered animal over the precipice. After scrambling among piles of huge rocks that obscure his way, the traveller gains the bottom of the Fall, where the soul can be susceptible only of one emotion, that of uncontrollable terror.

13. It was not until I had, by frequent excursions to the Falls, in some measure familiarized my mind with their sublimities, that I ventured to explore the recesses of the Great Cataract. The precipices over which it rolls is very much arched underneath, while the impetus which the water receives in its descent, projects it far beyond the cliff, and thus an immense Gothic arch is formed by the rock and the torrent. Twice I entered this cavern, and twice I was obliged to retrace my steps, lest I should be suffocated by the blast of the

dense spray that whirled around me; however, the third time, I succeeded in advancing about twenty-five yards.

14. Here darkness began to encircle me. On one side, the black cliff stretched itself into a gigantic arch far above my head, and on the other, the dense and hissing torrent formed an impenetrable sheet of foam, with which I was drenched in a moment. The rocks were so slippery, that I could hardly keep my feet, or hold securely by them; while the horrid din made me think the precipices above were tumbling down in colossal fragments upon my head.

15. A little way below the Great Fall, the river is, comparatively speaking, so tranquil that a ferry-boat plies between the Canadian and American shores, for the convenience of travellers. When I first crossed, the heaving flood tossed about the skiff with a violence that seemed very alarming; but, as soon as we gained the middle of the river, my attention was altogether engaged by the surpassing grandeur of the scene before me.

16. I was now in the area of a semicircle of cataracts, more than three thousand feet in extent, and floated on the surface of a gulf, raging, fathomless, and interminable. Majestic cliffs, splendid rainbows, lofty trees, and columns of spray, were the gorgeous decorations of this theatre of wonders; while a dazzling sun shed refulgent glories upon every part of the scene.

17. Surrounded with clouds of vapor, and stunned into a state of confusion and terror by the hideous noise, I looked upward to the height of one hundred and fifty feet, and saw vast floods, dense, awful, and stupendous, vehemently bursting over the precipice

and rolling down as if the windows of heaven were opened to pour another deluge upon the earth.

18. Loud sounds, resembling discharges of artillery or volcanic explosions, were now distinguishable amid the watery tumult, and added terrors to the abyss from which they issued. The sun, looking majestically through the ascending spray, was encircled by a radiant halo, while fragments of rainbows floated on every side, and momentarily vanished, only to give place to a succession of others more brilliant.

19. Looking backward, I saw the Niagara River, again becoming calm and tranquil, rolling magnificently between the towering cliffs, that rose on either side. A gentle breeze ruffled the waters, and beautiful birds fluttered around, as if to welcome its egress from those clouds, and thunders, and rainbows, which were the heralds of its precipitation into the abyss of the cataract.

HOWISON.

XXXVI.

THE ALHAMBRA BY MOONLIGHT.

[The palace or castle called the Alhambra consists of the remains of a very extensive and ancient pile of buildings in Spain, erected by the Moors when they were rulers of the country.]

1. I have given a picture of my apartment on²⁰⁰ my first taking possession of it: a few evenings have produced a thorough change in the scene and in my feel-

²⁰⁰ Lo dicho en la nota 189, preposicion *on*. *On first taking* sobre el participio presente regi- *possession of it*, al tomar por la do por *in*, se aplica tambien á la primera vez posesion de ella.

ings. The moon, which then was invisible, has gradually gained upon the nights, and now rolls in full splendor above the towers, pouring a flood of tempered light into every court and hall. The garden beneath my window is gently lighted up; the orange and citron trees are tipped with silver; the fountain sparkles in the moonbeams; and even the blush of the rose is faintly visible.

2. I have sat for hours at my window, inhaling the sweetness of the garden, and musing on the checkered features of those whose history is dimly shadowed out in the elegant memorials around. Sometimes I have issued forth at midnight, when everything was quiet, and have wandered over the whole building. Who can do justice to a moonlight night in such a climate, and in such a place?

3. The temperature of an Andalusian midnight in summer is perfectly ethereal. We seem lifted up into a purer atmosphere; there is a serenity of soul, a buoyancy of spirits, an elasticity of frame, that render mere existence enjoyment. The effect of moonlight, too, on the Allambra has something like enchantment. Every rent and chasm of time, every mouldering tint and weather stain disappears; the marble resumes its original whiteness; the long colonnades brighten in the moonbeams; the halls are illuminated with a softened radiance, until²⁰¹ the whole edifice reminds one of the enchanted palace of an Arabian tale.

