

representatives of the crown. Bobadilla believed that he had woven a net around his victim which would insure his downfall and secure his own seat as future governor of the island. Columbus was not given a trial or any opportunity of defense, but was thrown in prison with his two brothers, unvisited by Bobadilla, where they were confined separately, loaded with irons, allowed but little food or clothing and where they were not permitted to see any one but the jailer or informed of the grounds upon which the harsh treatment was made.

A distant relative of Fonseca named Alonzo de Villejo was given charge of the prisoners with instructions to carry them to Spain and deliver them to Fonseca, Bobadilla thinking thereby to put the capstone on the malignant triumph of the latter. Villejo was of a more generous nature than Bobadilla had supposed.

The ribaldry and loud rejoicings of Columbus's enemies, together with the silent, mysterious manner in which he was imprisoned and the triumphant usurpation of government by Bobadilla had aroused, to some extent, the apprehensions of the admiral. He did not know to what lengths their precipitate and passionate conduct might carry them. He began to fear that he might be violently sacrificed without an opportunity of being heard and his name thereby go down to posterity in ignominy and dishonor. When Villejo entered his cell he thought it was with the purpose of conducting him to execution. When told that he was to embark for Spain his relief can better be imagined than described. The caravels set sail early in October, 1500, amid the ribald shouts, jeers and curses of the miserable rabble on shore, and Columbus sailed for Spain manacled like a criminal. Villejo wished to remove the shackles but he proudly replied: "Not their majesties commanded me by letter to submit to whatever Bobadilla should order in their name; by their authority he has put upon me these chains; I will wear them until they shall order them to be taken off, and I will preserve them afterward as relics and memorials of the reward of my services."

His arrival in chains at Cadiz produced a sensation. The efforts of his enemies to cause his ruin had overreached themselves. An indignant murmur resounded throughout the kingdom against the tyranny that had condemned the great discoverer to return from the land of his toil and his great acquisition chained in irons like a criminal. To say the least, it would not have been policy for the crown to have turned a deaf ear to this tide of public remonstrance. Ferdinand and his queen joined in reprobation of the treatment accorded Columbus. They sent orders for the immediate liberation of himself and his brothers; wrote an affectionate letter expressing grief for his suffering and gratitude for his services and, presenting him with two thousand ducats, invited him to come to their court in Granada, where he arrived on the 17th of December.

Isabella burst into tears at sight of the venerable man. This was too much for his kind, sensitive heart. He had endured much at the hands of ignoble men; had heard unmoved the false

accusations of malignant enemies, the insults and jeers of base spirits whom he had striven to benefit. But the tears of Isabella broke up the fountains of his heart; he threw himself upon his knees, and weeping and sobbing like a child, he was unable to speak. The sovereign raised him up and by expressions of kindness and sympathy endeavored to soothe his grief. When the paroxysm was over he eloquently defended himself, explained his difficult situation, his loyalty, his obstacles, his wishes and disappointments and declared that if he had been guilty of error it was through the peculiar and extraordinary difficulties of his situation. The sovereign disavowed the proceedings of Bobadilla and declared that he should immediately be dismissed from his position of command. They recognized the deep injuries inflicted upon a most worthy subject and promised him complete redress and restoration. But the crafty ambitions of Ferdinand were to disappoint the happy anticipations of the discoverer and he lingered in painful and hopeful suspense while the royal promises were never fulfilled.

RUBY LAMONT.

THE COAL COMBINE.

The executive committee of the Coalville board of trade on Saturday evening formulated an address to the people of Salt Lake on the momentous coal question. The full text of the document makes interesting reading, and is as follows:

COALVILLE, Oct. 6, 1893.

To the People of Salt Lake City:

During the last year Salt Lake City has been held within the grasp of a merciless and soulless monopoly, the coal combine of Salt Lake City. This monopoly is formed of the combination of the Union Pacific and Rio Grande Western coal companies. These coal companies are merely an organization of the officers of the respective railroad companies for the purpose of handling coal; and controlling as they do the rates of their respective roads, they make the railroads subserve their private interests, and thus increase their personal revenue to the detriment of the patrons and stockholders of the road and the coal mines that are being opened in various parts of the Territory, which it would seem that they should encourage rather than discourage. This combination in Salt Lake City is represented by the firm of Wolstenholme and Morris, with an office on Second South street. Last winter this firm set the price of coal for Salt Lake City, and protest as they might, the people could not obtain a iota rebate.

Nearly all the small coal dealers went out of the business, but afterward, through the influence of mine owners in different parts of the Territory, agencies sprung up in various parts of the city. Two agencies were opened for the purpose of handling the product of our mines.

What did the combined do when these mushroom agencies sprung up around them, some with the avowed intention of lowering the price of coal and giving the combine good, healthy competition? They went around quietly to

the managers of the different agencies and told them that as long as they sold coal at the figures set by the combine, it would be all right, but so soon as they lowered the price of coal or did not dance to their music, they would be closed out of the market. This had the desired effect, and no coal was sold in Salt Lake City last winter below the combine price.

But with these figures Coalville sent into the market, in competition with the product of Rock Springs and Castle Gate, 13,000 tons of coal, which was more than we had sent into that market for many years. Last spring Superintendent McGeath, of the Union Pacific coal company, looking over the record of shipments, saw the number of tons we had shipped into your market, and plainly told one of our mine owners that it would not do, they must have that trade from Rock Springs next year; and they take this means of getting it.

And the Union Pacific coal company, under the direction of McGeath at Rock Spring, and Wolstenholme in Salt Lake City, have gone systematically to work to close Coalville out of the Salt Lake City market, and tighten its merciless grasp on the people of Salt Lake City.

September 29th, under the direction of the sovereign coal king at Rock Springs, McGeath, the rate on coal from Coalville to Salt Lake City and intermediate points was raised from \$1.75 to \$2 per ton, and from Grass Creek to Salt Lake City from \$1.25 to \$2. As the coal mined at Grass Creek has to be hauled several miles to the cars (the Union Pacific several years ago having taken up its spur), the raise will entirely shut them out of the market, and the mines will be compelled to shut down. Coal can be still shipped from Coalville at the new rate by the cutting the profits at this end.

But we are assured that the end is not yet. Before making this raise Wolstenholme came out from Salt Lake City and tried to get control of our product that he might more effectually work the thumb screws on Salt Lake. But while here he gave his secret away and the mine owners would not let him have a pound of coal. He wanted to handle our coal exclusively in the Salt Lake market. He stated his intention was to put the price of our coal down to actual cost to the consumers until he had driven all small dealers out of the field, when he would raise the coal back to its old price. This course could have no other result than to drive our product out of your market.

The mine owners reasoned that if that if they were to be "frozen out" it might as well be now as a little later, and, although Mr. Wolstenholme made two trips out here, he received no satisfaction whatever, and in a few days came the announcement of the raise in the freight rate. Were this the ultimatum, Coalville would not be so deeply affected by the present rate but the mine owners are given to understand that if the present raise is not effective in working its dastardly purpose they will be given another dose of the same medicine.

This is a direct blow at the vitals of our main industry. Large sums of money have been spent on our mines here and Salt Lake capital has helped to develop our properties. The mines