



R. Coenway R. A. del.

M. Bovi sculp. pupillus F. Bartolozzi

HENRY SWINBURNE ESQ.^R

T R A V E L S

T H R O U G H

S P A I N,

I N T H E Y E A R S 1775 A N D 1776.

I N W H I C H S E V E R A L M O N U M E N T S O F R O M A N
A N D M O O R I S H A R C H I T E C T U R E A R E
I L L U S T R A T E D B Y A C C U R A T E
D R A W I N G S T A K E N O N
T H E S P O T.

B Y *HENRY SWINBURNE*, ESQ.

RIEN N'EST BEAU QUE LE VRAI; LE VRAI SEUL EST AIMABLE.
BOILEAU.

T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N ; T O W H I C H I S A D D E D , A J O U R N E Y
F R O M B A Y O N N E T O M A R S E I L L E S .

V O L I.

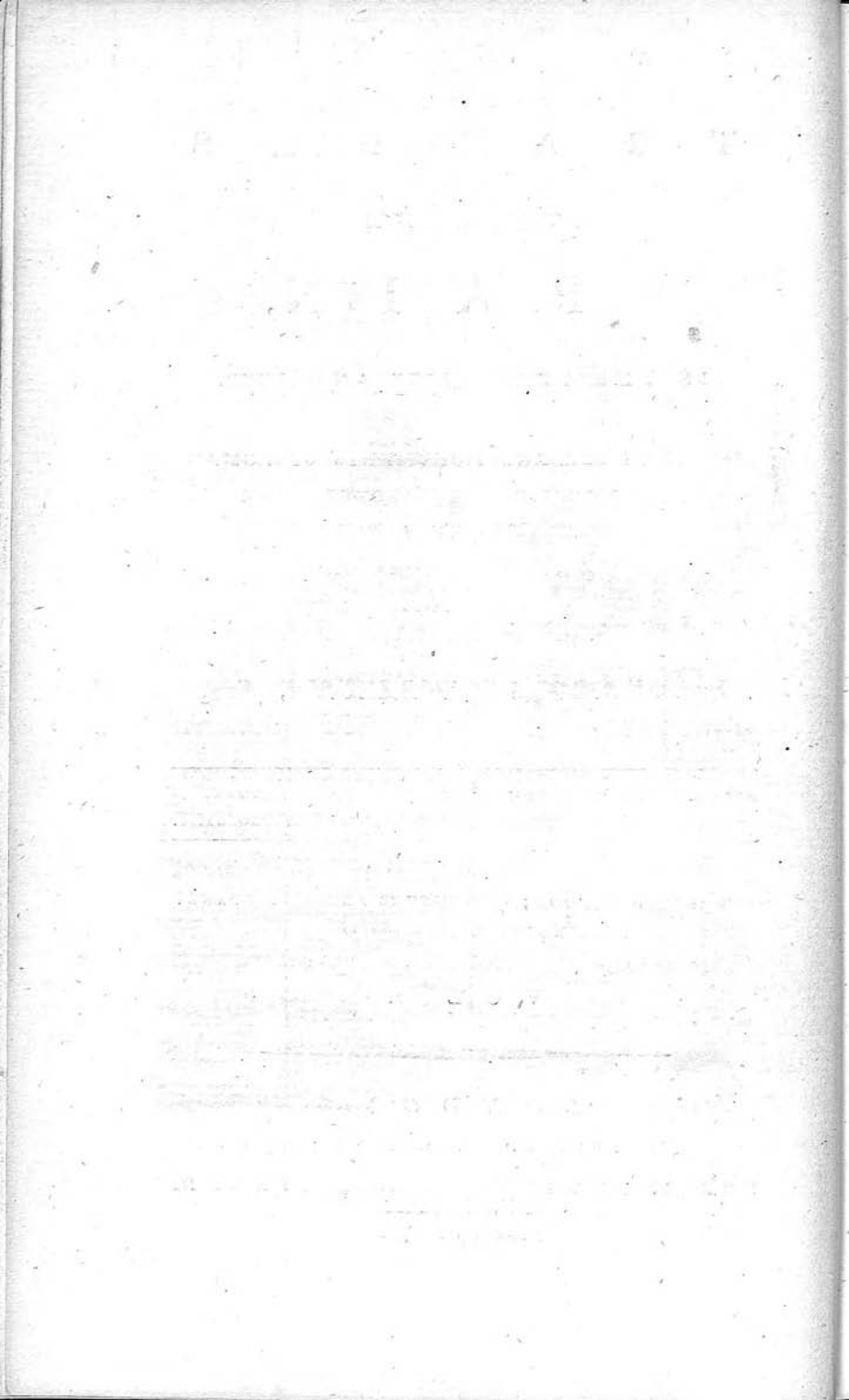
L O N D O N :

P R I N T E D B Y J . D A V I S ;

F O R P . E L M S L Y , I N T H E S T R A N D .

M . D C C . L X X X V I I .





P R E F A C E.

MOST travellers that favour the world with their observations on foreign countries, endeavour to soften the edge of criticism by declaring, that they had originally no intentions of appearing in print, but were betrayed into the press by the importunities of their friends. This excuse seldom answers the end; for when any essential defect raises the indignation of the reader, as severe a sentence is passed upon the straggler decoyed into the literary walk, as upon the most avowed voluntary trespasser. I shall therefore be very inge-

nuous, and acknowledge that when I set out upon my Spanish journey, I had thoughts of publishing my remarks on that country. I had an earnest desire of pursuing a tract almost untrodden by travellers, that I might know how great a degree of credit was due to the accounts already given. In my plan of inquiry, an investigation of the soil, cultivation, government, commerce, and manners of that kingdom, was to be the grand primary object; but what I was more confident of my strength in, and what I own I found more suitable to my inclinations, was the study of its antiquities, especially the Moorish: in that line, my own eye and labour were sufficient helps to enable me to collect interesting materials for a publication.

The travels through Spain that have appeared in print, are either old and obsolete, consequently in many respects
unfit

unfit to convey a proper idea of its present state ; or only relations of a passage through particular provinces, where the authors had neither time nor opportunity to procure much information.

Not being under any restraint in point of time ; being furnished with letters, and every thing necessary for rendering the tour easy, and my stay in the towns agreeable and instructive, with a sufficient knowledge of the language, I had some reason to hope I might accomplish my purpose, with satisfaction to myself, and utility to the public. How far I have succeeded, is submitted to the judgment of the candid reader ; at least some indulgence is due to me for having contributed my mite, however insignificant, to the common stock of topographical knowledge ; which of late years has been so prodigiously increased by accumulated imports from all parts of the globe.

There

vi P R E F A C E.

There is but one merit I insist upon, that of a steady adherence to Veracity, as far as I was able to discern Truth from Falsehood. I may be detected in many mistakes; because a foreigner must often be exposed to receive partial accounts of things from the natives, who have an interest in hiding the nakedness of their country, and in exaggerating its advantages; but I shall never be detected in a wilful perversion of the truth.

Many things in my private letters, of which the following sheets are almost exact copies, were not deemed proper for the public inspection; there are many trifling occurrences that fill up a letter very agreeably, but when printed become ridiculous. The additions made to the correspondence consist chiefly of the historical, commercial, and literary parts; which I drew from the most esteemed Spanish authors, as well as from manu-

scripts, and information communicated by my friends. In these researches I was much assisted by the Reverend Mr. R. Waddilove, chaplain to the British embassy: who, I hope, will excuse my making him this slight acknowledgment.

I have been very particular in whatever regards the history and architecture of the Moors, as those are subjects not yet worn thread-bare: with the help of the prints, I hope to give the curious a satisfactory idea of their manner of building, distributing, and adorning public edifices. The Alhambra of Granada is an *unique*, and its excellent preservation affords an opportunity of studying all the detail of their designs and ornaments.

I can answer for the exactness of the drawings: I never took the liberty of adding or retrenching a single object, for the sake of improving the beauty or harmony of the landscape.

Not

viii P R E F A C E.

Not to multiply notes and references in the body of the work, I thought proper to give at the beginning, a Chronological Table of the Kings of Spain; Tables of weights, coins, and measures; and an Itinerary of our route, with the number of hours it requires to perform each stage.

A CHRO-

A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE of the KINGS OF SPAIN.

Invaded by the Carthaginians	—	239 before Christ.
Conquered by the Romans	—	206 before Christ.
Conquered by the Goths	—	409 after Christ.
Invaded by the Saracens	—	712 after Christ.

KINGS OF

Asturias and Leon.

Began
to
reign

718 Pelayo
737 Favita
739 Alfonso
758 Froila
768 Aurelio
774 Silo
783 Mauregat
788 Bermudo
791 Alfonso II.
845 Ramiro
851 Ordono
862 Alfonso III.
910 Garcias
913 Ordono II.
923 Froila II.
923 Alfonso IV.
927 Ramiro II.
952 Ordono III.
956 Sancho
967 Ramiro III.
985 Bermudo II.
999 Alfonso V.
1027 Bermudo III.
1037 Sancho
Ferdinand I.
of Castille
1067 Sancho II.
1073 Alfonso VI.
1109 Urraca
Alfonso VII.
1126 Alfonso VIII
1157 Ferdinand II.
1188 Alfonso IX.

Castille.

1037 Ferdinand
1067 Sancho II.
1073 Alfonso VI.
1109 Alfonso VII.
1126 Alfonso VIII.
1157 Sancho III.
1158 Alfonso IX.
1214 Henry
1217 Berengela
1217 St. Ferdinand
III.
1252 Alfonso X.
1284 Sancho IV.
1295 Ferdinand IV.
1312 Alfonso XI.
1350 Peter
1369 Henry II.
1379 John
1390 Henry III.
1404 John II.
1450 Henry IV.
1474 Isabella
Ferdinand V.
1504 Joan
Philip
1506 Charles
1556 Philip II.
1598 Philip III.
1621 Philip IV.
1665 Charles II.
1700 Philip V.
1724 Lewis
1726 Philip VI.
1746 Ferdinand VI.
1759 Charles III.

Aragon.

1035 Ramiro
1063 Sancho
1094 Peter
1104 Alfonso
1134 Ramiro II.
1137 Petronilla
Raymund of
Barcelona
1162 Alfonso II.
1196 Peter II.
1213 James
1276 Peter III.
1285 Alfonso III.
1291 James II.
1327 Alfonso IV.
1336 Peter IV.
1387 John
1395 Martin
1412 Ferdinand
1416 Alfonso V.
1458 John II.
1459 Ferdinand II.

TABLE of the KINGS OF SPAIN continued.

KINGS OF		
Navarre.	Portugal.	Saracens.
Garcias Ximenes	1109 Henry	755 Abdoulrahman
880 Fortun	1112 Teresa	788 Hiffem
	1128 Alfonso	795 Hachem
	1182 Sancho	
905 Sancho		822 Abdoulrahman
925 Garcias II.	1212 Alfonso II.	853 Mahomet
970 Sancho Abarca	1223 Sancho II.	886 Almundar
994 Garcias III.	1248 Alfonso III.	888 Abdallah
	1279 Dennis	
1000 Sancho III.		912 Abdoulrahman
1035 Garcias IV.	1325 Alfonso IV.	961 Alhacan
1054 Sancho IV.	1357 Peter	976 Hiffem
1076 Sancho V.	1367 Ferdinand	
1094 Peter	1383 John	1014 Destruction of the kingdom of Cordova
1104 Alfonso	1423 Edward	
1134 Garcias V.	1438 Alfonso V.	
1150 Sancho VI.	1481 John II.	1236 Mahomet
1194 Sancho VII.	1495 Emmanuel	1273 Muley
1234 Thibault	1521 John III.	1302 Mahomet
1253 Thibault II.	1557 Sebastian	1310 Nazer
1270 Henry	1578 Henry	1315 Ismael
1274 Jeanna	1580 Philip	1326 Mahomet
	1598 Philip II.	1333 Juzaf
1304 Lewis		1354 Lago
1316 Philip	1621 Philip	1374 Mahomet
1322 Charles	1640 John IV.	1379 Mahomet
1328 Joanna II.	1646 Alfonso VI.	1392 Juzaf
1349 Charles II.	1683 Peter II.	1396 Balba
1387 Charles III.		
	1706 John V.	1408 Juzaf
1425 Blanche	1750 Joseph	1423 Elaziri
1441 John	1777 Mary	1427 Zagair
1479 Eleonora	Peter	1432 Juzaf
1479 Francis		1445 Ben Ofmin
1483 Catherine		1453 Ismael
John		1475 Abilhuffan
		1485 Abouabdallah
1516 Henry		1492 Ferdinand and Isabella
1555 Joan III. Anthony		
1572 Henry		

A TABLE of WEIGHTS and MEASURES.

WEIGHTS OF CATALONIA.

12 Ounces	}	make	{	1 Pound
26 Pounds				1 Arroba
4 Arrobas				1 Quintal
120 Pounds				100 <i>fl</i> of Amsterdam
125 Pounds				1 cwt. English

WEIGHTS OF CASTILLE.

1 Quintal	}	contains	{	100 Libras, or
1 Arroba				4 Arrobas
1 Media Arroba				25 lb.
1 Quarto de Arroba				12 lb. 8 oz.
1 Media quarto de Arroba				6 lb. 4 oz.
				3 lb. 2 oz.
1 Libra	}	contains	{	16 Onzas
1 Mediatt				8 oz.
1 Quarteron				4 oz.
1 Medio quarteron				2 oz.
1 Onza				4 quartas
1 Quarta	}	contains	{	2 Medios Quartas
1 Media quarta				2 Adarmes
1 Adarmes				2 Medios Adarmes

N. B. The Valencian and Catalonian lb. contains only 12 oz. but the oz. are larger.

LONG MEASURE.

12 Inches	}	make	{	1 Castillian foot
3 Castillian feet				1 Vara
1648 Varas				1 Mile
7680 Varas				1 League

The Vara is about 33 Inches English. 1920 Varas make an English Mile of 1760 Yards.

A TABLE OF COINS.

IMAGINARY.

Real de Vellon	—	equal to half a real de plata, or eight quartos	2	maravidis
Escudo de Vellon	—	—	—	10 reals de Vel.
Ducado de Vellon	—	—	—	11 r. V. 1 mar.
Ducato de Plata nuevo	—	—	—	16 r. V. 17 mar.
Ducato de Plata Antiquo	—	—	—	20 — 25 $\frac{15}{17}$
Dobla de oro Decabua, Pefo	—	—	—	14 — 9

N. B. A Real de Vellon is worth 8 Quartos 2 Maravidis, or 17 Ochavos.

B R A S S.

Maravidi, the leaf coin in Spain					
Ochavo	—	—	—	—	2
Quarto	—	—	—	—	4
Dofquartos	—	—	—	—	8

} maravidis

S I L V E R.

Medio real de Plata	—	—	—	—	1 r. de Vellon.
Real de Plata	—	—	—	—	2
Real de 2, pefetta, piftreen	—	—	—	—	4
Real de 4 Sevillano	—	—	—	—	8
Real de 8 Sevillano	—	—	—	—	16
Medio real columnario	—	—	—	—	1 — 8
Real de Plata colum.	—	—	—	—	2 — 17
Real de a 2 colum.	—	—	—	—	5
Real de a 4	—	—	—	—	10
Real de a 8	—	—	—	—	20

G O L D.

Veintino, pefo duro, hard dollar	—	—	—	—	20 r. de Vellon.
Efcudo de oro nuevo	—	—	—	—	37 — 17
Efcudo de oro Antiquo	—	—	—	—	37 — 22
Doblon de a 2 nuevo, piftola	—	—	—	—	75
Doblon de a 2 Antiquo	—	—	—	—	75 — 10
Doblon de a 4 nuevo	—	—	—	—	150
Doblon de a 4 Antiquo	—	—	—	—	150 — 20
Doblon de a 8 nuevo, quadruple	—	—	—	—	380
Doblon de a 8 Antiquo	—	—	—	—	301 — 6

I T I N E R A R Y.

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going
Perpignan	Notre dame; bad.	
Boulou	Dolphin; tolerable	4
Junquiera	Town-house	3
Figuera	S. Joseph; bad; French house	3½
Coldoriol	Single house; bad	3½
Girona	Fontana d'Oro; good	4
Mayorquien	Bad	4¼
Sanfalonny	Bad	6½
Rincon	Single house	6
Barcelona	Fontana d'Oro	4½
Cipreret	Single house; clean	4½
Villa Franca	Bad	5
Figuereta	Single	5½
Tarragona	Bad	3½
Reus		3
Hospitalet	Single; no lodging	5
Venta del Platero	Single; as bad as any in Spain	3¾
Venta Don Ramon	Tolerable; new	4½
Tortosa	S. Joseph; new inn	3
Ildecona	Poor	5
Benecarlo		3
Torreblanca		6½
Castillon	S. Francisco; good	7
Nule	Good	3½
	b 3	Morviedre

xiv I T I N E R A R Y.

