

and goes off at full gallop over the open market-place or up the street. Off gallop two or three vaqueiros, in full chase, with outstretched arms, spurring their horses to the utmost. They try to drive the beast back into the herd, and often succeed forthwith ; but often it gets in amongst another herd, and then it is wonderful to see how rapidly they manage to single it out, get it on the outside of the herd, and start it afresh.

Sometimes the animals are very fresh and wild, and make off at full pace, and cannot be headed. The vaqueiros then strain every effort to come up behind them, catch hold of their tails, and spurring their horses forward so as to get up alongside their beasts, give a sudden violent pull, which twists the animals round, and throws them sprawling on their sides.

The cattle, though they fall so heavily that this expedient is resorted to as little as possible at the fair, because it bruises the meat, are often up after a fall and off again in an instant ; but two or three falls knock the breath out of them, and they are then driven back to the herd quietly. Sometimes, even this treatment does not subdue them, and then they are lassoed round the horns and dragged back.

The various herds were driven in compact bodies against the walls bounding the market, and some of the vaqueiros dismounted, and kept the cattle together by the use of their thongs and shouting, but one at least at every herd remained mounted ready to chase any animal which might break away. The scene was most exciting. Often three or four cattle were loose at once and careering madly in all directions, jumping over obstacles like deer, and with two or three vaqueiros after each, at full gallop, spurring their little horses to the utmost, twisting and turning with wonderful dexterity.

One wild cow went right up the main street. She was very fast, and five vaqueiros had a sort of race after her ; now one gained a little, now another, and it appeared as if the beast were going to make off altogether ; but at last a big black vaqueiro shot ahead, and threw her sprawling in the road. I kept close to a sheltering corner, ready to retreat round it when a beast came in my direction.

The cattle dealers rode round from herd to herd, on their mules and horses, and most of the dealing was done on horse-back. As soon as a herd was sold, it was driven off, one or more vaqueiros accompanying the drovers, according to the wildness of the cattle.

In the middle of the open space, horses and mules were being sold. The sellers of the horses were mounted on them, and were showing off their paces in an open lane formed amongst a crowd of buyers and lookers-on. The sellers made