

cigar as a token of friendship, he called up the whole family, consisting of a mother, two daughters, and several other children. These, after dressing themselves, came forth, and greeted us with genuine hospitality, with such pleasant faces and cheerful talk, that it was really delightful to find ourselves in such quarters; and our surprise was the greater, in consequence of the exterior having proved so uninviting. They immediately set about providing us with supper, consisting of tea, tortillas, valdivias, ollas, with eggs and a steak; and while this was in preparation by some, others were arranging the beds and changing the furniture of the sleeping-room. All this was done whilst the mother was talking and waiting upon us; and after supper was over, she pointed to our room, and then excused herself, by saying she must provide something for the sailors who had accompanied us; whilst we retired to rest, much fatigued with our jaunt.

The room was furnished differently from what we had been accustomed to, yet it was quite comfortable. The only piece of furniture that was not new to us was a high-post bedstead, evidently from our own country, though bedecked with old Spanish tapestry, in the way of tester, curtains, and valance. Instead of drawers, there were huge trunks, that put to shame those of modern construction. These contained the household linen and the finery of the females of the family, and were raised from the floor, that a broom might be passed underneath them. Here and there on the walls hung a new-made dress, of ample dimensions, and several Spanish sombreros, those that were of more recent date hanging highest; at least I judged them to be the best ones, from the careful manner in which they were covered up. There was no wash-stand; but a French ewer and basin, of the lozenge shape, of white and gold porcelain, were placed on a chair. A single looking-glass was hung high over it, its head inclining outwards. The dimensions of the frame were small, and the glass still smaller, owing to a figure of a patron saint occupying the larger part of the upper surface. Of chairs we had five, two with leathern seats and high backs; the others were of home manufacture. A large grated window, well barred with iron, with the thick and massive walls of an adobe house, gave it the look of security for confinement within, or against attack from without. Half a dozen coloured prints of the saints, ten inches square, in black frames, graced the walls.

Our beds, and every thing connected with them, were comfortable; and the manner in which we had been provided for made the entertainment doubly welcome. We found in the morning that we had occupied the sleeping-room of our hostess and her daughters, and that they had given it up expressly to accommodate us.