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
Morviedro	Clean	4
Valencia	S. Andrea; not the best	4½
Alzira	French; clean	6½
San Felipe	French; new	3¾
Mojente		4½
Fuente de la Xiguera	Good	3
Villena		4
Monforte		6¼
Alicant	S. Francisco; pleasant	4
Elche	Bad	4½
Orihuela	Tolerable	5¾
Murcia	Tolerable	4½
Venta San Pedro	Nothing	5¾
Carthagera	Aquila d'Oro; excellent	2½
Fuente del Alamo	Bad	4¾
Totana	Clean	6
Lorca	Tolerable	4
Puerto Horniera	Very bad	3¾
Velez el Rubio		6
Xirivel		3½
Cuellar		5
Baca		4¾
Venta del Golpe	Wretched	6¼
Guadix		3¼
Isnallo	Tolerable	11¾
Granada	Al Sol; there is a better	6¾
Loja		10
Antequera	Corona; clean	11
Venta de Almoyna		3
Malaga	Coffee-house	3
Venta de la Compania		3
Antequera		3

Pedrera

ITINERARY

xv

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
Pedreira	—	11
Offuna	Good	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Puebla	—	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Arajal	Good	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Molares	Very bad	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cabeças	—	6
Venta del Biscayno	Good	3
Xeres	Arroyo; good	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Puerto S. Maria	Three Emperors; Italian	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cadiz	Cavallo blanco; Italian	2
Chiclana	Baudry; good	4
Cortijos	—	14
San Roque	—	12
Gibraltar	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
San Roque	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cara del Duque	—	12
Chiclana	—	14
Cadiz	—	4
Puerto	—	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Xeres	—	3
V. Biscayno	—	7
V. Alcantirella	—	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
V. Oran	Clean	2
Sevilla	La Reyna; Italian	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Carmona	Good	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
V. Monclova	—	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eccija	S. Agostino	4
Carlotta	New; good	4
Cordova	Fonda; Italian	5
Carpio	—	6
Aldea	—	5
Anduxar	—	5

b 4

V. Rombla

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
V. Rombla	—	4
Carolina	New; excellent	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
V. Miranda	—	3
Vifo	—	6
Santa Cruz	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Valdepenas	Good; new. Good wine	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mancanares	—	5
Villaharta	—	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Puerto Lapiche	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Confuegra	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mora	Good	6
Toledo	Sangre de Christo; clean	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Illescas	—	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Getefe	—	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Madrid	S. Sebastian; Italian	3
Aranjuez	Italian; good	4
Madrid	—	4
Escorial	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
V. S. Catalina	—	4
S. Ildefonso	—	9
Segovia	Good	2
S. Maria	—	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Villa-S. Cruz	—	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hornillo	—	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Valladolid	Good	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
V. Trigeros	—	4
Torquemada	—	7
Villa Rodrigo	—	5
Burgos	Good	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Torres	Poor place	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Birviesca	—	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pancorvo	Tolerable	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

V. S. Gactan

I T I N E R A R Y. xvii

Name.	Inns.	Hours in going.
V. S. Gaetan —	Excellent —	7
Victoria —	Good —	2
Montdragon —	Dirty —	6½
Vergara —	Good —	2½
Tolofa —	— —	9¼
Hernani —	Good —	3¾
Paffage —	— —	6
S. Jean de Luz —	Good —	4
Bayonne —	S. Etienne	

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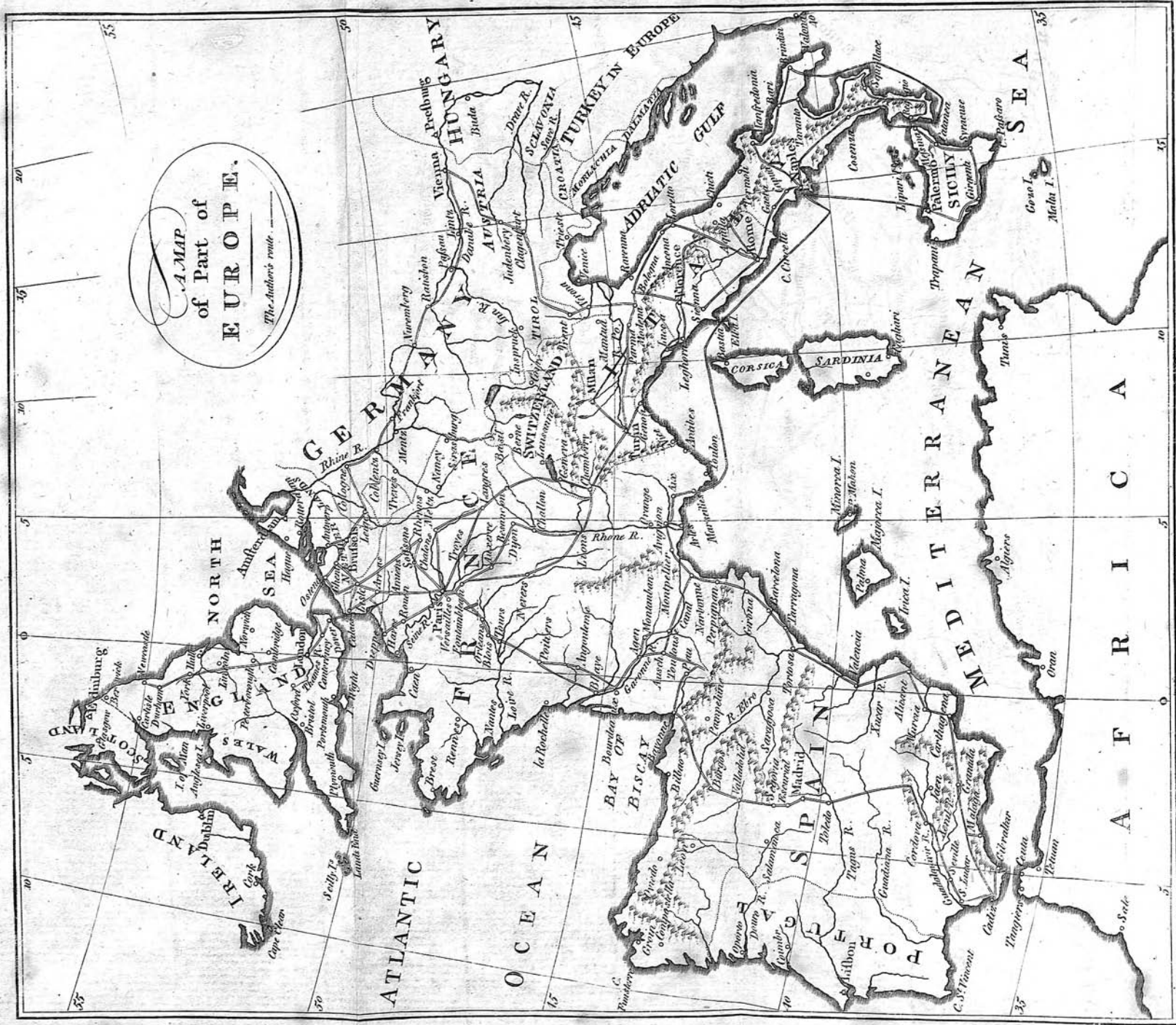
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The Author's route.



T R A V E L S

T H R O U G H

S P A I N.

L E T T E R I.

Perpignan, October 23, 1775.

WE are in hopes of setting out for Spain to-morrow, but many are the difficulties we shall have to encounter before we make our point good. Mules and horses are scarce and dear, and the roads are said to be much damaged by the late floods.

After a thousand delays, we left Toulouse at one o'clock on Sunday, and, travelling all night, reached Narbonne about noon next

B day.

day. Having rambled over that small city, and perused the ancient inscriptions in the archiepiscopal palace, we thought it advisable to move on; and accordingly came to sleep at Sigean, in order to have more leisure at Perpignan for arranging matters, and looking out for mules and other requisites for our Spanish journey.

There is not a more barren country on the face of the earth, than that between Narbonne and Rivesaltes, famous for its muscadine wine; yet I suspect you would prefer those bleak grey hills to more fertile spots; for among the stones, and through the crannies of the rocks, shoot up innumerable tribes of aromatic plants, on which, as a botanist, your eye would feast with rapture. The superior excellence of the Narbonne honey is, no doubt, owing to this profusion of strong-scented flowers, on which the bees feed.

The bay of Leucate, and the plains that stretch

stretch out from the sea to the foot of the Pyrenean mountains, form a noble sweep, that bears some resemblance to the gulph of Naples.

Perpignan is a villainous ugly town, on the skirts of an extensive flat, that has just olive woods enough to make a tolerable appearance from the ramparts. The grounds are inclosed with the tall yellow-flowering aloe.

L E T T E R II.

San Salony, October 27, 1775.

AS I am informed the post passes by to-morrow from Barcelona, I write from this place, lest we should be delayed by any accident, and so miss the opportunity.

The weather hitherto has been very favourable; a clear sky and warm sun since

the 24th, the day we left Perpignan. There was such a scarcity of mules, that we were forced to comply with the exorbitant demands of a French *voiturier* and two Italian rope-dancers, who insisted upon twenty Louis-d'ors for ten horses as far as Barcelona: one of the tumblers rides postillion to our carriage; and for want of a saddle-horse, my man S. G. goes with the other in a crazy two-wheeled chaise; but any thing to get away from Perpignan, a most disagreeable town, and, to a curious traveller, destitute of every kind of recommendation.

The heavy rains that fell about a month ago, had swelled the torrents to such a degree, that in many places they had spoiled the road; this rendered our evening journey very uncomfortable, and made it late before we could reach a poor inn at Boulou, near the mountains that separate Rouffillon from Catalonia. By the help of our own beds, cook, and provisions, we rested very well

well in our hovel, and next morning fallied forth as burlesque a caravan as ever left inn since the days of * *Le Destin & La Rancune*. Several ingenious persons travelling to the fair of Girona had joined company with us; we composed the center; our vanguard was formed by a drummer and a tabor and pipe; the rear was brought up by a camel, loaded with five monkies, escorted by two men who carried his portrait. These, and three pedlars, whom we soon after overtook, were all come from the Milanese. A few paces from the inn we crossed the Tech, a broad torrent, very dangerous after rain: it had lately caused considerable damage in the country. A few miles farther, we came to the chain of mountains that divides France and Spain, which are of no very considerable elevation.

The road over the pass is a noble work,

* Scarron's Comic Romance.

and reflects great honour on the engineer who planned it. It is now very wide ; the rocks are blasted, and spread out, and bridges are laid over the hollows, which formerly were most dangerous precipices. It then required the strength of thirty men to support, and almost as many oxen to drag up a carriage, which four horses now draw with ease.

Exactly on the limits of France, in the highest part of the pass, stands the fort of Bellegarde, on a round hill, commanding a boundless view over both kingdoms : an officer of invalids has a lodge below, where he examines and signs the passports.

At La Junquera, the first Spanish town, an officer of the customs made a shew of examining our baggage ; but a piece of money soon put an end to his search. Near this place a bloody battle was fought in 920, between the Christians and Moors, in which the former were defeated with great slaughter.

slaughter. This was once a considerable city, a colony of the Massilians, or people of Marfeilles, and afterwards an episcopal see: but now it is a paltry village, subsisting on what little is spent in it by passengers, and on the produce of the cork-woods, which seem to turn to good account. The surrounding mountains are covered with those trees; most of them are of great size and age: their trunks, lately stripped of the bark, are of a dusky red colour: the operation of peeling them cannot be repeated above once in seven or eight years; but in the southern parts of Spain, they do it every fifth year.

From hence to Figuera, an ugly straggling town, the country improves every step; the hills are cloathed with evergreen woods; the plains, in the finest cultivation, are divided by hedges of aloe, christthorn, or wild pomegranate. The inhabitants are well-clad, good-looking fellows; the wo-

men much comelier than their neighbours on the French side of the Pyrenees. Ferdinand the Sixth began a most spacious fortrefs above Figuera, capable of containing 12,000 men: it is far from being finished, and indeed it is difficult to guess what service it can be of when completed.

Our journey to Girona was very pleasant, through a well-laid-out country, diversified with fertile plains, and gentle eminences crowned with evergreen oaks and pines. The view stretches down over the olive plantations, in the low grounds, as far as the sea; slender towers on the points of the rocks, and white steeples rising out of the woods, add great life to this charming scene.

In every village, we found the people busily employed in making ropes, baskets, and shoes, of a small rush or reed called *esparto*.

Girona, where we lay last night, is a large clean city, with some good streets; but
poorly

poorly inhabited, and for the most part gloomy. The churches are darker than caverns ; the gothic cathedral is grand, but so very dark at the upper end, that but for the glimmering of two smoky lamps, we should not have discovered that the canopy and altar are of massy silver.

The road was all this morning very hilly, but the dryness of the weather prevented it from being at its usual pitch of badness. Every thing, as Pangloss says, is for the best : had we left Bagneres when we intended, we should have had these deep roads to pass immediately after excessive rains ; and should probably have been delayed many days by the swelling of the torrents. Great part of this day's journey has been through the most savage wilds in nature : nothing but mountains upon mountains, covered with pines ; a rambling sandy river fills up the hollows, winding through all the turns of
the

the hanging woods and narrow dells ; a slight track on the sand is the only thing that conveys any idea of the footsteps of man. The castle of Hostalric, a modern fortress, commands the outlet of this desert, and overlooks the turrets and walls of an old ruinous village, wildly situated on the brink of a precipice.

This morning, on leaving Girona, we met with a laughable accident. S. G. who travels in the vehicle of the mountebank, was roused from his nap by the bottom of the chaise suddenly giving way, and dropping them both into the river Ter. They were obliged to walk in the chaise (literally *se promener en voiture*) quite through the water, before their horses could be prevailed upon to stop.

The peasants have brought us partridges for supper, though it be Friday, and seem very well accustomed to see meat
eaten

eaten on fasting days ; however, the maid of the inn thinks to atone for this irregularity, by placing before us on the table a well-drest image of the Virgin, to whom she expects we should behave with proper liberality.

The mode of drinking in this country is singular : they hold a broad-bottomed glass bottle at arm's length, and let the liquor spout out of a long neck upon their tongue : from what I see, their expertness at this exercise arises from frequent practice ; for the Catalans drink often, and in large quantities, but as yet I have not seen any of them intoxicated.

L E T T E R III.

Barcelona, October 31, 1775.

OUR journey of the 28th was by much the most severe as to roads ; the cross ones in Suffex are not worse.

The

The pass called *El Purgatorio* had very near proved a *Hell* to us; for we thought at one time that the carriages must have remained jammed in between the rocks. The prospects on each side of the way are for the greatest part delightful; nothing can be more agreeable to the eye than the gothic steeples towering above the dark pine-groves, the bold ruins of La Rocca, and the rich fields on the banks of the Besos; but the passes are so bad, the roads so cut up, deep, and dangerous, that it was not possible to enjoy the beauties that surrounded us.

We got into this city just before the shutting of the gates. Upon the whole, this four days journey, though attended with some disagreeable circumstances, was far from unpleasant; the weather was charming, and our health and spirits excellent, with which it is easy to bear up against the little rubs and vexations of an expedition

expedition like ours. The obstinacy of our coachmen, by taking the inland road, deprived us of the satisfaction of seeing the towns and orange-gardens along the coast.

We have paid the necessary visits to those in command. The governor of the place is a Velasco, brother to that Don Lewis who was killed at the surprise of the Moro castle. It is strange enough that the king should bestow the title of *Conde del Asalto* on the brother; it might with more propriety be conferred on the English general, who commanded the attack.

Our first entertainment here was the Spanish comedy. Alas! most of its glorious absurdities are vanished, and Dulness has established her throne on this stage. I was quite tired, and longed to have seen Harlequin carrying relics in procession, faints and devils engaged in doubtful conflict, and Lucifer acting the part of a prior

prior of a convent, as they did formerly in the Loas and Autos sacramentales *. I am afraid we are come here a century too soon, or a century too late, and that the old original cast is worn off the character of the Spaniards, without their having thoroughly acquired the polish of France or England : this will render them a much less interesting race of people : in this province they are said to advance apace. Barcelona seems to be a busy, thriving town, and the Catalonians an industrious set of men.

* Autos and mysteries are prohibited on the theatres of Madrid, but are frequently represented upon all others in the kingdom, and even in the puppet shews at the royal country residences. A friend of mine saw one acted last year at San Lucar, called the Conversion of Saint Barbara ; a friar, by way of proving to her the mystery of the Trinity, gathered up three folds in the skirt of his habit, and then let them fall. The three plaits in one cloth were the image of three persons in one God.

The playhouse is handsome, and well-lighted up. The first piece we saw acted was a tragedy, in which there were no parts for women in the *dramatis personæ*; so, in order to make it ridiculous, the actresses put on breeches and performed the play, without allowing any males to appear among them. The declamation was bombastical and whining. The prompters (for they have them in many parts of the stage) read aloud, verse by verse, what the player repeated after them, with the addition of a final twang, or an occasional swing of the arm. Between the first and the second acts we had a *feguidilla* sung, as wild and uncouth as any thing can be, but now and then some very moving passages struck the ear. After the second, we had, for interlude, an attack made upon the actresses by the actors from a corner of the front boxes. The wit was bandied about very briskly, and made the audience roar again,

again, but it appeared to me a string of very poor quibbles.

Before I proceed to give you any information concerning the present state of the country, I shall sketch the outlines of its particular history.

The account of the original inhabitants of Catalonia, and of the foundation of Barcelona, are, with the rest of the early history of Spain, involved in such a cloud of fables, that nothing satisfactory relative to those dark ages can be discovered. The Massilians appear to have carried on a great trade, and to have been much connected with these provinces. Hamilcar Barca is said to have founded Barcino, now Barcelona; but the Carthaginians did not long keep possession of it, for we find their boundary fixed at the Ebro, so early as the end of the first Punic war. After the fall of the Carthaginian commonwealth, the Romans turned their whole attention towards

towards Tarraco, and neglected Barcino, though they made it a colony by the name of Faventia.

In the fifth century, the barbarians of the north of Europe, having pushed their conquests as far as this peninsula, divided it among the different nations that composed their victorious armies. Catalonia fell to the lot of the Goths under Ataulph, in 414. It remained under their dominion to the year 714, when it was forced to submit to the yoke of the Saracens ; who, under the command of Abdallah Cis, made themselves masters of all the coast, as far as the Pyrenees. Tarragona being now no better than a heap of ruins, Barcelona became imperceptibly the capital of the province. Lewis the Debonair, son of Charlemagne, took it from the Moors in 800. From that period, the emperors, kings of France, governed Catalonia by appointing counts or vicegerents, removable at pleasure,

fure, till the government was rendered hereditary in the family of Wifred the Hairy: whether this happened by a concession of Charles the Bald, or by usurpation, remains a doubt among the learned. It continued in his posterity for many generations. This prince having been grievously wounded in a battle against the Normans, received a visit from the emperor, who dipping his finger in the blood that trickled from the wound, drew four lines down the gilt shield of Wifred, saying, "Earl, be these thy armorial ensign." Four pallets Gules, on a field Or, remained from that time the coat of arms of Catalonia, and afterwards of Aragon, when Raymund the Fifth married Petronilla, only daughter and heiress of Ramiro the Second, king of Aragon. Their son Alfonso succeeded to that crown in 1162. The heirs male of Aragon failing in Martin, the Cortes or states elected Ferdinand of Castille, whose grand-son

son Ferdinand the Catholic, by his marriage with Isabella heiress of Castille, and by the conquest of Granada, united all the Spanish kingdoms into one compact formidable monarchy, which devolved upon the house of Austria, in the person of his grandson Charles.

