

A town officer was seen strutting with a spear about the public square, calling all the women out to come and sweep it. They soon made their appearance, and were not long in creating a prodigious dust. They swept the dirt up into small heaps; then taking their coarse shawls from their shoulders, they spread them upon the ground and put the dirt they had collected into them, to be carried away.

The Chilian officers called upon our gentlemen with offers of service, and were very civil and obliging.

At Obrajillo it was said that the wealthy men of the place kept very quiet, being much alarmed at the presence of the Chilians.

The guides now demanded a settlement, but requested their money might be kept for them until the party reached Lima, as they certainly would be robbed if they took it themselves. This incident proves how little security there is in this country, for persons of any class having any thing valuable about them.

The preparations that had been made in the town were for a festival, and the guides were disinclined to start for Lima. A little bribery, however, and reminding them that one of the greatest feasts in the Catholic church, that of Corpus Christi, was near at hand, induced them to go forward.

On their way from Obrajillo, which they left at an early hour, they met a bridal party on horseback. The bridegroom's hat and person were decorated with carnations and pinks; the bride and bridesmaid carried the same flowers, which they presented to our gentlemen in passing. After a hard day's ride they reached Taso, and took up their quarters in the porch of the posthouse; the landlord and postmaster's absence was now accounted for, by saying that he had gone to church, but would soon be back; he of course did not come, nor was he expected by our gentlemen. They in consequence fared badly, for they had nothing to eat. They found here a gentleman who had been robbed the day before, by three persons in masks; they had treated him with great politeness, only proposing exchanges to his disadvantage; he had nothing else to complain of; they took his purse, watch, spurs, and a drink of his brandy. Much to their surprise, the guides, who had been so scrupulous about their money, showed no signs of alarm. A new difficulty arose with them: they had been informed that a conscription was going on, and they were afraid to proceed, lest they should lose their liberty; but the assurance that they would be protected while with the party, satisfied them.

The frequency of murder, highway robbery, and a constant resort to the cuchillo, has not been exaggerated in the accounts of Lower Peru.

On the morning of the 27th they again set out, having prepared