

to the place, taking with him a bottle of wine mixed with a strong narcotic. when he arrived, he said that he was a priest, and, being afraid of robbers, wished to pass the night with some soldiers. the soldiers were glad to have with them, as they thought, a pious man, whose stories would inspire them to do good. after they had talked a while, zaragoza offered his bottle of wine to the soldiers, who freely drank from it. as was expected, they soon all fell asleep, and zaragoza succeeded in stealing the corpse of luis. he took it home and buried it in that same place where he had buried the head. the following morning the soldiers woke up, and were surprised to see that the priest and the corpse were gone. the king soon knew how his scheme had failed. then he thought of another plan. he ordered that a sheep covered with precious metal should be let loose in the streets, and that it should be followed by a spy, whose duty it was to watch from a distance, and, in case any one attempted to catch the sheep, to ascertain the house of that person, and then report to the palace. having received his orders, the spy let loose the sheep, and followed it at a distance. nobody else dared even to make a remark about the animal; but when zaragoza saw it, he drove it into his yard. the spy, following instructions, marked the door of zaragozas house with a cross, and hastened to the palace. the spy assured the soldiers that they would be able to capture the criminal; but when they began to look for the house, they found that all the houses were similarly marked with crosses. for the third time the king had failed; and, giving up all hopes of catching the thief, he issued a proclamation pardoning the man who had extraordinary battles between two known game men on the pugilistic records. very heavy bets had been made upon it in all parts of the kingdom. one gentleman is said to have had five thousand pounds, and another one thousand eight hundred guineas. the gains of the conqueror were supposed to be about a thousand pounds. the amusements of the day were concluded by a second fight between parish and lashbroke, which proved a manly and determined contest for upwards of an hour, and in which the combatants evinced considerable skill and bravery, and was finally decided in favour of parish. all amusement which might have been derived from this spectacle, however, was completely destroyed by the daring outrages of an immense gang of pickpockets, who broke in the ring, and closed completely up to the ropes, carrying with them every person, of decent appearance, and openly robbing them of their watches, pocket books and purses. and the lateness of the hour, it being five oclock, and almost dark, favoured the depredators. in the midst of this struggle, tom dashall had nearly lost his fancy topper, and tallyho was secretly eased of his clicker. from the scene of tumult and confusion they were glad to escape; and being again safely seated in the topper a flash term given to a hat. clicker a flash term given to a watch, barouche, they made the best of their way home; in doing which, they found the roads almost as much cloggd as they were in the morning. the randallites were meritorious, and, flushed with good fortune, lined the public houses on the road to wet their whistles, singing and had not tasted food during all that time. in the evening they came to a cocoanut grove. here are some cocoanut trees, said one of them. let us get a bunch of cocoanuts and have something to eat so the eldest brother took off his camisa china and climbed up one of the trees. when he reached the top, the tree broke. bung down came the poor fellow. one cried the youngest brother. three more shouted the rest. dont come down until you have dropped four they all cried at once. who would answer them their brother lay dead on the ground. while they were waiting for the second bung the second brother climbed up the same tree. what had happened to the first happened also to him, and so to the third in turn. as soon as the youngest brother heard the third fall, he thought of looking for his share. he crept about to find the cocoanuts. alas he discovered that his three brothers lay dead on the ground. he went away from the place crying very loud. now, his crying happened to disturb the patianac, who were trying to sleep. they went out to see what was the matter. when they found the poor helpless blind man, they were very much moved, and they gave him food and shelter for the night. they also gave him the tail of a paqui, which would help him find his fortune, they said. at daybreak they showed him the way out of the grove. the blind man walked on and on, until he was hailed by a lame man resting under a