The violent spirit of the Catalonians, and their enthusiastic passion for liberty, have often rendered their country the seat of civil war and bloodshed: insurrections have been more frequent here than in any other part of Europe. The most remarkable were, first, that in the time of Ferdinand the Fifth, when the peasants rose in arms to deliver themselves from the oppression of the nobles. Secondly, that under Philip the Fourth, about the time that the Portuguese shook off the Spanish yoke; the issue of the war was not equally favourable to the Catalonians, who failed in their attempt of becoming independent, and after having been

twelve years under the protection of France, were reduced to obedience by Don John of Austria. Thirdly, that during the war of the succession, the most famous rebellion, as the French and Spanish writers stigmatize it; or, in the language of a republican, the most obstinate struggle they ever made to break their chains and become a free nation. They attached themselves to the party of the archduke Charles, whose coin is still current in the province. In 1706, Barcelona sustained a siege, which Philip the Fifth was obliged to raise on the appearance of an English fleet. Though shamefully deserted by England at the peace of Utrecht, and afterwards by the emperor, the Catalonians persisted in their revolt, and, having no longer the protection of any foreign prince to expect, resolved to form themselves into a commonwealth.

Lewis the Fourteenth sent the Duke of Berwick, in 1714, with a formidable army,
to

to reduce Barcelona. The trenches were opened in July, and the works carried on with the greatest vigour for sixty-one days; a French fleet blocked up the port, and prevented any succours or provisions from getting in. Yet, notwithstanding the famine that raged within, the terrible fire kept up by the enemy's batteries, and the despondency of the regular troops, who were inclined to a capitulation, the burgesſes, animated by deſpair, rejected all offers of accommodation, and ſeemed determined to bury themſelves under the ruins of their city. The very friars, inſpired by the ſame enthufiaſm, ran up and down the ſtreets exhorting their fellow-citizens to die like brave men, rather than live the deſpicable ſlaves of a deſpot. The women, the children breathed the ſame ſpirit, and ſhared the labours of the defence with their huſbands and fathers.

After ſuſtaining four bloody aſſaults, and

disputing the breach inch by inch, being at last driven from the ramparts, and from a breastwork they had thrown up behind the walls, they were obliged to fly for refuge to the new part of the town, where they made a kind of capitulation. Their persons remained untouched, but every privilege was abolished, and heavy taxes were laid upon them to recompense the soldiery. Since this epocha, Catalonia has borne the yoke with fullen patience, except when, a few years ago, the mode of raising recruits by *quintas* or ballot was ordered to be adopted in this as well as the other provinces of Spain. The Catalonians, to whom such a regulation was new, and consequently odious, were upon the point of taking up arms; but, a few rioters being killed by the cannon of the citadel, the commotion was quelled in the capital, and, the king having given up the project for the present, the rest of the principality was pacified. However,

ever, no arms are allowed to be carried by the common people, and very strict discipline is kept up in Barcelona.

LETTER IV.

Barcelona, November 3, 1775.

THIS city is a sweet spot; the air equals in purity, and much excels in mildness, the boasted climate of Montpellier. Except in the dog-days, you may here have green pease all the year round. The situation is beautiful, the appearance both from land and sea remarkably picturesque. A great extent of fruitful plains, bounded by an amphitheatre of hills, backs it on the west side; the mountain of Montjuich defends it on the south from the unwholesome winds that blow over the marshes at the mouth of the Llobregat; to the northward, the coast projecting into the sea

forms a noble bay; it has the Mediterranean to close the prospect to the east. The environs are in a state of high cultivation, studded with villages, country houses, and gardens.

The form of Barcelona is almost circular, the Roman town being on the highest ground in the center of the new one; the ancient walls are still visible in several places, but the sea has retired many hundreds of yards from the port gates; one of the principal gothic churches, and a whole quarter of the city, stand upon the sands that were once the bottom of the harbour. The immense loads of sand hurried down into the sea by the rivers, and thrown back by wind and current into this haven, will, in all probability, choak it quite up, unless greater diligence be used in preventing the gathering of the shoals. A southerly wind brings in the sand, and already a deep-loaden vessel finds it dangerous to pass over the bar.

Some

Some years ago a company of Dutch and English adventurers offered to bring the river into the port by means of a canal, if government would allow them a free importation for ten years. This project might have cleared away the sand-banks, but might also have given a fatal check to the infant manufactures of the country, for which reason the proposal was rejected. The port is handsome; the mole is all of hewn stone, a master-piece of solidity and convenience. Above is a platform for carriages; below, vast magazines, with a broad quay reaching from the city gates to the lighthouse. This was done by the orders of the late Marquis de La Mina, captain-general of the principality, where his memory is held in greater veneration than at the court of Madrid. He governed Catalonia many years, more like an independent sovereign, than like a subject invested with a delegated authority. Great are the obligations

Barcelona

Barcelona has to him ; he cleansed and beautified its streets, built useful edifices, and forwarded its trade and manufactures, without much extraordinary expence to the province ; for he had more resources, and made money go farther than most other governors can do, or indeed wish to do. On the neck of land that runs into the sea, and forms the port, he pulled down some fishermen's huts, and in 1752 began to build Barceloneta, a regular town, consisting of about two thousand brick houses, quarters for a regiment, and a church, in which his ashes are deposited under a tasteless monument, with the following barbarous epitaph

D. O. M.

Hic Gufmannorum jacet Epitome

Exc. Dom. Marchio de la Mina,

Dux, Princeps, summus Imperator, Præses,

In Acie Fulmen, in Aulâ Flamen,

Obiit heu ! Homo, at non abiit Heros

Cui

Cui Inscriptio, Virtus omnis

Die 30 Jan. Anno 1768.

R. I. P.

As the land was given gratis, the houses were soon run up on a regular plan; a ground-floor and one story above, with three windows in front and a pediment over them; the whole consisting of about twenty streets, and containing nigh ten thousand inhabitants.

The lighthouse at the end of the pier is a slender tower, near which ships lie when they perform quarantine. The old one stood much nearer the land, but was swept away in a dreadful hurricane.

Another of La Mina's improvements, is the rampart or great walk upon the walls, extending the whole length of the harbour. It is all built upon arches, with magazines below, and a broad coach-road and foot-path above, raised to the level of the first floor
of

of the houses in the adjoining street. In these clear, warm evenings, it is very pleasant to walk along this pavement, to the arsenal at the south-east angle of the city; where they are busy raising new fortifications, to prevent a surprise, in case of an insurrection. The late expedition against Algiers has drained these magazines so completely, that scarce a cannon, or even a nail, is to be seen. The work-shops are built upon a grand scale, but little business is going forward at present.

At this corner the rampart joins the Rambla, a long irregular street, which they have begun to level and widen, with the intention of planting an avenue down the middle. Here the ladies parade in their coaches, and sometimes go quite round the city upon the walls, which are of brick, lately repaired and enlarged. The drive is charming, having a sweet country on one side, and on the other, clusters of small
gardens

gardens and orange-yards. You descend at the north gate into a very spacious square before the citadel, just where the grand breach was made, when the duke of Berwick besieged the town.

The citadel has six strong bastions, calculated to overawe the inhabitants, at least as much as to defend them from a foreign enemy. The lowness of its situation renders it damp, unwholesome, and swarming with mosquitos. The major of this fortress owes his promotion to a singular circumstance. When the present king arrived at Madrid in 1759, a magnificent bull-feast was given in honour of that event: as it is necessary upon such occasions, that those who fight on horseback should be gentlemen born, the managers of the exhibition were greatly at a loss; till this man, who was a poor, starving officer, presented himself, though utterly ignorant both of bull-fighting and horsemanship. By dint of resolu-

resolution, and the particular favour of fortune, he kept his seat, and performed his part so much to the public satisfaction, that he was rewarded with a pension and a majority.

The streets of Barcelona are narrow, but well paved; a covered drain in the middle of each street carries off the filth and rain water. At night they are tolerably well lighted-up, but long before day-break every lamp is out. The houses are lofty and plain. To each kind of trade a particular district is allotted.

The principal edifices are, the cathedral, Santa Maria, the general's palace, and the exchange. The architecture of the cathedral is a light gothic, which, in the ornaments of the cloysters, is inimitably airy. The stalls of the choir are neatly carved, and hung with escutcheons of princes and noblemen, among which I remarked the arms of our Henry the Eighth. The double

ble arches under the belfry are deservedly admired, for bearing on their centers the whole weight of two enormous towers. In the cloysters various kinds of foreign birds are kept, upon funds bequeathed for that purpose, by a wealthy canon. I could not learn what motives induced him to make so whimsical a devise.

Santa Maria is also a gothic pile.

The palace is square and low, without out-courts or gardens, and contains nothing worthy of remark but a noble ball-room.

Opposite to its south front, is now erecting out of the ruins of an old habitation of the earls of Barcelona, a new exchange upon an extensive plan, but in a heavy taste. The architect assured us the shell would not cost above 300,000 Catalan livres; but he must either have imposed upon us, or do very extraordinary justice to the trust reposed in him, if he builds such a mass of stone for that sum. The work is carried on

by means of a tax upon imports. In the old part of the building yet left standing, the board of commerce has instituted an academy for drawing, in which five hundred boys are taught that art, and furnished with all proper implements, gratis. A master from Paris is the director of their studies; and every month prizes of fifteen and twenty dollars are distributed to the most deserving.

The Roman antiquities in this city are:
 1. A mosaïc pavement, in which are represented two large green figures of tritons, holding a shell in each hand; between them a sea-horse, and on the sides a serpent and a dolphin. The common opinion is, that this church was a temple of Esculapius; but the ornaments seem to prove very clearly that it belonged to some fane dedicated to Neptune. 2. Many vaults and cellars of Roman construction. 3. The archdeaconry, once the palace of the prætor or Roman governor.

From

From the solidity of the walls, and the regularity of the work, I am inclined to believe the tradition; but there is neither grandeur nor elegance to recommend it to notice. Some medallions and inscriptions fixed in the wall, apparently at the time of its erection, rather invalidate the idea of such remote antiquity. 4. In the yard, a beautiful cistern, or rather sarcophagus, which now serves as a watering-trough for mules. They call it the coffin of Pompey's father, and it may as well be his as that of any one else, for we have no proof to the contrary. A large bas-relief runs round it, of hunters, dogs, and wild beasts. The chief person is on horseback, bareheaded, in a military dress. The figures and animals are executed in a masterly style, and the whole is a fine monument of antiquity. 5. In the house belonging to the family of Pinos, which was almost levelled to the ground by the bombs during the siege, are many excellent busts

D

and

and medallions. An *Augustus Pater*, with a *corona radialis*, a small elegant Bacchus, and a woman holding a rabbit, supposed to represent Spain, the *Provincia cunicularis*, are the most remarkable. The owners of this house have always remained so true to their principles in politics, that they have constantly resided in a poor dwelling hard by, and left their palace in ruins, as a *memento* to their fellow-citizens, and a monument of their own spirit and misfortunes.

L E T T E R V.

Barcelona, November 10, 1775.

YESTERDAY, being the festival of Saint Charles Borromeo, the king's patron, was kept as a day of *Gala*. All the officers waited upon the governor in grand uniform; the theatre was illuminated, and crowded with well-drest company, which
made

made a very handsome shew; the price of admittance was raised from half a pistreen to a whole one. The pit is divided into seats, let by the year, each person keeping his own key; the boxes are taken for the season, and the upper gallery is filled with women in white veils, and no men allowed to sit among them; so that a stranger is at a loss for a place.

The play was the *Cid Campeador*, an historical tragedy, written with a great deal of fire, and force of character. The actors, in the old Spanish habit and Moorish garment, seemed to enter more than usual into the sense of the author. In all tragedies they drop a curtesy, instead of bowing, to kings and heroes. A pretty ballad was sung by a woman, in the smart dress of a *Maja* or coquette: she wore her hair in a scarlet net, with tassels; a striped gauze handkerchief crossed over her breast; a rich jacket, flowered apron, and brocade petticoat. I ob-

served the pit was crowded with clergymen*.

I passed the morning in the cabinet of natural history belonging to Mr. Salvador. The botanical specimens are the most perfect part of the collection, though he possesses many rare things in every other branch of that study.

This afternoon has been employed in copying out lists of the Spanish forces, with their regulations; a succinct account of which may perhaps be interesting to you at this period, when our politicians in England seem so much afraid of them, and whilst their late unsuccessful attempt against Algiers still renders them the general topic of conversation.

* Since the fire which in 1778 consumed the theatre at Saragosa, the king has forbidden any playhouses to be opened, except in the cities of Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, and Cadiz.

If we are to credit the printed lists, the Spanish army consists of above an hundred and thirty thousand men ; but the real number falls far short of this amount, and it is a matter of doubt, whether the regular troops exceed the number of fifty thousand.

The king's household is composed of three troops of gentlemen horse-guards, Spanish, Italian, and Flemish ; one company of halberdiers ; six battalions of Spanish, and six of Walloon foot-guards ; and one brigade of carabiniers.

There are six regiments of Spanish infantry of two battalions ; and twenty-seven of one battalion ; two Italian, three Irish, four Walloon, and four Swiss regiments of one battalion ; one regiment of artillery of four battalions ; six thousand seven hundred and twelve marines ; and one company of engineers.

Each battalion of foot is composed of one company of grenadiers of sixty-six

men, and of eight companies of fusileers of eighty men each, including three commissioned officers.

White or blue is the colour of their regimentals, except one Spanish and three Irish, who are dressed in red.

The cavalry consists of fourteen regiments, of which six are in blue, four in red, three in white, and one in green.

The dragoons form eight regiments, of which one is in blue, one in red, and six in yellow.

A regiment of cavalry and dragoons contains four squadrons, each composed of three companies; in each company are three commissioned officers, and forty-five foldiers.

Besides the regulars, they once a year assemble forty-three regiments of militia, and twenty companies of city-guards. The corps of invalids contains forty-six companies on duty, and twenty-six disabled. The

African

African and American garrisons have also their respective militia.

Their uniforms are ugly and ill made; the foldiers abominably nasty in their cloaths, and their black greasy hair feldom drest. Till very lately, they were commonly in rags, and often mounted guard with half a coat, and almost bare breeched; but now they are rather better clad, and kept in a somewhat more decent trim.

The pay of a foldier is five quartos and an half, and twenty-one ounces of bread a day. After fifteen years service, he has an increase of five reals of Vellon a month; after twenty, nine reals; and after twenty-five, he may retire, and receive a pezzetta per diem, and be cloathed as if he was still on actual service. If he remains thirty years in the army, he is allowed the rank and pay of a subaltern officer. Every forty months he receives new regimentals, two
D 4 shirts,



shirts, two stocks, one pair of shoes, two pair of stockings, a cap, and a hat.

The rank of any officer may be known at first sight by a particular badge of distinction. A captain-general's dress uniform is blue, embroidered with gold down the seams, and three rows of embroidery on the sleeves ; a lieutenant-general has nothing on the seams, and but two rows on the cuffs ; a mariscal de campo, but one : a brigadier has red cuffs, with one row of silver embroidery on his coat : a colonel has three narrow bindings on his sleeve, of the colour of his regimental button ; a lieutenant-colonel, two ; and a major, one : the mark of a captain is two epauletts ; of a lieutenant, one on his right shoulder ; and of an ensign, one on the left.

The pay of a lieutenant is two pezzettas and a half per diem ; that of an ensign, two. As every thing has trebled in price since

since their pay was established, it is become insufficient for the maintenance of the officers. In the guards, all subalterns must live upon their own fortune, till they get a company, which they may perhaps wait thirty years for.

About seven thousand men form the garrison of Barcelona, of which four thousand two hundred are guards; the rest Swiss and dragoons. Each corps has its quarter appointed, which it provides with centries, and therefore they never interfere with each other.

Most of these troops are lately returned from the Algerine expedition, where they suffered great hardships; this has made them outrageous against Count O'Reilly, their commander. Conversation, at present, turns entirely upon that subject, and it would hardly be safe to undertake his justification. In all this there may be a great deal of jealousy against a foreigner that has made so rapid

rapid a fortune, and enjoys so large a share of the confidence of their common master. A singular instance of the national hatred was exhibited a few months ago at Valencia. Some hundreds of boys got together, and, having divided their numbers into an army of Christians, and one of Moors, pitched upon the lame, deformed son of a French barber, to personate O'Reilly, the chief of the Spanish party. The infidels obtained a complete victory; and a court-martial was held upon the Christian commander. He was found guilty of cowardice and mismanagement, and condemned to be whipped. The sentence was executed with such rigour, that the unhappy actor expired under the lash.

The accounts given by the gazettes are very unsatisfactory, I therefore flatter myself I shall make you an agreeable present, by transmitting the following journal; the notes were taken down on the spot by an officer,

officer, who was all day in the action, or very near it. This may suffice to evince the authenticity of the narration. I have omitted all his sarcasms upon the general, for I cannot help attributing many of them to passion and resentment; and an impartial bystander must not adopt sentiments palpably dictated by envy or disappointment.

JOURNAL OF THE SPANISH EXPEDITION
AGAINST ALGIERS, IN 1775.

THE Conde Alexander O Reilly is an Irishman, who began by a sub-lieutenancy in the regiment of Hibernia: he was major of that corps, when he obtained leave to serve a campaign in the French army in Germany. At his return, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel; and afterwards the post of adjutant or aide-major-general of exercise was created for him, in consideration

consideration of his having introduced the German exercise into our army. In the Portuguese war, the command of a body of light troops was given to O'Reilly, who was made a brigadier before the end of the campaign, and soon after sent out as *mariscal de campo*, to superintend the rebuilding of the fortifications of the Havannah, which had been lately restored to Spain, by the treaty of Fontainebleau.