4. At such a time, I have ascended to the little pavilion, called the queen's toilet, to enjoy the varied and extensive prospect. To the right, the snowy summits of the

²⁰¹ *Until*; literalmente, quiere; decir hasta que, y por extension equivale aquí á, de tal suerte que.

Sierra Nevada would gleam, like silver clouds, against the darker firmament, and all the outlines of the mountain would be softened, yet delicately defined. My delight, however, would be to lean over the parapet of the Tecador, and gaze down upon Grenada, spread out like a map below me, all buried in deep repose, and its white palaces and convents sleeping as it were in the moonshine.

5. Sometimes I would hear the faint sounds of castanets from some party of dancers lingering in the Alameda; at other times I have heard the dubious tones of a guitar, and the notes of a single voice rising from some solitary street, and have pictured to myself some youthful cavalier serenading his lady's window,—a gallant custom of former days, but now sadly on the decline, except in the remote towns and villages of Spain.

6. Such are the scenes that have detained me for many an hour loitering about the courts and balconies of the castle, enjoying that mixture of reverie and sensation which steal away existence in a southern climate, and it has been almost morning before I have retired to my bed, and been lulled to sleep by the falling waters of the fountain of Lindaraxa.

W. IRVING.

XXXVII.

THE STEAMBOAT TRIAL.

1. When a large steamboat is built, with the intention of having her²⁰² employed upon the waters of a great river, she²⁰² must be proved before put to service. Before trial it is somewhat doubtful whether she will succeed. In the first place, it is not absolutely certain whether her machinery will work at all. There may be some flaw in the iron, or an imperfection in some part of the workmanship, which will prevent the motion of her wheels. Or if this is not the case, the power of the machinery may not be sufficient to propel her through the water with such force as to overcome the current; or she may, when brought to encounter the rapids at some narrow passage in the stream, not be able to force her way against their resistance.

2. The engineer, therefore, resolves to try her in all these respects, that her security and her power may be properly proved before she is intrusted with her valuable cargo of human lives. He cautiously builds a fire under her boiler; he watches with eager interest the rising of the steam-gauge, and scrutinizes every part of the machinery as it gradually comes under the control of the tremendous power which he is apprehensively applying.

3. With what interest does he observe the first stroke

²⁰² Téngase presente la regla 29 del "Preceptor," sobre el género de algunos sustantivos ingleses, nombres de cosas inanimadas.

of the ponderous piston! and when at length the fastenings of the boat are let go,²⁰³ and the motion is communicated to the wheels, and the mighty mass slowly moves away from the wharf, how deep and eager an interest does he feel in all her movements, and in every indication he can discover of her future success!

4. The engine, however, works imperfectly, as every one must on its first trial; and the object in this experiment is not to gratify idle curiosity, by seeing that she will move, but to discover and remedy every little imperfection, and to remove every obstacle which prevents more entire success. For this purpose, you will see our engineer examining, most minutely and most attentively, every part of her complicated machinery. The crowd on the wharf may be simply gazing on her majestic progress, as she moves off from the shore, but the engineer is within, looking with faithful examination into all the minutiae²⁰⁴ of the motion.

5. He scrutinizes the action of every lever and the friction of every joint; here²⁰⁵ he oils a bearing, there²⁰⁵ he tightens a nut; one part of the machinery has too much play, and he confines it; another too much friction, and he loosens it; now he stops the engine, now reverses her motion, and again sends the boat forward in her course. He discovers, perhaps, some great improvement of which she is susceptible, and when he returns to the wharf and has extinguished her fire, he orders from the machine-shop the necessary alteration.

6. The next day he puts his boat to the trial again,

²⁰³ *Let go*, dejado ir, esto es, soltado.

²⁰⁴ Pronúnciese *mainúchii*.

²⁰⁵ *Here*, aquí, y *there*, allí, valen en este caso *ya . . . ya* distributivo del español.

and she glides over the water more smoothly and swiftly than before. The jar which he had noticed is gone, and the friction reduced; the beams play more smoothly, and the alteration which he has made produces a more equable motion in the shaft, or gives greater effect to the stroke of the paddles upon the water.

7. When at length her motion is such as to satisfy him upon the smooth surface of the river, he turns her course, we will imagine, toward the rapids, to see how she will sustain a greater trial. As he increases her steam, to give her power to overcome the new force with which she has to contend, he watches, with eager interest, her boiler, inspects the gauge and the safety-valves, and, from her movements under the increased pressure of her steam, he receives suggestions for further improvements, or for precautions which will insure greater safety.

