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NARCISSE LOPEZ AND HIS COMPANIONS.\*

For the present, at least, the attempt to rescue the Island of Cuba from the stern despotism of Spain, appears to have totally failed. Lopez has suffered an ignominious death, in a daring enterprise, which, had it succeeded, would have placed him among the heroes and benefactors of mankind; his followers have been dispersed, hunted by bloodhounds, captured, and executed without trial, or transported to Spain to suffer under the relentless maxims of Spanish justice; and so far from being objects of sympathy to their own countrymen, have been classed with Morgan, Loloñois, Roche, Brazillano, Bat, the Portuguese, and others of the bloody buccaniers of Tone, whose sole object was plunder, and whose only means of success, treachery and murder. The drama being closed, and the curtain fallen, we propose briefly to review the plot, the author, the actors, and the incidents; first, however, offering a few preliminary observations.

Our readers all know that Cuba is one of the largest and richest islands of the world, containing about half as many inhabitants as the thirteen British American colonies, when they threw off the yoke of the mother country, and achieved their independence. Owing to influences which it is not our purpose to specify, it took no part with the Spanish colonies on the Continent in their struggle for independence, but remained, and still remains, a dependency of Spain, whose colonial system is a compendium of all the abuses of the worst species of government. While the Queen of Spain is struggling to maintain a waning and precarious authority at home, she exercises a despotic sway in Cuba, administered by petty officers, who govern without control, and almost invariably exhibit the characteristics of every slave when he becomes a master. Abjectly subservient to those above them, they make amends for their bondage by treading on those beneath, and signalize their loyalty to the sovereign by oppressing the people. The inhabitants of Cuba have no constitutional rights; no voice or influence in making their own laws, or choosing their own officers; and in addition to these deprivations, by far the larger portion of them, the Crookes, natives of the island, are excluded from all the high offices, and considered as an inferior race by what are called "The old Spaniards."—These are among the grievances they suffer. Connected with and arising from that source, is a train of petty social abuses and mortifications, too tedious to enumerate, and, perhaps, not worth enumerating.

\* For the Life of Lopez, see *Review* for January, 1850.