His commission being ended, he returned from Cuba; and, being named inspector-general of the Spanish infantry, formed a camp, where the king assisted at the manoeuvres in person. The monarch was so well pleased with the performance, that he raised the inspector to the rank of lieutenant-general, and dispatched him to settle the disputes in New Orleans, where the French planters refused to submit to the Spanish government. He is the projector of the present scheme,
and

and came to Carthagenæ to put it in execution; being appointed commander in chief of all the troops assembled in this port. If he is successful, no doubt he will be immediately named captain-general. An order is issued out, prohibiting all discourse on the subject of this expedition, the destination of which remains a profound secret. Count O'Reilly has under his command nineteen thousand eight hundred and twenty foot, and thirteen hundred and sixty-eight horse. Castejon brings him forty-seven king's ships, of different rates, and three hundred and forty-six transports.

June 15.

The procession of *Corpus Christi* passed along the mole of Carthagenæ, and the fleet received the benediction. The ships, dressed out with flags and streamers of various colours, saluted the Host with a triple discharge of all their artillery. Our generals, O'Reilly
and

and Richardos, * came on board at five in the afternoon. We remained till the

23d,

expecting every day to fail, except that very one we actually did fail. We had seen the wind so often favourable, without our making the least motion, that I began to have my doubts about our departure; which however took place in the night between the 22d and 23d. We kept beating about before Carthagená in the utmost disorder, till the

27th,

when we bore away from that harbour; and, after two days of the strangest manœuvres ever known, by which the fleet was separated into an hundred divisions, all steering different ways, we began to suspect we were bound for Algiers.

30th.

At ten this morning, found ourselves off

* Sir Philip Richards, an English Baronet, created Feb. 22. 1684.

Cape Cercely, fifteen leagues west of Algiers. All our scattered fleet got together in the night, and made for the land, between Cape Tenez and Cape Cercely, where we lay to the remainder of the night. We saw fires on all the hills, and along the shore; signals, no doubt, to alarm the country.

July 1st,

at three in the morning, the admiral fired a gun, for us to keep on our course, and at nine we were about six leagues from Bocmeo. At eleven, we doubled Cape Pescado, and a little before twelve, the bay of Algiers opened upon us, where we saw our men of war and missing ships lying at anchor. At one we could distinguish the town with a spying-glass. Soon after, the Algerines fired some shot from the town and castles, and hoisted several red flags. Came to an anchor in twenty-five fathom water. The rest of the fleet came up soon, and formed a most beautiful and formidable shew; but I must confess,

confess, that the fortifications of Algiers, and the dangerous appearance of the coast, were to the full as tremendous. We were in the belief, that we had seen a considerable camp on the east of the river Inrac, and about nine at night we were confirmed in our opinion, by the lighting up of many fires; which in less than a quarter of an hour ran along, and set the whole ridge of hills in a blaze. The dead calm which then reigned, and the sweet harmony of two clarinets, that were playing aboard a neighbouring ship, made me pass a most delicious hour, and forget that all those charms were soon to be changed into horrors. Till midnight we heard a continual firing of muskets, which we were told was the Moorish method of passing the parole. I now learned that the men of war had come up the preceding evening; that our generals, disguised in sailors jackets, had reconnoitred the coast, and on their return had held a council of war.

2d. At

2d

At seven, the general sent for the captains of the transports, to withdraw a sealed paper they had received at Carthagea, which they were not to open, unless driven off by stress of weather. At five in the evening he gave out the order for landing next morning; but the sea running rather high about eight, the expedition was put off. Our commanding officers had orders, not to send for cartridges till next day. They are to be delivered out at the rate of sixty for each soldier; which, with twenty-two he received at Barcelona, a pick-ax, a knapsack for provisions, and a tin box for vinegar and water, besides his arms, will prove an intolerable burthen at this hot season of the year.

3d.

All this day it blew a fresh gale from the E. N. E. which ruffled the sea so much, as to prevent our landing the following night, as the general had proposed. We discovered some new camps of Moors, one in particular

to the eastward of Algiers, which could neither annoy us, nor succour those we intended to attack; but we inferred from it, they were in no want of troops, since they had posts on every side.

4th.

At noon we had notice given us, that our four companies were to pass on board another vessel, but which it was to be we were not informed till three; when we were told that five galliots were to take in fifty men each, and the surplus to be passed on board other ships; the captains of which were ordered to send their boats for them immediately. The cartridges not being delivered occasioned a delay of two hours, spent in great confusion. This affair being at length settled, we went on board the galliots, where we soon had a lively sense of the misery that awaited us. The orders of the day were, that the officers and soldiers should carry four days provisions; and that at eight at
night

night they should put off, in order to be able to land next morning on the beach of the gulf of the *Badwoman*, which is five leagues west of Algiers. Our generals had so often boasted of the plenty that was to follow us ashore, that we longed with the utmost impatience for the order for landing, as we looked upon it as the only thing that could put an end to our sufferings, which hourly increased on board the galliots, whether we had carried nothing but a little bad biscuit, some cheese, and wine. Most wretched food! besides the horrid inconvenience of not having room to lie down, or even to get up from the bench we first sat down upon. A dead calm all night. The breeze failed, and our landing was once more deferred, by which means both officers and men passed a cruel night.

5th.

Received orders to comply with those given out on the 2d, for the mode of disembarking,

barking, now no longer to be attempted at the gulf of the *Badwoman*; where we should indeed have been in the greatest danger of perishing. The very name denotes the dangers we should have had to encounter. All day a smart gale from the east, and another demur; and a second most fatiguing night for the foldiers.

6th.

The plan being now changed, we were ordered, at eight, to pass into the galliot that was to be placed on the left wing, with an hundred men of the Walloon guards on board. By some strange arrangement or other, our hundred was made up of two half companies, instead of one whole one. At ten, saw some men of war working out of the line of battle, to get near the shore. The slowness of their motion was, no doubt, regulated by the desire they had of attacking three forts on the coast, which it was deemed necessary to silence, before we could approach

proach the land ; but for what reason had this been deferred for so many days ?

We had received orders to land so long ago as the 2d, which would have been put in execution but for the weather, that proved unfavourable, although no such precautions had been taken, nor even any floats prepared for the artillery. Indeed since that time they had been at work patching up some rafts.

At noon, the lesser of the two Tuscan frigates bore down within half a cannon-shot of a fort that fired upon her. After having examined it, she tacked about, and came along-side of her commodore. At half past three, the *Saint Joseph* steered towards the land, and drove within reach of three batteries that began to cannonade her ; she returned the fire, but theirs growing very brisk, the *Oriente* was sent to take off the shot of a fort that annoyed her very much on her starboard quarter. This engagement

lasted till eight, without much harm done on either side. The *Saint Joseph* had four men killed, and some wounded, among whom was the captain slightly bruised by a splinter: some of the cannon of the fort were dismounted. The galliots towed away the two ships which were becalmed. During this action, the Tuscan frigate sailed in again close under the shore to cannonade some straggling parties of Moors, and a fort at some distance on the left. A Spanish man of war and a frigate had already attacked this fort, but had prudently placed themselves out of the reach of all mischief; their caution was exemplary, and his Catholic Majesty may safely entrust such doughty captains with the command of his ships, being well assured they will bring them back to his ports whole and untouched. At seven, we descried three Algerine barks and about twelve shallops, with heavy cannon, bearing down upon the *Saint Joseph*.

The

The half-galley of D. Ant. Barcelò got under sail in an instant to give them chace, and was followed by five of our galliots. The chace lasted till half after eight, when the enemy retired under the cannon of Algiers. The galliot I was in was one of those sent out to tow a bombketch up to the admiral's ship ; but the breeze was so strong, that we could not row against it, and were obliged to give up the point, and come along-side of the admiral to wait for our orders.

7th.

At four, saw several shallops full of troops going and coming under the stern of the admiral. The major of the Walloon guards, whom I saw upon deck, called out to me, that the affair was put off to the next day, and that he would take care to have boats for our hundred men. The poor soldiers were now quite cast down with the wretchedness of their situation ; and it must be acknowledged, that to leave them four

days and as many nights on a bench, exposed to the violent heats and unwholesome damps of the coast of Africa, and to give them nothing to eat but bad bread and cheese, was but a sorry preparation for an enterprize that required strength of body and vigour of mind. Their officers were not much better off: the master of our bark did every thing in his power to alleviate our distresses; but this kind of vessel is so exceedingly inconvenient, that we were obliged to lie on the floor; and his cookery so nauseous, that, even in our miserable condition, we never could get any thing down but a little soup.

At nine I went on board the ship where General O'Reilly was, and learned that the attack had been deferred, because many detachments had not been punctual to their hour. On this account, he ordered all the barks with the grenadiers and battalions destined for the first embarkation, to be
 along-side

along-side of the admiral precisely at eight in the evening, in order to set off at day-break, when the signal was to be given. The bombketches were put in readiness, and the galliots had orders to range themselves behind them exactly at ten. Our commanders seemed to intend bombarding Algiers, but the design was not put in execution, nor have I learnt the reason. Till ten, the boats kept rowing up to the rendezvous, whilst the rest of the fleet drew near the batteries they were to cannonade to cover our landing. Our inaction this whole day had given the Moors time to repair the damage done the foregoing one, and to put their forts in proper order. The boats our major promised us did not yet appear, so our master told us we should have his, which, however, could only land part of us at a time.

8th.

At half past three, the men of war began
the

the attack, with sufficient prudence not to be under any apprehensions of the enemy's balls reaching them. The two Tuscan frigates, and the chebec commanded by Barcelò, by drawing too near the land, destroyed the beautiful uniformity of the line formed afar by our men of war and frigates; whose fire was perfectly well kept up, but unfortunately of no manner of service, on account of their vast distance from the enemy. At half after four, the admiral hung out the signal for going ashore. Seven galliots advanced to clear the beach; they were followed by seven divisions of boats, each division carrying a brigade of foldiers, which was to form itself into a line of battle six deep, as soon as landed; but the boats were thrown into confusion, as they had not been properly separated and disposed before they left the place of rendezvous. This disorder, which might have occasioned our total overthrow, would have been prevented, had

we

we been provided with boats proper for such an operation. Luckily for us, we met with no obstacles, the least of which would have been fatal to us ; and we landed about eight thousand men on the shore east of Algiers : the boats left us immediately, and went back to fetch the second division, which did not arrive till an hour after, and then only part of the troops could get on shore.

The grenadiers of the army drew up in front, and advanced ; but they had not marched an hundred yards, before many of their men, and almost all their officers were killed or wounded. Those next them moved forward to support them, without having time to form their ranks, a necessary consequence of the manner in which they had been put into the boats and disembarked. Some companies never could get together, having landed in different places, and by parcels. The light infantry was by this time cut to pieces. The unevenness of the ground

we

we occupied, rendered every sand-heap a small breastwork, from behind which the Africans fired upon us by platoons, as they kept retiring towards the foot of the hills, about six hundred paces from the sea, where they hid themselves among the woods and gardens.

The general now ordered the left wing to advance. It was just six o'clock, and his scheme was to march the left wing to the brow of the hill, (the right resting on the sea shore) and then to form a column, and advance about a league farther, to the attack of the castle of Charles the fifth, which commands the whole town. The storming of this fort would have ensured the conquest of Algiers. Whilst our left wing marched on with an intrepidity scarce to be expected in so dangerous a position, some battalions of the center being rather before the rest, drew up in battle array, and with the Spanish guards faced to the right, that they might defend

defend us from the cavalry of the bey of Mascara. This body of horse was soon dispersed by their fire, and that of the chebec of Ant. Barceló. But the bey of Constantina, who commanded a large detachment of cavalry on our left, seized this opportunity to drive a herd of camels against the head of the Walloon guards. By this unexpected assault, he was in hopes of drawing off their attention, whilst he dispatched a body of fifteen thousand horse to cut off their communication with the sea, from which we were now pretty far distant. Our corps de reserve wheeling off to the left, drew up to fill the space between the sea and the column of Walloons, who were forming their lines to repel the enemies that attacked them from behind the camels ; but the greatest steadiness would have availed us little, nor could we have avoided being broken and slaughtered to a man, as our formation was too weak to resist the impetuosity of

of such a body of horse, had not Mr. Acton, the Tuscan commander, cut his cables, and let his ships drive in to shore just as the enemy was coming on us full gallop. The incessant fire of his great guns, loaded with grape-shot, not only stopt them in their career, but obliged them to retire with great loss.

Being delivered from this danger, we made our retreat towards the sea-side, in such disorder as must ensue from a want of proper commanders, abandoning to the fury of the barbarians our unhappy fellow-soldiers, that were unable to keep up with us.

Our general had been busy for the last two hours, throwing up an entrenchment with fascines, earth-bags, and chevaux de frize. We continued the work, and, to cover our front and flanks, placed a few eight and twelve pounders, that had been of great service to us all the morning, in our different operations. We remained thus the best part

of the day, pretty secure from all attacks of the Moorish cavalry, but by no means sheltered from the balls of their carabines, which, carrying at least one third farther than our firelocks, killed upwards of four hundred of our men, in this kind of camp. Here I saw our general on horseback going about to encourage the foldiers; who, stretched out on the burning sands, seemed heedless of the dangers around, and only anxious to procure a little rest to their weary limbs.

By one o'clock, the Moors had finished a battery on the right of our camp; and we were so pinched for room, and huddled together, that every shot took place. General O'Reilly, having called for a return of the killed and wounded, assembled a council of war, in which it was decided, that at four we should reembark, as the enemy was raising another battery in front, which we must pass under if we persisted in the undertaking.

The

The Algerines, for want of experience in these matters, suffered us to accomplish our ends undisturbed ; and about three in the morning the last division of the army re-embarked, leaving behind them fourteen field pieces, two howitzers, some chests of ammunition, and the materials of our encampment, which the enemy broke into the moment the grenadiers of the rear guard pushed off from the shore. We left on the field of battle one thousand three hundred men, and brought off three thousand desperately wounded.

There being unfortunately hospitals only for four hundred men, the boats that had landed the Walloons were taken up for the reception of the wounded ; this occasioned the greatest disorder imaginable in our battalions, who came off as well as they could, in the first boats or tartans they could meet with. They remained in this confusion above four-and-twenty hours, employed,

as well as any other regiments, in getting together their disjointed companies.

The Moors, as soon as they had burst into our camp, cut off the heads of all our slain, and carried them off in bags, to demand the premium offered by the dey, for every christian head ; they afterwards heaped up the corpes upon the fascines of the entrenchment, and set fire to the pile, which we saw burning for two days and two nights.

10th, and 11th.

All hurry ; no water to be had, though there were ship-loads of it in the fleet.

12th.

At six, a. m. signal for weighing anchor. Soon after most of the fleet failed out of the bay.

15th.

At seven, a. m. came to an anchor in Alicant road.

31st.

The Walloon guards were ordered ashore,

and quartered at Sanjuan.

August 10th.

We reimbarked, and

20th.

Landed at Barcelona.

L E T T E R VI.

Barcelona, November 11, 1775.

WE shall postpone our departure from this city a few days longer, to give the roads time to dry. There has been of late a very uncommon run of bad weather; it has thundered and lightened, with many showers, for several days together.

Our time has not hung heavy upon our hands, for all our acquaintance vie with each other in loading us with civilities. The intendant has shewn us every possible mark of politeness, and rendered easy to us the
access

access to the arsenal, magazines, &c. which in this military town they are very chary of shewing to strangers.

Yesterday we took advantage of a gleam of sunshine, to accompany the consul to his villa in the *playa*. The moist warmth of the day brought out such swarms of insects as almost devoured us ; I am afraid the great quantity of vermin must make the summers in this delightful country very uncomfortable. However, it must be allowed to be a very fine climate, for, in spite of all the foulness of the sky, the air has always been mild and balmy. This plain abounds with gardens and orchards of oranges and other rich fruits. Few spots of the globe can surpass it in fertility, but they tell us wonders of the environs of Valencia and Granada.

In the afternoon the weather was heavenly, a prelude, I hope, to a total change for the better ; we employed it in riding up to

Saria, a convent of capuchin friars on the hills. The city and port of Barcelona appear finely from hence, collected into a most perfect landscape. The garden, on the slope of the hill, is truly romantic ; the walks are shaded and sheltered by sweet-scented evergreens ; streams of clear water run down on every side in all the wildness of nature, or spout through the eyes of a little Magdalen, or the *stigmata* of a Saint Francis. As the Romans had many villas on these eminences, we may presume that these limpid rills were then wont to gush out of the breasts of the Graces, or trickle from the quiver of the God of Love. Don't be surpris'd, that in November I speak feelingly of these walks being shady ; I can assure you we found the rays of the sun very powerful, and relished much the shade of the bowers, and the coolness arising from the running water.

Our return to town was by a hollow
way

way, under banks of Indian figs* and aloes, when the butterflies were as brisk as in the middle of spring. The women in the little hamlets were busy with their bobbins making black lace, some of which, of the coarser kind, is spun out of the leaf of the aloe†; it is curious, but of little use, for it grows mucilaginous with washing.

We passed by the convent of Jesus, belonging to the cordeliers, or grey friars. The duke of Berwick razed it to the ground in 1714, to punish those fathers for their zeal in the revolt of Catalonia. Their present habitation is small. They have a fine spring of water, and an extensive garden furrounded with a wall of lemon-trees; adjoining is the Campofanto, where those that died in the last plague were buried. It now serves as a flower-garden, and contains some curious plants; among the rest the *aroma*,

* *Cactus Opuntia*. † Called by the Spaniards *Pita*.

a species of *mimosa* or sponge-tree, bearing a round yellow flower with a faint musky smell, to which they attribute many odd qualities. If you chew the seed, and breathe it out into a room, it will immediately fill it with an overcoming stench, and turn all white paint black.

