

when he had concluded, Tacon, without

"No, su excelencia, she is not," replied Pedro.

General Tacon motioned the young man to approach, and then directing a look to him which seemed to read him through, held up a crucifix, and bade him swear to the truth of all that he had stated. Pedro

knelt, and taking the cross in both hands, he kissed it, and made the oath required of him. Having done so, the general pointed to an apartment, where he desired Pedro to wait until he was summoned. Aware of the brief and severe manner in which General Tucson dealt with all social questions, Pedro Mantuave left the august presence in doubt whether his judge would decide for or against his case. His suspense was not of long duration. In an hour or so one of the governor's guards appeared, and he was summoned to the audience.

"I am not mistaken, you have abused your authority by effecting the abduction of this girl?"

"I confess I have done so," replied the count, in a tone intended to assimilate himself to his superior; "but," he continued, "with a condescending smile, "I think that the abduction of such a creature did not need to occupy the attention of your excellency."

"Well, perhaps not," said his judge, "still busy over the documents before him."

"I simply wish to learn from you, upon your word of honor, whether any violence has been used towards the girl."

"None whatever, upon my honor," replied Almatto, "and I am happy in believing that none will be required!"

"Is the girl already yours, then, that?"

"Not at present," said the count, with a supercilious smile, "but she has promised to become mine very shortly."

"Is this true?" inquired the captain general, for the first time raising his eyes and turning to Miranda, who replied—

"My promise was made only with a view to save myself from threatened violence."

"Do you say this upon your oath?"

"Upon my oath I do!"

The general now ordered Pedro Martinez to appear, and then carefully later requested the lovers upon their engagement to sign a document before a notary. He handed it to one of his guards. When the latter had departed, Tacón dispatched a messenger in quest of a priest and lawyer. When these arrived, the general commanded the priest to perform the ceremony, and the lawyer to sign before Esteloz and Count Albuarte, and bid the lawyer prepare the necessary documents for the same purpose.

The count, who had already expressed his vexation at what promised to be an awkward marriage, drove him of the new favorite by telling him that he was a miser and a thief, when he heard what the governor's

mandate really was. His indignation was extreme, and he endeavored to show how preposterous such an alliance would be, by reminding the general of his noble birth and honorable calling. Pedro was equally disappointed at being thus dispossessed of his betrothed, and appealed to Tacón's generosity and sense of right. Tacón remained speechless with astonishment, and the perfect calm of the islanders in the wisdom of her judgment. While, in spite of all remonstrances, the marriage was formally consummated, the Mirinda Estades and Count Almonte were man and wife. The unhappy bridegroom was then required to return to his *calacalaco* in the Cerro, while his bride and her ladies

Upwards of an hour had passed since the count's departure, and nothing further had transpired. The governor had resumed his business affairs, and appeared, as before, utterly unconscious of all present. He was, however, shortly interrupted by the appearance of the guards, whom he had dispatched with his missive.

"Is my order executed?" inquired the general, looking up for a moment only.

"Yes, my lord, it is," replied the guard.

"Fine! fine!" cried the general, who seemed to be so glad of the execution of his order, that he could not restrain himself from exclaiming, "I am glad to hear of the execution of your despatch."

"Then thus ordered, that the marriage

and death of Count Almaraz should be given every publicity, and that legal steps should be taken for the purpose of showing that the property and name of the defunct was inherited by his disconsolate widow. When the general's command had been fulfilled, and a decent period after the count's demise had transpired, it need scarcely be added that Pedro Martinez married the countess, with whom he lived happily ever after.

LAWS OF NEW JERSEY.
By Authority.

CHAPTER CCCCXCV.

A Supplement to the act entitled "An Act to appoint commissioners to erect an addition and make repairs to the State House," approved March thirty-one, eighteen hundred and seventy.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That there be appropriated the additional sum of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, to be paid by the said commissioners named in the act to which this is a supplement, for the completion of the addition and repairs to the State House, and for setting the fence and flagging the Delaware street.

2. And be it enacted, That there be appropriated the further sum of three thousand dollars for fuel and lighting the said addition, and for the expense of erecting a building for the use of rooms for the Governor and his family, and for the use of the Governor, under the direction of the governor.

and that there be further appropriated the sum of \$100,000, to be expended by the said controller in furnishing and fitting up the court of chancery and ante-rooms, under the direction of the chief justice; and the further sum of two thousand dollars to be expended by the said controller in furnishing and fitting up the court of appeals and ante-rooms, under the direction of the chief justice; and the further sum of two thousand dollars to be expended by the said controller in furnishing and fitting up the first floor of the east wing, to be expended as aforesaid; and that the controller and treasurer be associated with the said commissioners in carrying out the purposes of this act.

3. And be it enacted, That the controller shall from time to time draw his warrants upon the treasurer in favor of the several accounts for services rendered by him in carrying out the purposes aforesaid; and the said commissioners shall account to the said controller for the expenditure of the moneys so required in respect to which the said act is amended.

4. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect immediately.
Approved April 4, 1972.

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