8. These he executes, and thus he perhaps goes on for many days, or even weeks, trying and examining, for the purpose of improvement, every working of that mighty power, to which he knows hundreds of lives are soon to be intrusted. This now is probation—trial for the sake of improvement.²⁰⁶ And what are its results? Why, after this course has been thoroughly and faithfully pursued, this floating-palace receives upon her broad deck, and in her carpeted and curtained cabin, her four or five hundred passengers, who pour along in one long procession of happy groups, over the bridge of planks; father and son, mother and children, young

²⁰⁶ *Trial for the sake of improvement*, literalmente, ensayo por la causa de mejoramiento; esto es, un ensayo por ver si se descubre algun pinto susceptible de mejora.

husband and wife, all with implicit confidence trusting themselves and their dearest interests to her power.

9. See her as she sails away! How beautiful and yet how powerful are all her motions! That beam glides up and down gently and smoothly in its grooves, and yet,²⁰⁷ gentle as it seems, hundreds of horses could not hold it still; there is no apparent violence, but every movement is with irresistible power. How graceful is her form, and yet how mighty is the momentum with which she presses on her way!

10. Loaded with life, and herself the very symbol of life and power, she seems something ethereal, unreal, which, ere we look again, will have vanished away. And though she has within her bosom a furnace glowing with furious fires, and a reservoir of death, the elements of most dreadful ruin and conflagration, of destruction the most complete, and agony the most unutterable; and though her strength is equal to the united energy of two thousand men, she restrains it all.

11. She was constructed by genius, and has been tried and improved by fidelity and skill; and one man governs and controls her, stops her and sets her in motion, turns her this way and that as easily and certainly as the child guides the gentle lamb. She walks²⁰⁸ over the one hundred and sixty miles of her route, without rest and without fatigue; and the passengers, who have slept in safety in their berths, with destruction by water without and by fire within, defended only by a plank from the one, and by a sheet of copper from the other, land at the appointed time in safety.

12. My reader, you have within you susceptibilities

²⁰⁷ Nátese bien la elipsis del primer *as*. ²⁰⁸ Estilo metafórico.

and powers of which you have little present conception ; energies which are hereafter to operate in producing fulness of enjoyment or horrors of suffering, of which you now can form scarcely a conjecture. You are now on trial. God wishes you to prepare yourself for safe and happy action. He wishes you to look within, to examine the complicated movements of your hearts, to detect what is wrong, to modify what needs change, and to rectify every irregular motion.

13. You go out to try your moral powers upon the stream of active life, and then return to retirement, to improve what is right and remedy what is wrong. Renewed opportunities of moral practice are given you, that you may go on from strength to strength, until every part of that complicated moral machinery of which the human heart consists, will work as it ought to work, and is prepared to accomplish the mighty purposes for which your powers are designed. You are on trial, on probation now. You will enter upon active service in another world.

ABBOTT.

 XXXVIII.

LOVE OF APPLAUSE.

1. To be insensible to public opinion, or to the estimation in which we are held by others, indicates anything rather than a good and generous spirit. It is, indeed, the mark of a low and worthless character ; devoid of principle, and therefore devoid of shame. A

young man is not far from ruin when he can say, without blushing, I don't²⁰⁹ care what others think of me.

2. But to have a proper regard to public opinion, is one thing ; to make that opinion our rule of action,²¹⁰ is quite another. The one we may cherish consistently with the purest virtue, and the most unbending rectitude ; the other we cannot adopt without an utter abandonment of principle and disregard of duty.

3. The young man whose great aim is to please, who makes the opinion and favor of others his rule and motive of action, stands ready to adopt any sentiments, or pursue any course of conduct, however false and criminal, provided only that it be popular.

4. In every emergency, his first question is, what will my companions, what will the world think and say of me, if I adopt this or that course of conduct ? Duty, the eternal laws of rectitude, are not thought of. Custom, fashion, popular favor—these are the things that fill his entire vision, and decide every question of opinion and duty.

5. Such a man can never be trusted ; for he has no integrity and no independence of mind, to obey the dictates of rectitude. He is at the mercy of every casual impulse and change of popular opinion ; and you can no more tell whether he will be right or wrong to-morrow, than you can predict the course of the wind, or what shape the clouds will then assume.

6. And what is the usual consequence of this weak and foolish regard to the opinions of men ? What the

²⁰⁹ *Don't*, forma abreviada de *do not*. ²¹⁰ *Rule of action*, literalmente, y *not*. La 3ª persona del singular regla de acción ; es decir, por este verbo se contrae *doesn't*, ma. por *does* y *not*.