Our evening ended with a ball, where we had for the first time the pleasure of seeing the Fandango danced. It is odd and entertaining enough, when they execute with precision and agility all the various footings, wheelings of the arms, and crackings of the fingers ; but it exceeds in wantonness all the dances I ever beheld. Such motions, such writhings of the body and positions of the limbs, as no modest eye can look upon without a blush ! A good Fandango lady will stand five minutes in one spot, wriggling like a worm that has just been cut in two.

If the day proves clear, we shall go to-morrow up the mountain to the castle.

L E T-

L E T T E R VII.

Barcelona, November 12, 1775.

I AM this moment returned from the fortrefs of Montjuich, where the fineness of the day and the beauty of the prospect afforded me much real satisfaction; but it fell greatly short of what I felt on finding a letter from you on my table. I have not met with the book you mention, nor indeed ever heard of Mr. T*** till now. By your account, he has not been in this part of Spain, therefore my letters as yet convey something new to you; perhaps, even in those provinces where he has travelled, the difference of our dispositions, studies, and pursuits, may strike out a sufficient fund of variety for my future correspondence, to make it entertaining to you, though you have read his tour. I am sure

I shall be no plagiarist ; for it is highly improbable the book should fall in my way for some time to come.

Montjuich, a name corrupted either from *Mons Jovis* or *Mons Judaicus*, is a mountain that stands single, on the south-west point of Barcelona. This eminence is happily placed for the city, as it intercepts and dissipates the putrid exhalations pumped up by the sun from the ponds near the Llobregat, which are sometimes so strong as to affect with great violence the centinels on duty. The extent of its basis is very great. Large crops of wheat are reaped on the north and east sides, and all bought up at an high price for feed-corn, the quality being particularly found. A good deal of strong wine is made on the south-east angle ; but it is said to be medicated with lime, and mahogany chips, to give it spirit and colour. The face of the mountain towards the sea is already by nature, or soon will be made by art,

art, an insurmountable precipice. The road up to the top is very steep ; about half way, is the ancient burial-place of the Jews, where many large stones, with Hebrew inscriptions, are still lying scattered about the field.

Every part of the old castle is destroyed, and large works in the modern manner built upon its foundations, on the crown of the hill. From hence you command a view over the coast, plain, and harbour ; not a house in Barcelona but lies exposed to your sight. They are sloping off the glacis at an incredible expence, so that no approaches can be made under shelter, as every part is open, and liable to be raked by the cannon of the batteries. All the walls are of stone, and multiplied to an extravagant number. Spain cannot afford men to garrison such overgrown fortresses.

The main body of the place is bomb proof, very neatly finished ; two stone staircases, with iron railing fit for a palace, lead
down

down to the casemates, or vaulted quarters, for the soldiers, which are near four hundred yards long. One of the principal bastions is scooped out into a cistern capable of containing seventy thousand cubic feet of water, of which only a small quantity is let off at a time into a draw-well, to prevent any traitor from poisoning the stock of water. Above the quarters is a grand terrace round a court, with turrets at each angle. On the center of the south line stands the tower of signals ; if one ship appears, a basket is hung out ; if two or more, it is raised higher, and if a Spanish man of war they hoist a flag.

This castle has already cost immense sums in the space of fifteen years, and in all probability will not be finished in as many more, though above three hundred workmen are employed at the works. Each new engineer alters the plan and counteracts the scheme of his predecessor, which occasions such a
delay

delay and waste of treasure as is scarce to be credited.

Besides the inconvenience of requiring so large a garrison, the situation appears to me too elevated to annoy an enemy encamped in the plain.

L E T T E R VIII.

Barcelona, November 17, 1775.

I Expected to have been by this time in the kingdom of Valencia; but the badness of the mountain-road having determined us to take the new one, along the coast, we last Wednesday hired mules for Montserrat, which is not in the line of that lower route. This has retarded our departure for some days.

For about five or six miles the road is finished with a magnificence equal to the best in France, but after that, it relapses into

its original state; however, though rough for carriages, it is very soft and pleasant for riding. The country up the Llobregat is well cultivated, but subject to frequent inundations, that make cruel havock. As you approach the mountain, the number of vineyards diminishes, that of olive-grounds increases.

At Martorel, a large town, where much black lace is manufactured, is a very high bridge with Gothic arches, built in 1768, as we are informed by the inscription, out of the ruins of a decayed one, that had existed 1985 years from its erection, by Hannibal, in the 535th year of Rome. At the north end is a triumphal arch or gateway, said to have been raised by that general in honour of his father Hamilcar. It is almost entire, well proportioned and simple, without any kind of ornament, except a rim or two of hewn stone. The large stone casing is almost all fallen off.

After

After dinner we continued our journey through Espalungera, a long village full of cloth and lace manufacturers ; and about three arrived at the foot of the mountain of Montserrat*, one of the most singular in the world, for situation, shape and composition. It stands single, towering over an hilly country, like a pile of grotto work or Gothic spires. Its height is about three thousand three hundred feet, above the level of the sea.

We ascended by the steepest road, as that for carriages winds quite round, and requires half a day's travelling. After two hours tedious ride from east to west, up a narrow path cut out of the side of gullies and precipices, we reached the highest part of the road, and turned round the eastermost

* Monte ferrado means a mountain sawed ; and the arms of the abbey are, the Virgin Mary sitting at the foot of a rock half cut through by a saw.

point of the mountain, near the deserted hermitage of Saint Michael. Here we came in sight of the convent, placed in a nook of the mountain ; it seems as if vast torrents of water, or some violent convulsion of nature, had split the eastern face of Montserrat, and formed in the cleft a sufficient platform to build the monastery upon. The Llobregat roars at the bottom, and perpendicular walls of rock, of prodigious height, rise from the water edge near half-way up the mountain. Upon these masses of white stone rests the small piece of level ground which the monks inhabit. Close behind the abbey, and in some parts impending over it, huge cliffs shoot up in a semicircle to a stupendous elevation ; their summits are split into sharp cones, pillars, pipes, and other odd shapes, blanched and bare ; but the interstices are filled up with forests of evergreen and deciduous trees and plants. Fifteen hermitages are placed among the
woods ;

woods; nay, some of them on the very pinnacles of the rocks, and in cavities hewn out of the loftiest of these pyramids. The prospect is not only astonishing, but absolutely unnatural. These rocks are composed of limestones of different colours, glued together by a sand, and a yellow calcareous earth. In some parts they consist of freestone and white quartz, mixed with some touchstone. There may perhaps be reason to suspect fire to have been a principal agent in the formation of this insulated mountain.

Having brought a letter for the abbot, whom we found a polite, sensible ecclesiastic, a native of Estremadura, we were lodged and entertained in the convent. I cannot say much in favour of the cookery; it cost us some wry faces to get down the saffron soup and spiced ragouts. After dinner a plate of caraways, and a salver of wine, was handed about, which brought to my mind
the

the treat Justice Shallow offers Sir John Falstaff in his orchard.

This is one of the forty-five religious houses of the Spanish congregation of the order of Saint Benedict; their general chapter is held every fourth year at Valladolid, where the deputies choose abbots and other dignitaries for the ensuing Quadrennium. In this monastery, they elect for abbot a Catalonian and a Castillian alternately. Their possessions are great, consisting of nine villages lying to the south of the mountain; but the king has lately curtailed their income about six thousand livres a year, by appropriating to his own use the best house in each village, some of which, with their tythes, are worth 200 dollars per annum. Their original foundation, in 866, gave them nothing but the mountain; and to donations and œconomy they owe the great increase of their landed property. They are bound to feed and harbour, for three days, all pilgrims that come up to pay their
homage

homage to the Virgin ; the allowance is a luncheon of bread in the morning, as much more, with broth, at noon, and bread again at night. About three years ago, the king proposed to them to abolish this obligation of hospitality, on condition that the convent should subscribe a fixed sum towards the establishment of a poorhouse in Barcelona. The principals of the abbey were inclined to accept of the proposal, but the mob of monks opposed it vehemently ; and, such a scheme being very contrary to the interests of the miraculous image, she resented it highly, and, according to her old custom, vanished in anger from the altar. Soon after, she was discovered in the cave where she was originally found, nor would she stir, till the intended innovation was overruled. It was thought expedient to wink at this juggling, not to alarm the common people, who are not sufficiently enlightened to see through such gross impositions.

The number of professed monks is 76, of lay-brothers 28, and of singing-boys 25, besides physician, surgeon, and servants.

Having breakfasted very early, a German monk waited upon us to shew us the church. It is gloomy, and the gilding much sullied with the smoke of eighty-five lamps of silver, of various forms and sizes, that hang round the cornice of the sanctuary. Funds have been bequeathed by different devotees for furnishing them with oil.

The choir above stairs is decorated with the life of Christ in good wooden carving. A gallery runs on each side of the chancel, for the convenience of the monks. A large iron grate divides the church from the chapel of the Virgin, where the image stands, in a nich over the altar, before which burn four tapers in large silver candlesticks, the present of the duke of Medina Celi. In the sacristy, and passages leading to it, are presses and cupboards full of relicks and ornaments, of gold,

gold, silver, and precious stones ; they pointed out to us, as the most remarkable, two crowns for the Virgin and her Son, of inestimable value, some large diamond rings, an excellent cameo of Medusa's head, the Roman emperors in alabaster, the sword of Saint Ignatius, and the chest that contains the ashes of a famous brother, John Guarin, of whom they relate the same story as that given in the spectator of a Turkish fanton and the sultan's daughter. They differ however in the following circumstance—The Catalonian anchorite repents of his crime, and lives seven years on all fours like a wild beast. The earl of Barcelona, whose daughter John had ravished and murdered, catches the savage in his hunting toils, and brings him as a shew to the city ; when behold ! the earl's son, only a month old, speaks aloud, and bids John arise, for his sins are forgiven. The easy prince pardons him also, and all of them go in quest of the body of the

Princess. To their great astonishment, they meet her restored to life by the Virgin Mary, and as beautiful and young as ever. It is not said that she recovered her virginity ; that is a miracle never once attempted by any saint in the calendar ; however, she liked the mountain so well, that she there founded a monastery, in which she ended her days as a nun.

Immense is the quantity of votive offerings to this miraculous statue ; and, as nothing can be rejected or otherwise disposed of, the shelves are crowded with most whimsical *Ex votos*, viz. silver legs, fingers, breasts, ear-rings, watches, two-wheeled chaises, boats, carts, and such-like trumpery.

From the sacristy we went up to the *Camarines*, small rooms behind the high altar, hung with paintings, several of which are very good. A strong silver-plated door being thrown open, we were bid to lean forward, and kiss the hand of *Nuestra Senora*.

It

It is half worn away by the eager kisses of its votaries, but we could not ascertain whether it be marble or silver, as it is painted black. The face of the mother is regularly handsome but the colour of a negro-woman.

Having seen every place about the convent, where they are now building a new wing, and blasting a great deal of the rock to enlarge the gardens, we set out for the hermitages, and took the short way, up a crevice between two huge masses of rock, where in rainy weather the waters dash down in furious torrents. We counted six hundred holes or steps, so steep and perpendicular, that from below we did not discern the least track. A hand-rail, and a few seats to take breath upon, enabled us to perform this scalade. Soon after, we arrived, through a wilderness of evergreens, at the narrow platform where the first hermit dwells. His cells, kitchen, chapel, and gardens, are ad-

mirably neat and romantic, built upon various patches of level on the tops of precipices. The view from it is wild, and in such a fine clear morning most delightful. The hermit seemed a chearful, simple old man, in whose mind forty years retirement had obliterated all worldly ideas. The hermits are all clad in brown habits, and wear long beards; their way of life is uncomfortable, and their respective limits very much confined. They rise at two every morning, ring out their bell, and pray till it is time to go to mass at the hermitage, called the *Parish*; it is always said at break of day: some of them have above two hours walk down to it. The convent allows them bread, wine, salt, oil, one pair of shoes, and one pair of stockings a year, with twenty-five reals a month for other necessaries. A couple of men are kept to assist them in their labour, each in their turn. A mule carries up their provisions twice a week, and is occasionally driven to Barcelona for

for salt-fish, and other things, which they buy by clubbing together. They get some helps from the convent, in return for flowers, greens, &c. which they send down as presents. They never eat meat, or converse with each other : their noviceship is very severe, for they must undergo six months service in the infirmary of the abbey, one year among the novices, and six years further trial, before they are suffered to go up to an hermitage ; which they cannot obtain but by the unanimous consent of the whole chapter. They make every vow of the monks, and, over and above, one of never quitting the mountain ; but none of them are allowed to enter into orders. Their first habitation is always the most remote from the convent, and they descend according as vacancies happen in the lower cells.

Having left a small present in the chapel-window, we continued our walk : wherever the winding paths are level nothing can be

more agreeable than to faunter through the close woods and sweet wildernesses that fill up the spaces between the rocks. It is impossible to give you an adequate idea of the sublime views and uncouth appearance of the different parts of the mountain; a painter or a botanist might wander here many days with pleasure and profit. There are few evergreens in Europe that may not be found here, besides a great variety of deciduous plants. The apothecary of the house has a list of four hundred and thirty-seven species of plants, and forty of trees. The greatest hardship here is a scarcity of good water. Except one spring at the parish, and another at the convent, they have no other than cistern-water, and that bad enough; this in summer is a terrible inconvenience, and gives the lye to the florid descriptions I have read of the purling streams and beautiful cascades tumbling down on every side from the broken rocks.

The

The want of water is so great, that neither wolf, bear, nor other wild beast, is ever seen on the mountain.

The second hermitage we came to, stands on a point of the rock, over a precipice that descends almost to the very bed of the river; my head was near turning with looking down. The prospect is inimitably grand, extending over the northern and eastern parts of the province, which are very hilly and bare, bounded by the mountains of Rouffillon. The true Pyreneans appear only through some breaks in that chain. Manresa, where Inigo de Loyola made his first spiritual retreat, is the principal town in the view. In a clear day they assured us they could see Majorca, which is one hundred and eighty-one miles distant. Upon the round rock, that hangs over the hermit's cell, was formerly a castle, with its cisterns and drawbridge, where some banditti harboured. From this strong hold they made excursions

curfions to pillage the neighbouring vallies. By rolling down stones, they kept the monks in perpetual alarm, and obliged them to fend up whatever provifions were wanted in the garrison. At laft, a few miquelets climbed up the rock from tree to tree, like fo many fquierefs, furprized the fort, and deftroyed this neft of robbers. In commemoration of this event the hermitage is dedicated to Saint Dimas, a faint, I prefume, you never heard of in your life. You muft know he is the good thief in the gofpel.

At la Trinidad, the next cell we walked to, the monks by turns go up to pafs a few days in fummer by way of recreation. The hermit has many rooms, and is allowed a boy to wait upon him. He gave us a glafs of good Sitges wine, and a pinch of admirable fnuff, made from tobacco raifed in his own garden. The officers of the cuftoms have extended their tyranny even

to these solitudes, and sent orders that no more tobacco be suffered to grow.

Having scrambled up to one or two more hermitages, we found our curiosity satisfied, as, except in point of extensiveness of prospect, they varied very little from those we had already seen ; and therefore we turned down another path, which led us to the dwelling of the vicar, a monk who during four years takes upon him the direction of the hermits.

Lower down we arrived at Santa Cecilia, the parish church, where every morning the silent inhabitants of this *Thebais* meet to hear mass, and perform divine service, and twice a week to confess and communicate.

About eleven, we got down to the abbey for dinner ; and, having received the customary donation of blessed crosses and holy medals, mounted our mules and came to lie at Martorel. We reached Barcelona early
this

this morning, and have been ever since making ready for our departure.

LETTER IX.

Barcelona, November 18, 1775.

ALL our affairs are settled for beginning our journey to Valencia tomorrow afternoon. We have agreed with a master muleteer, to furnish us with mules at the rate of fifteen reales de vellon a day for each mule, clear of all other expences whatever. If we part with him at Valencia, he is to be paid for his return, eight days ; if at Alicant, ten ; at Cadiz, thirty ; at Madrid, fifteen ; and at Lisbon, thirty. We have also hired a miquelet, compleatly accoutred, to attend us. You see we are fitted out in good earnest for a long journey, which I hope will afford us some pleasant hours, to compensate for the trouble and fatigue

fatigue that we foresee must frequently fall to our share. I believe you are not sorry to find I am on the point of leaving Catalonia, which must by this time be a subject my frequent letters have rendered rather tiresome to you ; however, I entreat your indulgence one letter more, while I endeavour to bring together the remarks I have made on the character of this people, and all the material information my friends have furnished me with.

Catalonia is almost throughout extremely mountainous. The nature of the country appears to have great influence on that of the inhabitants, who are a hardy, active, industrious race, of a middle size, brown complexion, and strong features ; their limbs well knit together, and by education and practice inured to the greatest fatigues ; there are few lame or distorted persons, or beggars, to be met with among them. Their *Mocos* or mule-boys are stout walkers ; some
of

of them have been known to go from Barcelona to Madrid, and back again, in nine days, which by the high road is six hundred miles.

The loss of all their immunities, the ignominious prohibition of every weapon, even a knife, and an enormous load of taxes have not been able to stifle their independent spirit, which breaks out upon the least stretch of arbitrary power ; but within these few years, many of their ancient privileges have been gradually restored ; and this is at present one of the most flourishing provinces of Spain. Their taxation is still very high. All trade is assessed according to the business you are supposed to transact in the course of the year, without regard to your loss or gain. One mode of collecting the revenue is somewhat singular ;—the intendant (who manages all the finances, and besides numberless emoluments and secret profits, receives one third of all seizures of contraband

goods) has a certain number of clerks or apprentices, with a stipend for each allowed by the king. These young men are sent out into the villages to gather the taxes; an operation which they spin out to the utmost, as their profits, and those of their master, are encreased by every delay, the communities being obliged to find them food, lodging, and two pefos a day. When the peasantry of a place proves refractory or dilatory in its payment, an order is given by the treasurer to an officer, who goes with his soldiers to the spot, to receive his own and his regiment's pay, and live at discretion upon the poor wretches until full satisfaction be made.

Amongst other restrictions, the use of flouched hats, white shoes, and large brown cloaks, is forbidden. 'Till of late, they durst not carry any kind of knife; but in each public house there was one chained to the table, for the use of all comers. The
good

good order maintained by the police, and the vigilance of the thieftakers, supply the place of defensive weapons, robberies and murders being seldom heard of ; you may walk the streets of Barcelona at all hours unarmed, without the least apprehension, provided you have a light ; without it you are liable to be carried to prison by the patrol.

The *miñones*, or thieftakers, are men of trust and consideration, and of approved courage ; their dress is that of the *miquelets* or mountaineers, who so cruelly harraressed the French armies in the wars at the beginning of our century. They wear their hair in a net ; a broad silver-laced hat, squeezed flat like those of the English sailors, hung on one side of their head ; an handkerchief loosely tied round the neck ; a short striped waistcoat, and over it a red jacket, with large silver buttons like bells dangling from it ; a blue skirt, bound with
yellow

yellow tape, rolled several times round their waist, in which they carry their knife, handkerchief, &c. Over this jacket they wear two cross belts, one for an ammunition-pouch, the other for their broad sword and pistols; on the left shoulder hangs a blue great coat embroidered with white thread; their breeches are blue and white striped; their stockings, rolled below their knee, and gartered with an enormous buckle, and bunch of black ribbons, reach only down to the ankle, where they tie several rounds of blue fillet very tight, to keep on their packthread sandals, that seem scarce to cover their toes.

The common dress of a Catalonian sailor or muleteer is brown, and the distinctive mark by which they are known in Spain, is a red woollen cap, falling forwards, like that of the ancient Phrygians. The middling sort of people and artificers wear hats and

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dark cloaths, with an half-wide coat carelessly tossed over the shoulders.

The dress of the women is a black silk petticoat over a little hoop, shoes without heels, bare shoulders, and a black veil stiffened out with wire, so as to arch out on each side of the head, something resembling the hooded serpent.

The Catalonians are excellent for light infantry, on the forlorn hope, or for a *coup de main*; but though brave and indefatigable, they are averse to the strictness of regular discipline, unless it be in their own national regiments. They cannot brook the thoughts of being menial servants in their own country, but will rather trudge it all over with a pedlar's pack on their shoulders, or run about upon errands, than be the head domestic in a Catalonian family. Far from home they make excellent servants, and most of the principal houses of Madrid have Catalonians at the head of their affairs.

They

They are the general muleteers and caleffieros of Spain; you meet with them in every part of the kingdom: their honesty, steadiness, and sobriety, entitle them to the confidence of travellers, and their thirst after lucre makes them bear with any hardships. With good words, you will always find them docile, but they cannot bear hard usage or opprobrious language.

Those that remain at home for the labours of the field, are exceedingly industrious. Their corn-harvest is in May or early in June; but, as those crops are liable to frequent burstings and mildews, they have turned their attention more to the vine, which they plant even upon the summits of their most rugged mountains. In many places, they carry up earth to fix the young set in; and in others, have been known to let one another down from the brow of the rock by ropes, rather than suffer a good patch of soil to remain useless.

Their vintages are commonly very plentiful. This autumn, there was such a superabundance of grapes in the valley of Talarn, in the neighbourhood of Pallas, that whole vineyards were left untouched for want of vessels to make or hold the wine in; notice was pasted upon the church-doors, that any one was at liberty to take away what quantity he pleased, on paying a small acknowledgement to the proprietors. The best red wine of Catalonia is made at Mataro, north of Barcelona, and the best white at Sitges, between that city and Tarragona.

The scarcity of corn is sometimes very great, the principality not producing above five months provision. Without the importation from America, Sicily, and the north of Europe, it would run the risk of being famished. From four hundred thousand to six hundred thousand quarters of wheat are annually imported. Canada alone sent this year about eighty thousand quarters.

There

There are public ovens, where the bakers are bound by contract to bake every day into bread one thousand bushels of flour, or more, at a stated price, and, in case the other bakers should refuse to work, they are under the obligation of furnishing the city with bread.

The number of the inhabitants of Barcelona is made to amount to one hundred and fifty thousand souls, and those of Barceloneta to ten thousand; but, although trade and population have increased surprisingly in the course of a few years, I doubt there is some exaggeration in this reckoning.

The great export-commerce consists in wine, brandies, salt, and oil, which are mostly taken in by foreign ships at the little ports and roads along the coast, and not brought to be shipped off at the capital.

There are mines of lead, iron, and coal, in the mountains, but they are ill wrought, and turn to poor account. The manufac-

tures are of more importance. Barcelona supplies Spain with most of the cloathing and arms for the troops. This branch of business is carried on with much intelligence; they can equip a battalion of six hundred men completely in a week.

A great trade is driven in silk handkerchiefs, stockings, &c. in woollens of various qualities; in silk and thread lace; in firearms. The gun-barrels of Barcelona are much esteemed, and cost from four to twenty guineas, but about five is the real value; all above is paid for fancy and ornament: they are made out of the old shoes of mules.* Several manufactures of printed linens are established here, but have not yet arrived at any great elegance of design or liveliness of colour.

* The best Spanish barrels are made at Madrid; the second in goodness come from Biscay; those of Barcelona rank only in the third place.

The imports are, besides corn, about eighty thousand hundred-weight of Newfoundland cod, which pays three pesettas per hundred-weight duty, and sells upon an average at a guinea; beans from Holland, for the poor people, and an inferior sort from Africa, for the mules; salted conger eel from Cornwall and Britany, sold at forty or fifty shillings per quintal; this is an unwholesome, luscious food, which they cook up with garlick and spices: English bale goods, and many foreign articles of necessity or luxury. House-rent and living are dear; provisions but indifferent; the fish is flabby and insipid; the meat poor; but the vegetables are excellent, especially brocoli and cauliflower. I believe their meat and fish are much better in summer than at this season of the year.

The devotion of the Catalonians seems to be pretty much upon a par with that of their neighbours in the southern provinces

of France, and, I am told, much less ardent than we shall find it as we advance into Spain; but they still abound with strange practices of religion and local worship. One very odd idea of theirs is, that on the first of November, the eve of All Souls, they run about from house to house to eat chestnuts, believing that for every chestnut they swallow, with proper faith and unction, they shall deliver a soul out of purgatory.

The influx of foreigners, increase of commerce, and protection granted to the liberal arts, begin to open the understanding of this people, who have made great strides of late towards sense and philosophy.

There are now but one or two churches at most, in each city, that are allowed the privilege of protecting offenders, and murderers are excluded from the benefit of the sanctuary. The proceedings of the Inquisition are grown very mild. If any person leads a scandalous life, or allows his
tongue

tongue unwarrantable liberties, he is summoned by the Holy Office, and privately admonished; in case of non-amendment he is committed to prison. Once a year you must answer to that tribunal for the orthodoxy of your family, and of every servant you have, or they must quit the country; but the foreign protestant houses are passed over unnoticed. Avoid talking on the subject of religion, and with a little discretion you may live here in what manner you please.

Every Jew that lands in Spain must declare himself to be such at the Inquisition; which immediately appoints a familiar to attend him all the time he stays ashore, to whom he pays a pistole a day. Were he to neglect giving this information, he would be liable to be seized. Yet I have been assured by persons of undoubted credit, that a Jew may travel incognito from Perpignan to Lisbon, and sleep every night at the house
of

of a Jew, being recommended from one to another; and that you may take it for granted, that wherever you see a house remarkably decked out with images, relics, and lamps, and the owner noted for being the most enthusiastic devotee of the parish, there it is ten to one but the family are Israelites at heart.

If a stranger is desirous of becoming acquainted with Spain, the manners and disposition of its inhabitants, he must proceed further; for I am told this province bears so little resemblance to the rest of the kingdom, that he will derive no real knowledge on that score from travelling in Catalonia. Here it is not uncommon to hear them talk of a journey into Spain, as they would of one into France; and their language is not understood by the Spaniards, being a dialect of the ancient Limosine tongue, a kind of Gascon.

I cannot close this sketch of the character

of the modern Catalans more properly, than with the epitaph of their countrymen who served under Sertorius, and after the murder of that great man, disdaining to obey another leader, sacrificed themselves to his manes. It is taken from the annals of Catalonia.

* *Hic multæ quæ se manibus
Q. Sertorii Turmæ et Terræ
Mortalium omnium Parenti
devovere dum eo sublato
superesse tæderet et fortiter
pugnando invicem cecidere
Morte ad-præsens optata jacent.
Valete Posterî.*

* Here lie the bones of many companies of soldiers, who devoted themselves to the manes of Q. Sertorius, and to the common mother Earth, as loathing all thoughts of surviving him. Fighting bravely with each other, they fell, and met with the death which they then wished for. Farewell Posterity.

L E T T E R X.

Reus, November 24, 1775.

WE left Barcelona on Sunday the 19th instant. Our first day's journey was very short; the road good, but made upon too expensive a plan to be continued far. The bridge over the Llobregat is grand, but unluckily so placed as never to be seen by travellers in an oblique direction.

We stopped at Cipreret, a neat house in a wild mountainous country, with a few pines scattered about, seldom enough to form a grove, much less a wood. We here for the first time saw a true Spanish kitchen, viz. an hearth raised above the level of the floor under a wide funnel, where a circle of muleteers were huddled together over a few cinders,

Next morning we passed a broad glen or hollow,

hollow, over which they intended to convey the high road in a strait line, by means of a bridge of three rows of arches one above the other. Had they turned a little to the left by a gradual slope, the descent had been trifling, and a single arch sufficient for the passage of the water. This great work has failed, and seems abandoned. I should suspect they built here for the diversion of future antiquaries, not for the use of the present generation, which feels all the weight of the expence, without reaping any benefit from such ill-calculated undertakings. In the present state of things the pass is very dangerous, and further on the road grows worse, in a large forest of pines, where the rocks and gullies render it next to impossible for a carriage to get through without damage. On account of the great number of bridges necessary among these broken hills, and of the obstinacy with which the engineers (whose profits increase

increase by delays and difficulties) persist in carrying the road strait through rocks and torrents, the work advances so slowly, that before a second mile be finished, the first is ruined for want of repairs.

The country at the foot of the mountains is fertile and populous. About Villa Franca de Panades the soil is remarkably light. The husbandmen shovel up the stubble, weeds, and tops of furrows, into small heaps, which they burn, then spread them out upon the ground, and work them in with a plough, which is little more than a great knife fastened to a single stick, that just scratches the surface. In this country all the corn is trod out of the sheaf by means of horses and mules driven backwards and forwards over it on a stone or stucco area.*

In

* In many parts of Spain the grain is separated from the straw by means of horses that draw a plank stuck full

In the evening we passed by torch-light under a Roman arch, which I returned next morning to examine, our inn not being more than a mile beyond it. This arch is almost entire, elegant in its proportions, and simple in its ornaments; the gateway lofty; the entablature is supported on each side by four fluted Corinthian pilasters, All I could read of the inscription was EX TEST; which Flores, in his *Espana fagrada*, makes out to be part of

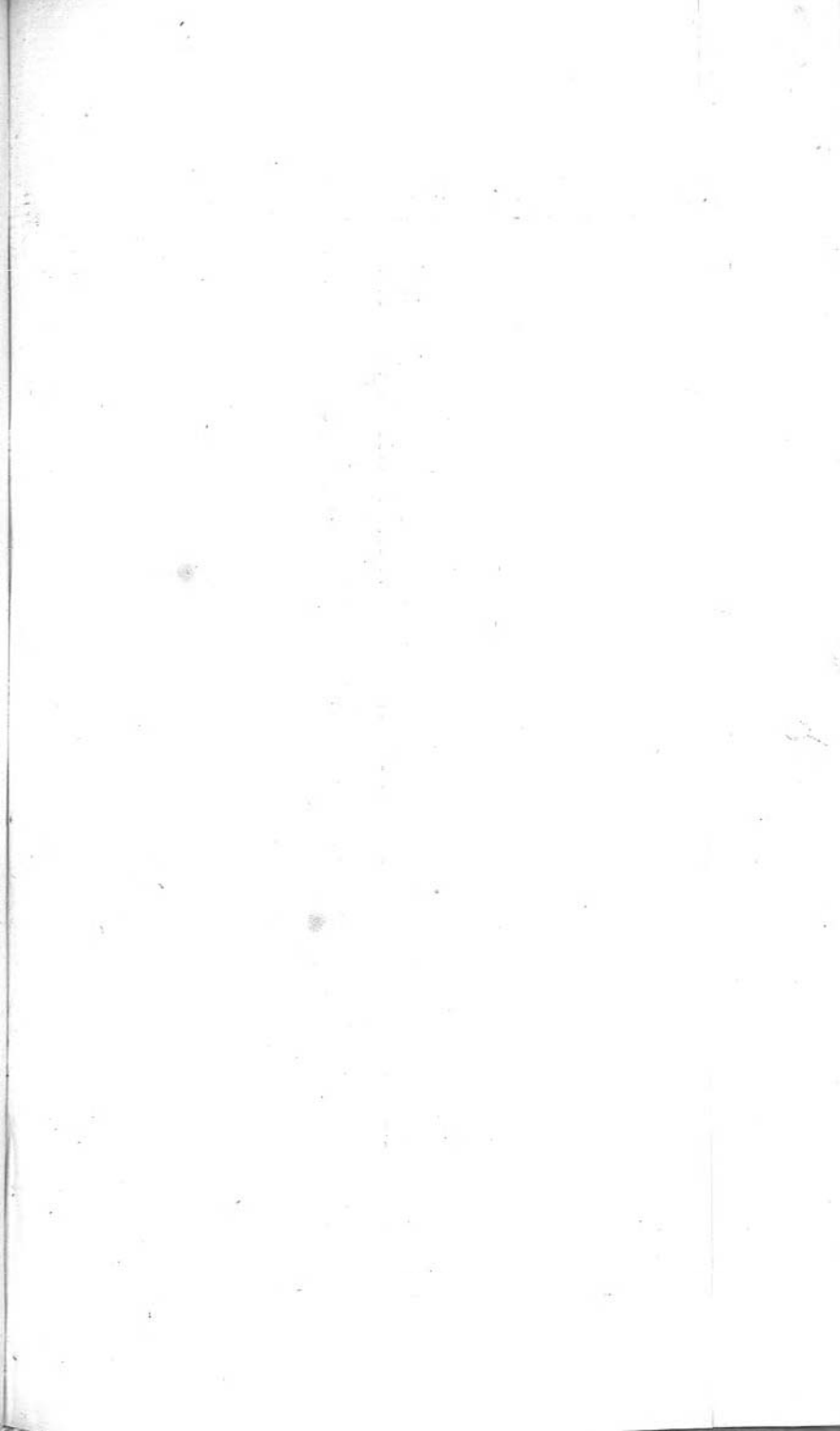
EX TESTAMENTO L. LICINII. L. F. SER-
GII. SURAE CONSECRATUM.

This Licinius was thrice consul under Trajan, and was famous for his extraordinary wealth. No reasonable conjecture has been made why he ordered by his will this monument

full of nails and flints, upon which the driver stands. In Biscay the flail is in use.

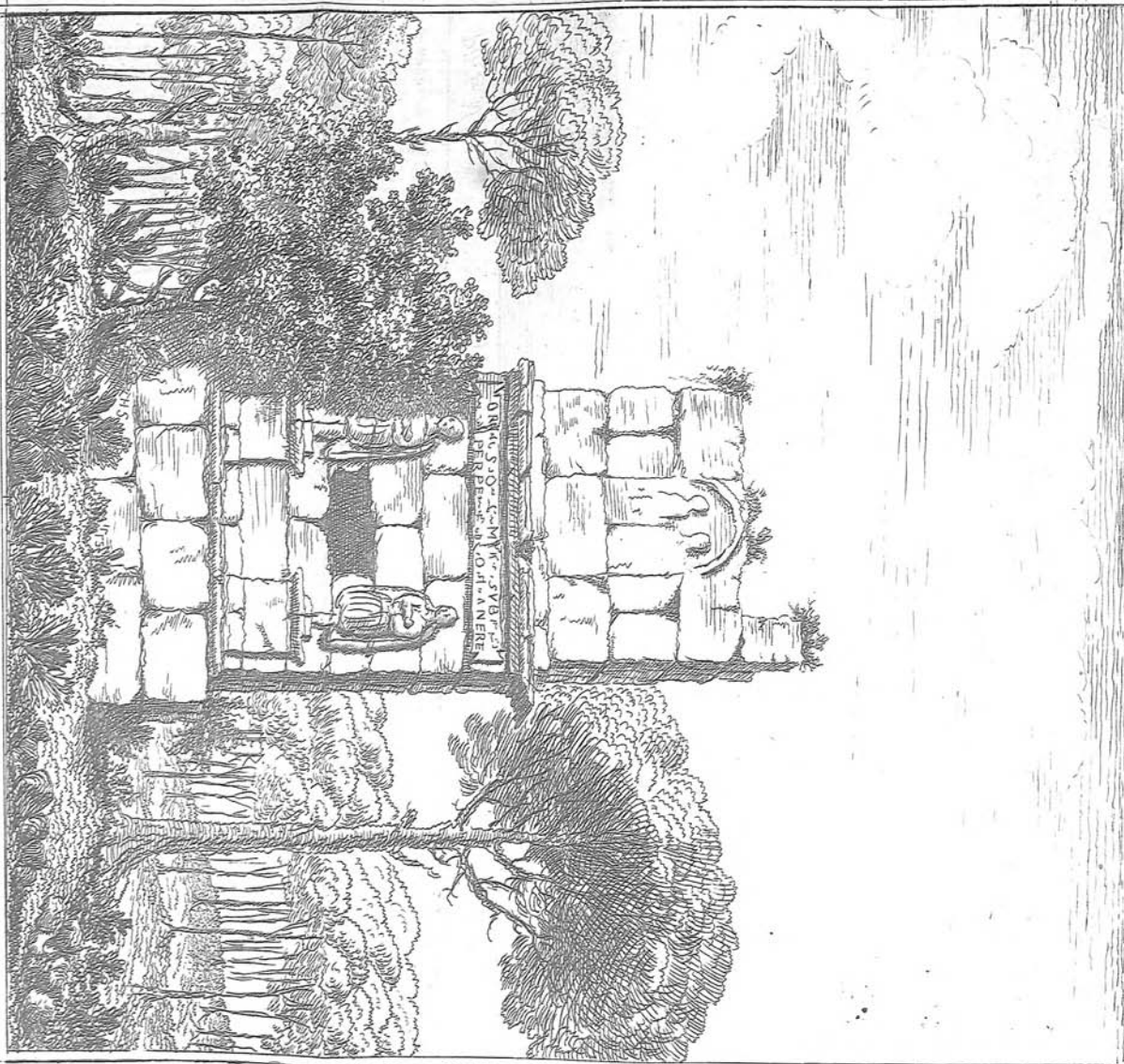
to be erected, or what was the use of it when built. Some think it was the entrance of the Campus Tarraconensis, and that a wall ran from the sea, which is about half a mile distant to the south-east, through the olive-grounds quite up to the hills. There appear some remnants of a wall in that direction, but I won't pretend to say they are of so ancient a date.

The next day was the most delightful of our whole journey. The sun shone out in all his splendor ; the sea was smooth and calm ; the prospect was incessantly varying as we moved on, sometimes along the rich level on the shore, where the bushy heads and glossy leaves of the locust trees, contrasted with the pale green of the olive-woods, made it appear quite a summer scene ; sometimes over gentle eminences, from which we commanded views of numberless bays and promontories, crowned with towers and antique fortifications. The little river Gaya distributes



Place. VI.

TOMB of the SCIPIOs
near Tarragona 1775



butes its waters in stone channels to all parts of the valley, and gives vigour to its productions, which otherwise would be parched up by the drought. Here the tender olive-trees are nursed up in long baskets, till they get out of the reach of goats and other enemies. As we descended the hill of Bara to the beach, Tarragona presented itself to our view, like a ruined fortress, on a round point projecting into the sea; and a little further on we turned off the road to the right, into a wood of pines and shrubs, to visit a monument that tradition has named the tomb of the Scipios. They were the father and uncle of Scipio Africanus, both killed in Spain.

This building is small, being about nineteen feet square and twenty-eight high. In the front, facing the sea, are two statues of warriors in a mournful posture, roughly cut out of the stones of the sepulchre, and much worn away by the sea air. The

inscription is so much defaced, that it is hard to make any thing of it : what remains is as follows :

ORN...TE...EAQVE....L..O...VNVS...VER..BVS-
TVS...I..S..NEGL.VI...VA..FL...BVS..SIBI..
PERPETVO REMANERE.

I think it has been erected by some priest, for himself and family, as the fragments of the last line may be interpreted in that manner. Some take the first word of the first line to have been Cornelius, a name belonging to the Scipios. The top of the monument, which probably ended in a pyramidal form, is fallen off*.

From the heavy sands of the sea-shore, where a great many fishermen were hauling in their nets, we ascended the naked rock of Tarragona. It produces nothing but

* The tomb of Theron, at Girgenti in Sicily, resembles this in form.

the dwarf palm or palmeto. This plant grows among the stones to the height of one or two feet : the leaves are stiff and sharp, spread out like fingers, or the sticks of a fan, and very much resembling the leaves of the date palm. This also produces fruit, and the insipid pith of its root is a favourite eating of the peasants. The leaves make good brooms and ropes, and are a great fattener of cattle.

The ancient Tarraco is now contracted to a very trifling city, that covers only a small portion of the Roman inclosure, and is an ill-built, dirty, depopulated place. Many antiquities have been found, and are still to be seen in the town, and almost all round the walls. A few vestiges remain of the palace of Augustus, and of the great circus : an arch or two of the ampitheatre, and some steps cut in the solid rock, still exist, impending over the sea. About

three miles from the city, is the Puente de Ferriera, an ancient aqueduct, which we did not go to see, not having heard of it till we had passed too far on to turn back. Father Flores has given a plate of it. The cathedral, dedicated to Saint Thecla, is ugly, but the new chapel of that tutelar saint is beautiful. The inside is cased with yellow and brown marbles, dug up in the very center of the town, and ornamented with white foliages and bas-reliefs. The architecture is accounted heavy, but I confess I did not think that fault very glaring. The whole together has a very pleasing effect.

In Queen Anne's war, the English were in possession of this post, and intended to keep and fortify it, by bringing the river Francolis quite round it. For this purpose they threw up vast outworks and redoubts, of which the ruins are yet very visible. Having secured Minorca and Gibraltar, they
renounced

renounced the project of fixing a garrison in Tarragona.

From this city we descended into the Campo Tarragones, a plain of about nine miles diameter, one of the most fruitful spots in Europe : there is not an uncultivated part in the whole extent. The abundance and excellence of its productions have induced all the foreign houses settled in Barcelona to establish agents and factors at Reus, the principal town, pretty near the center of the plain.

Here we have again been loaded with civilities by our friends, and detained some days in feasts and amusements. Indeed the crazy vehicle our servants travel in, contributed much toward the facility with which we yielded to their entreaties ; for about an hundred yards before we reached this place, both its shafts snapped in two, so that very little, except the hind wheels and some braces, now remains of the original car-

riage that left Pascal's coach-house, in the Rue Guenegaud, at Paris.

It has blown for three days a most bitter north wind; the frost is pinching and the ice thick, but no kind of vegetation seems affected by it, and the sun shines out burning hot every day.

Reus increases daily in size and population; the number of its inhabitants has within these fifteen years risen above two thirds, and now amounts to twenty thousand souls. The suburbs are already twice as large as the old town. They have begun to build a very pretty theatre, and have engaged a company of comedians.

Wines and brandies are the staple commodities of Reus: of the former, the best for drinking are produced on the hills belonging to the Carthusians; those of the plain are fittest for burning. The annual exports are about twenty thousand pipes of brandy, all very pale, but afterwards, by mixtures

mixtures in Guernsey and Holland, brought to the proper colour for our market. There are four degrees of proof or strength—common, oil, Holland, and spirit. Brandy of common proof froths in the glass in pouring out, and remains so. Oil proof is when oil sinks in the brandy. Five pipes of wine make one of strong brandy, and four make one of weak. The king's duty is ten pesettas a pipe on the high proofs, and twelve on the low: the town dues come to three fols, and both duties are paid by the exporter. This branch of trade employs about one thousand stills in the Campo, of which number the town contains an hundred and fifty. It is all carried in carts, at half a crown a pipe, down to *Saló*, an open but safe road five miles off. Here it is left on the beach till it pleases the Catalonian failors to float it off to the ships: as they are paid by the year, they only work when they choose, and in fair pleasant wea-

ther. Nuts are likewise an article of exportation, upwards of sixty thousand bushels from the woods at the foot of the west mountains having been shipped off last year. Every thing here wears the face of business, but it is greatly at the expence of the inland villages, many of which are left almost destitute of inhabitants.

L E T T E R X I.

Nules, November 29, 1775.

YOU will not find upon the common maps the name of the place I date this from, though it is a considerable town, inclosed with walls and towers *alla morisca*, with two handsome suburbs. This is all I can tell you of it, as we are just arrived by moon-light. I am now melting with heat, and sitting close to the window for air, but I fear the twanging of a wretched guitar

guitar

guitar will soon drive me away. How wonderfully fortunate we have been in the weather! not a drop of rain on the road from Perpignan hither, and we are to reach Valencia tomorrow.

Last Saturday we took an affectionate leave of our friends, and left Reus loaded with provisions of all sorts. The road through the plain hollow and bad, the view confined on every side by groves of locust and olive trees, till we entered the desert near the sea-shore, at a ruined tower called the *Casa yerma*. In the afternoon we came through a rocky pass under the fort of Balaguer, lately built to command the defile and the coast. The evening journey lay among bleak uncomfortable hills, covered with low shrubs, where nothing but the prospect of the sea, and watch-towers placed as beacons along the shore, afforded the least variety; the road most abominably rough and trying for carriages. The approach of night, and
the

the danger of venturing in such broken ways in the dark, obliged us to stop at the Venta del Platero, a hovel that *beggars all description*; so superlatively wretched, that I thought an exact drawing of its outward appearance would be a real curiosity. We were lodged in part of a ground-floor, the remainder of which was occupied by the mules and pigs; the servants slept in the carriages. A pool of water behind the house, and above the level of our floor, made our apartment so damp, that the next morning our cloaths might have been wrung. Thanks to the wholesomeness of the climate, we felt no bad effects from it. Several companies of fishermen, that hawk their fish about these scattered cottages, kept all night a perpetual knocking at the gate of our court, and brought to my mind very lively ideas of the enchanted castles of Don Quixote.

As soon as it was light we left our inn,
and

and found the waste grow more and more barren. The steepness and roughness of the descents made the road excessively jolting and dangerous; the chaises cracked and groaned, and we either rode on horseback, or walked, all the way. Torrents that rush from the adjoining ridge of mountains, after every heavy shower, have swept away all bridges and causeways, and washed the road to the very rock. We passed through Parillo, a small village, which is the usual baiting-place, and seems, by the ruins near it, to have been formerly a place of greater consequence than it is at present.

In a few hours we emerged from this desert, which is at least ten leagues long. In some places it produces locust and olive trees, which, when the underwood is cleared away, and the earth moved about the roots, become productive of good fruit. A little turn of the road to the west brought us in sight of the mouth of the Ebro, which
appears

appears to waste itself before it reaches the sea, by running through various channels, in a tract of flat lands containing near one hundred thousand acres. This land is very capable of improvement, and the ministry have actually before them a plan for draining these grounds, and properly distributing the waste water for the purposes of cultivation. There are two good harbours at the mouth of the river, which is navigable for vessels of fifty tons, up as far as Tortosa, and for small craft much higher, into the kingdom of Arragon. The waters of the Ebro, though muddy, are constantly drunk by the inhabitants; the slime they leave after great floods is esteemed as beneficial to the lands they overflow as those of the Nile are to Egypt. The rich narrow vale along the banks is laid out in corn-fields and mulberry plantations. An amphitheatre of bleak gloomy mountains shuts up the valley to the west, where the river makes its way
through

through a narrow breach in the vast chain of rocks. Just before we entered Tortosa, we met the Bishop of that see, clad in the plain simple manner of the inferior clergy of the province. His lank black hair was cut close to his ears, and covered by a great hat, squeezed up on each side into the form of a boat. The order of bishops in this kingdom leads a very exemplary life, much retired from the world, expending their great revenues in feeding the poor, building and endowing churches, convents, and hospitals, and allowing very scantily for their own expences. Their charity, however laudable as to the intention, is certainly most prejudicial to the public welfare, as it encourages beggary and idleness; for who will work in a country where he is sure of a good dinner every day at the gates of a monastery or palace, besides the chance of occasional alms; and where the softness of the climate renders cloaths and lodging objects

objects of luxury rather than of prime necessity? Perhaps it would be better for Spain, were its prelates as extravagant as those of France, as their wealth would then be divided among the industrious and honest, and not lavished to support the existence of the idle, and often of the profligate. In spite of so good an example, the inferior clergy, and above all the monks, (one or two orders excepted) are notorious for the looseness of their morals. The bishopric of Tortosa is worth about thirty thousand dollars a year.

A little further on we came to a liquorice-work, carried on by an Englishman. The liquorice plant grows in great plenty on all the low grounds near the river. He employs above an hundred hands in gathering it, and about fifteen at constant work in the mills. He pays a certain sum to the proprietors of those lands; yet such is their envy, that this season they would not suffer him

him to pluck a single stick, though the loss falls upon themselves, and the very extraction of the root brings the ground almost to a state of cultivation. This conspiracy obliged him to send up into Arragon for liquorice, at a great additional expence. Much of it also is found about Villanova, and other places along the coast. Four hundred tons of root make fifty of cake, which in England sells at about three pounds fifteen shillings per hundred weight: this year he expects to export about that quantity.

Tortosa is an ugly town on the declivity of a hill, north of the Ebro, over which there is a bridge of boats. Its commerce in silk and corn is but at a low ebb. We purchased of some nuns the most delicate silk gloves I ever beheld, made of what they call the flower of silk.

We next traversed the rich vale of Garena, where the olive-trees grow to a
great

great size, their luxuriant branches not being so closely pollarded as in France. Here the peasants wear the Valencian dress, which differs totally from that of Catalonia; a monstrous flouched hat, cropt hair without a net, a short brown jacket, white waistcoat and trowsers, stockings gartered below the knee, and packthread sandals.

At the passage of the Cenia, a pretty brook in winter, but dry in summer, we entered the kingdom of Valencia. After crossing a large tract of heath, we came to the sea-shore, which is beautifully planted to the water-edge with olive, mulberry, fig, and locust trees. We found a rich red soil, and vineyards neatly trimmed in rows, without stakes, in the district of Benicarlo, a small place entirely supported by the trade. Eight thousand pipes of a very strong, sweet, red wine, bought in the country at the rate of five guineas per pipe, are annually shipped in this road for Holland, Germany,

Germany, and Bourdeaux, where they are mixed with the second-rate claret, to give it colour and body. The wine for Bourdeaux is conveyed along the coast to Cette, on board Spanish barks, which are exempt from all duties on exportation. By reason of their apprehensions of Moorish corsairs, and the chance of bad weather, they come to an anchor every night, and commonly make it a voyage of a month at least. At Cette these wines are put upon the great canal of Languedoc, and smuggled into Bourdeaux as high-country wines; for foreign ones are not allowed to be entered at that port. A society of mariners float all the casks from Benicarlo to the ships, and, from the time of their taking charge of them, become answerable for all losses by weather or mismanagement. A good deal of wine goes likewise from Vinaros, a neighbouring town to the north; but the quality of that wine is much inferior to



those of Benicarlo and Peniseola, a town and fort situated south of Benicarlo, on a rock in the sea, where the famous antipope, Peter de Luna, took refuge.

In this plain they suffer much for want of water; the vintage is frequently diminished by the excessive heats, which dry up all the springs. It was once in agitation to bring a canal from the Ebro to water this country, but the project ended in smoke, like several others proposed for the melioration of many parts of Spain. Wherever they can procure water from wells, by means of a wheel turned by a mule, they have fine vegetables all the year. They cut lucerne every week in spring, and every fortnight in winter, and mix it with the sweet bean of the locust, for the provender of their mules. Provisions are very scarce here, no kind of meat being killed, except kid. In spring, goats milk is plentiful; but the peasants in the adjacent
moun-

mountains live most part of the year upon the roasted acorns of the ever-green oak, a food which we found surprisngly favoury and palatable, but not very nourishing. The gentlemen, proprietors of vineyards, reside up in the mountain villages, in a poor style, always distressed for money, notwithstanding the sure and ready sale of their wines. The sea hereabouts is full of sharks.

From Benicarlo we had much stony road, alternately skirting the shore, or climbing up wild rocky hills. Few vales surpass in beauty that of Margal, a noble plain, full of trees, villages, and towns. The sea forms a picturesque bay before it, and the mountains run behind in a vast semicircle. The locust and olive trees are old and branchy, the soil deep, and the grounds fertile, as being well drenched with water. We dined at Castillon de la Llana, the largest and best built town in our route. The women are very ugly, and render

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them-

themselves still more uncomely, by frizzling their hair all round the forehead, and twisting it on the crown of the head round a nasty brafs bodkin. Villa Real is another large town, near the Mijares, a river of a green colour, in a large plain.

The moment we entered this petty kingdom of Valencia, we began to feel a sensible change in the climate: the days are troublefomely hot, the nights soft and mild, like our fine summer evenings. Early and late in the day I walk an hour or two, to enjoy the sweetness of the morning and evening breeze, and contemplate at leisure the enchanting prospects along the calm Mediterranean. The numberless creeks and bays, the bold promontories, with each its slender tower, of various shapes and dimensions, the green woody vales, with rocks impending over them, are scenes that can seldom be met with, and never outdone in any country, and such as no description

scription of mine can do justice to. But, as all human pleasure is allayed with some mixture of pain and distress, these charming coasts are not without their calamities; till lately, they were cruelly infested by the Barbary rovers, who frequently cut barks out of their roads, and carried off whole families from the small villages. At present Barcelò keeps so sharp a look-out, that their appearance is less frequent in these seas. The scarcity of water is another misfortune, and severely felt almost every summer. Of the innumerable beds of rivers and torrents that we have crossed between Barcelona and Nules, six only have any water in them, viz. the Llobregat, Gaya, Francolis, Ebro, Cenia, and Mijares: two of these are dry during the hot weather. Hereabouts the little canals from the hills supply the lands with a greater plenty of water.

All these nights past we have heard the people singing doleful ditties under our

windows, to the found of a guitar, which they strike with their nails, without any notion of air, but merely as a kind of an accompaniment, sometimes high, sometimes low, but very coarse and monotonous. I can compare their music to nothing so well as to the beating of a frying-pan, to call down a swarm of bees.

LETTER XII.

Valencia, November 30, 1775.

THIS morning, like many of the foregoing ones, was delicious: the sun rose gloriously out of the sea, and the air all around was perfumed with the effluvia of the aloe, as its rays sucked up the dew from the leaves.

From an eminence we had a noble view of the valley of Almenara, a kind of land bay,

bay, furrounded by lofty mountains, and adorned with fix pretty towns, rifing out of the bofom of a forest of dark and light greens, varied in a multitude of tints. The long range of turrets upon the hill of Murviedro (once the too faithful Saguntum) juts out towards the fea, from the chain of mountains that runs parallel with the coaft, and divides the vale of Almenara from that of Valencia.

We halted at Murviedro, to view the ruins of fo celebrated a city, and to take drawings of its moft remarkable remains. The prefent town is very confiderable, and feems to ftand upon the fame ground as the ancient Roman city, but in all probability the Saguntum which was deftroyed by Hannibal was built upon the fummit of the hill. That the Romans alfo had a fortrefs on the top, is clear, from the large ftones and regular mafonry, upon

which the Saracens afterwards erected their castle.

Half way up the rock are the ruins of the theatre, in sufficient preservation to give a tolerable idea of its size and distribution. It is an exact semicircle, about eighty-two yards diameter from outside to outside ; the length of the orchestra, or inner diameter, twenty-four : the seats for the audience, the staircases, and passages of communication, the vomitoria, and arched porticoes, are still easy to trace. The back part rests against the hill, and some of the galleries are cut out of the rock. Two walls going off at an angle serve to turn off the rain-water that washes down from the cliff behind. As the spectators faced the north and east, and were sheltered from the west and south, nothing could be more agreeable in this climate than such a place of entertainment ; open to every pleasant and salubrious breeze, and defended from all winds
that

that might bring with them heat or noxious vapours. It is computed that nine thousand persons might assist without inconvenience at the exhibitions in this theatre. I passed some time in taking an oblique drawing of the present appearance of the ruins ; but, in spite of all my attention, I found it a very difficult task, the heaps of rubbish, broken porticoes, and vaults, and remnants of walls, creating such a perplexity, that my eye could scarcely distinguish the proper form and situation of each object. The silence that reigns in this august ruin, which anciently resounded with the applauses of proconsuls, and Roman citizens, is now broken only by the *seguidillas* of a few rope-makers, who have patched up a straw shed against the stage, and spin out their work across the *proscenium*, regardless of the surrounding scenery*.

From

* In the Latin Letters of Em. Marti, dean of Alicant,

From the theatre we climbed up to the summit of the mountain, which is about half a mile in length, and not a tenth part as wide; quite a narrow ridge, covered with

cant, written about the year 1720, is a long and learned dissertation on this theatre. He gives the following measures:—Perimeter of the semicircle, 564 palmos; diameter, 330; diameter of the orchestra, 94; height from the orchestra to the top of the highest wall remaining, $144\frac{1}{2}$; breadth of the upper portico, $15\frac{1}{2}$; height, $12\frac{3}{4}$; distance of the pulpitum from the orchestra, 12; height of the pulpitum, $6\frac{1}{4}$; distance from the orchestra to the scena, 28; breadth of the proscenium, 12; breadth of the pulpitum, $16\frac{1}{2}$. The palmo he uses contains about nine English inches. He adds, that great part of this theatre is still entire; and that we should see it in a much more perfect state, if the barbarous hands of the Morviedrese had spared it as much as time has done; for they have purposely destroyed this ancient monument, by wrenching off all the casing stones for the purposes of building convents. There is no doubt

with ruins and Moorish bulwarks. A few uninteresting inscriptions, two mutilated statues, the vestiges of the floor of a temple, and some Roman arches thrown over a large cistern, are all the antiquities we found. One of the inscriptions is placed topsy-turvy over a gate. The fortifications divide the hill into several courts, with double and triple walls, erected upon huge masses of rock, laid in regular courses, by the Romans. The characteristics of the Moorish military architecture are—A wall built by means of square forms of wood, into which a mortar, composed of pebbles mixed with a strong cement, is run, and left a certain time to harden ; then the boards are taken away,

doubt but they intended to demolish the whole, if the obstinate hardness of the cement had not wearied them out. Marti extorted from the magistrates a public decree, infictive of severe penalties on all such as should injure it in any manner whatsoever.

but

but the marks remain, and give the wall an appearance of regular masonry; battlements perpendicularly placed on the wall, not projecting over, nor with borders round, as in the Norman and Gothic castles, where the hollows behind the battlements served to throw stones and combustibles through, as the enemy approached to scale them. A gateway turned in an arch, neither pointed like what we call Gothic, nor semicircular like the Grecian; but one, the parts of which resting upon the imposts, come much farther in towards each other, and form the figure of a horseshoe. Sometimes, but very seldom, the Moors employed stones of a large size, and more regular cut; and some few of their arches may be found that are sharp like the Gothic; but I suspect them to be of the latter times of the Moorish empire in Spain.

What was wanting in interesting antiquities in the castle, was amply made up

te us in prospect, which was so surprisngly fine, that I dare hardly attempt to specify its beauties, lest you should think me too easily enraptured, or too unequal to the task of imparting to others the sensations it raised in me. This last accusation I plead guilty to, for no pen can convey an adequate idea of this view, and few painters ever possessed that richness of touch, and clearness of manner, such a subject would require. The vale of Almenara, on the north, is so delightful, that from any other station it would have engrossed all our attention; but we soon neglected its beauties, and, gliding rapidly over the immense volume of sea stretched out before us to the eastward, where the sun beams played in full force, we fixed our eyes on the almost boundless plain of Valencia, that lay to the south. It is four leagues in breadth from the sea to the hills, in the widest part, and in length five times that extent, losing itself
in

in a ridge of distant mountains. The yellow green of the mulberry plantations, and the paler hue of the olive-trees, regularly planted in fields of bright green corn; that regularity now and then broken by large plots of dark-coloured locust-trees; villages and convents, thick scattered over this great expanse, with numberless gay slender steeples; the city of Valencia, about twelve miles off, with all its spires: these objects, united, form the most inimitable landscape it is possible to conceive. The day was so clear, the air so pure, as to add infinitely to the charms of the prospect. Hannibal is a great favourite of mine, but I cannot forgive him for having dealt so hardly by so sweet a place: had he come upon this hill in such a day as this, the softness of the air, and beauty of the view, would have melted the obduracy of his heart, and opened it to pity and forgiveness.

From

From hence to Valencia is one perfect garden, so thick of trees, that there is no seeing at any distance on either side. Villages and monasteries every hundred yards, and such crowds of people on the road, as I scarce ever saw but in the neighbourhood of London. All the grounds are divided into small compartments by water-channels, the work of the Moors, who understood the art of watering land in the utmost perfection. The ruinous state these drains are now in, proves the indolence and inferiority of the present proprietors ; what little skill they still shew in agriculture is nothing but the traditional remains of the instructions left by their masters in husbandry, the Arabians. Our pleasurable ideas were a little ruffled by the sight of some hundreds of women in the villages, sitting in the sun lousing each other, or their husbands and children. When a young woman condescends to seek for lice

in a man's head, it is supposed that the last favours have been granted by the fair one, or at least that he may have them for asking.

Valencia is situated in so dead and woody a flat, that we were in the suburbs before we thought ourselves near it, and, having made half the round of the walls, came to an inn on the Alicant road, as it was late, and we did not choose to be detained at the gates by the custom-house officers.

L E T T E R XIII.

Valencia, December 3, 1775.

OUR first morning here passed very strangely, in a visit to the old intendant of the province, to whom we brought a letter of recommendation from his *confrere*

frere of Catalonia. The old usurer, whose figure resembles that of the bandy-legged apothecary in Hogarth's *Marriage à la mode*, received us very ungraciously, took our letter and flung it on the table, without saying a word to us, or even offering us a seat. Having waited some time, we began to look at each other and laugh. Upon this the intendant looked up, and asked me if we were not Catalonians? No, replied I, we are English gentlemen upon our travels. This answer produced a wonderful effect. Oh, oh, you come from a better country: Can I be of any service to you? Bring these gentlemen chairs. Do you choose to take any refreshment? said he, pulling off his hat with great reverence, and making us a most profound bow. We asked him for the only thing we stood in need of, a protection against the people of the custom-houses, who, though they do not meddle with your baggage, pester you at every

gate for something to drink, or buy tobacco with. The intendant's character is very little respected, nor indeed does it deserve the love or esteem of the Valencians, if the traits they relate be true. Many are the stories they tell of his avarice and hardness of heart ; but one will suffice to set him in his proper light. Not long ago he was confined to his bed by a severe fit of illness, and positive orders were given, that he should not be disturbed by applications, petitions, or any thing appertaining to his employment. It so happened that a tradesman, who had been taken up for smuggling, and kept in prison for some weeks, was discovered to be perfectly innocent of the crime laid to his charge. One of the magistrates thought, that for so just a cause as that of restoring an honest man to his liberty, and to his distressed and indigent family, whose very existence depended upon his industry, he might venture to break through the in-
 junction

junction of the intendant, and accordingly procured admittance, and presented the proper paper requisite to be signed, before the jailor could deliver up his prisoner. As soon as the old rogue understood the purport of the visit, he flew into a most violent rage, and obstinately refused to sign. Another officer, seeing the door open, took that opportunity of handing up an order for the commitment of a fellow that had been detected in illicit practices. The intendant no sooner read it, than he called for a pen, and set his hand to it with great pleasure, at the same time persisting in his refusal to comply with the first request.

We shall leave Valencia to-morrow, being heartily tired of our quarters. The climate is mild and pleasant, but there is something faintish and enervating in the air. Every thing we eat is insipid, and void of substance; the greens, wine, and meat, seem the artificial forced productions of continual

waterings and hot-beds. It puts me in mind of the *Isle frivole* of the Abbé Coyer, where things were so feeble and unsubstantial, that they were little better than the shadows of what they are in other countries. Here a man may labour for an hour at a piece of mutton, and, when he has tired his jaws, find he has been only chewing the *idea* of a dinner. The meat, as soon as cut into, yields abundance of gravy, and may be said to bleed a second time to death, for nothing remains but a mere withered *caput mortuum*, as our servants know by woful experience. Vegetables, with the finest outward shew imaginable, taste of nothing but water. This watery quality seems also to infect the bodies and minds of the Valencians: they are largely built, and personable men, but flabby and inanimate. We have seen no women out at work in the fields; but this may proceed from their constant employment within doors, as much

as from any remnants of the Moorish jealousy, though the Valencians still retain much of the features and manners of their old Saracen masters. To this day the farmers won't allow their wives to sit at table, but make them stand at their elbow and wait upon them. The Castillians and Catalonians hold the Valencians in sovereign contempt, and stigmatize them with many opprobrious appellations, dictated, as we must in charity suppose, by the rancour of national antipathy. The inhabitants of this province are said to have more of the filth, and sullen, unpolished manners of the old Spaniards, and to have adopted less of foreign improvements in civilization, than most other parts of Spain. They strut about all day in *redicillas*, or nets, monstrous hats, and dark brown cloaks, which give the crowd in the streets, the appearance of a funeral procession. Scarce any society is kept up amongst them, though the salubrity

of the climate, and reasons of œconomy, induce several very considerable families to make this city the place of their abode. In some strange way or other they spend very large incomes, without doing themselves the least credit. Their chief expence lies in servants, mules, and equipages; low, obscure amours often consume the best part of their fortunes; and they live in so pitiful a manner, that most part of them send out to the wine-vault for a pint of wine to their meals.

This city is large, and almost circular; its lofty walls have towers remaining in one quarter; the rest have been demolished: a fine broad road goes quite round: the two suburbs are considerable. Several large, clumsy bridges cross the bed where the river should run; but either from drought, or from the many bleedings it undergoes above, for the purpose of watering the fields, there is scarce water enough in the

Guadaviar.

Guadaviar to wash a handkerchief; but in rainy seasons the floods are very tremendous. The captain-general resides in the suburbs, in an uncouth Gothic palace, at the entrance of the *Alameda*, a long double avenue of poplars, cypresses, and palms, where, on great festivals, the nobility take the air in their coaches. About a mile below is the *Grao*, or port of Valencia, which, properly speaking, is only an open road, the mole having been long ago swept away by some violent storm. The dusty highway from the city hither is the fashionable drive; and, for the accommodation of such as have no carriages of their own, several single-horse chairs wait at all hours at the gates. This vehicle is very uneasy, and open to all weathers; but the horses are excellent, and run along like lightning. The driver sits sideways at your feet, and all the way keeps chattering to the horse, and patting him on the buttock. Having

occasion one day for a coach to carry us about, the stable-boy of our inn offered his services, and in a quarter of an hour brought to the door a coach and four fine mules, with two postillions and a lacquey, all in flaming liveries : we found out they belonged to a countess, who, like the rest of the nobility, allows her coachman to let out her equipage when she has no occasion for it ; it cost us about nine shillings, which no doubt was the perquisite of the servants.

The streets of Valencia are crooked and narrow ; not being paved, they are full of dust in dry weather, and in wet knee-deep in mud. The reason alleged for this scandalous neglect is, that by these means a greater quantity of manure is produced, which, in a plain so full of gardens, is of inestimable value. Various and over-powering are the stinks that rise up in every corner ; in which respect, as well as in many others, this country resembles Lombardy.

The

The houses are filthy, ill-built, and ruinous; most of the churches tawdry, and loaded with barbarous ornaments both without and within: the most agreeable architecture I met with, is in the church of the *Escuelas pías*, and of *nuestra Señora de los Desamparados*, both rotundas. In the multitude of sacred edifices, some may be found that excel in particular parts; as, one may please the eye by the just proportions of its dimensions, another strike by the richness of its marbles and paintings; but in all, the judicious observer will be disgusted with loads of garlands, pyramids, broken pediments, and monstrous cornices; a taste too gothic and trifling for any thing but the front of a mountebank's booth, or a puppet shew in a fair. Some churches have domes, but the greater part tall slender turrets, painted and bedecked with all sorts of pilasters and whimsical devices: every thing is gilt and bedaubed with incredible profusion; the Spaniards understand the gilder's business

business perfectly, and the purity of their gold, with the dryness of the climate, preserves their work for years in its primitive lustre. The convent of the Franciscan friars has something very grand and pleasing in its double court, which is divided by a light wing, upon an open portico, with fountains playing in each division.

The cathedral is a large gothic pile; its archbishopric one of the best in Spain, said to bring in about forty thousand pounds sterling a year, paid in cash into the hands of two receivers. The revenues of Toledo are much greater, but also more troublesome to collect, and more precarious, as being paid in kind, and requiring a great number of bailiffs and servants. The present archbishop of Valencia, as well as the last one, is the son of a peasant; the ruling passion of both has been convent building: the late prelate built and endowed a magnificent habitation for the Franciscans, the
champions

champions of the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary; the present archbishop, whose scholastic tenets are diametrically opposed to those of his predecessor, has done as much for the fathers of the *Escuelas pias*.

Priests, nuns, and friars, of every dress and denomination, swarm in this city, where some convents have more than an hundred monks, all richly provided for.

Among the profane buildings, many of which are prettily set off with painted architecture, after the Italian manner, the palaces of *Dofaguas* and *Jura real* deserve the most notice; the former for its statues and fresco paintings, the latter for the elegant simplicity of its front.

The *Lonja*, or exchange, is a very noble gothic hall, built about the latter end of the fifteenth century, with all the beauty and richness that style is susceptible of.

The custom-house, where the intendant
and

and other officers of the revenue are lodged, is a new large edifice in a great square, a very clumsy mass of brick and stone.

This kingdom and city were conquered by the Moors under Abdallah Ciz, and lost by them in 1094, when the famous Cid Ruy dias de Vivar, taking advantage of the confusion and civil war that raged in Valencia after the murder of Sultan Hiaya, made himself master of the city by storm, at the head of a chosen band of valiant knights. This was the last exploit of that hero, so long the terror of the musfulmen. A few years after his death, the king of Castille, finding it too far distant from his other dominions to be conveniently succoured in case of a sudden attack, thought proper to withdraw his troops, and suffer the Moors to repossess themselves of it. It was again taken from them by James the First, king of Arragon, in the year 1238, and for ever united to that crown, the fate

of which it has ever since followed through all its various revolutions. In the beginning of the reign of Charles the Fifth, this province was distracted by civil commotions and struggles between the nobility and commons.

Since the last conquest, Valencia has been much enlarged; for the gate through which the Cid made his triumphal entry, is now very near the center of the town.

The number of inhabitants is computed at one hundred thousand; but, to speak more exactly, according to the last authentic enumeration, made in 1768, which allows four persons to each *vecino*, at twenty thousand vecinos, or fathers of families; which makes the number to be eighty thousand inhabitants. The population of the whole kingdom of Valencia amounts to one hundred and seventy-nine thousand two hundred and twenty-one vecinos, or seven hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and

and eighty-four souls, resident in five hundred and seventy towns and villages. The manufactures of silk are the cause of a population that may be reckoned considerable, if compared to that of other provinces of Spain. The produce of this article came this year to one million of pounds, but one year with another the average quantity is about nine hundred thousand pounds, worth a doubloon a pound in the country. The crop of silk this last season was very abundant. Government has prohibited the exportation of Valencian raw silk, in order to lay in a stock to keep the artificers constantly employed in bad years; for it has happened in some, that half the workmen have been laid idle for want of materials. As they are not so strict about Murcian silk, which is of an inferior quality, I am told that some from Valencia is sent out of Spain under that denomination. The great nurseries of mulberry-plants, in this plain,

plain, are produced from seed, obtained by rubbing a rope of *esparto* over heaps of ripe mulberries, and then burying the rope two inches under ground. As the young plants come up, they are drawn and transplanted. The trees, which are all of the white kind, are afterwards set out in rows in the fields, and pruned every second year. In Murcia, only every third year, and in Granada never. The Granadine silk is esteemed the best of all; and the trees are all of the black sort of mulberry.

The fruit exported from Valencia to the north of Europe may be estimated, *communibus annis*, at two millions of pesos, about three hundred and thirty-four thousand pounds.

The annual crop of hemp may be worth three hundred thousand pesos, at three pesos per *arroba*.

One hundred and forty thousand loads
of

of rice, at ten pesos a load, make one million four hundred thousand pesos.

The vintage of 1767 produced four million three hundred and nine thousand measures of wine, which, at three reals a measure, come to about eight hundred and sixty-one thousand one hundred and thirty-three pesos.

There is also much cotton made in this province, from the cotton-plant, which rises to the height of three feet at most, and very much resembles the raspberry bush. They make in good years four hundred and fifty thousand arrobas, worth one million three hundred and fifty thousand pesos, and in middling years two hundred and eighty-five thousand six hundred arrobas.

Notwithstanding all this abundance, nothing can be more wretched than the Valencian peasantry, who can with difficulty procure food to keep their families from starving.

We were last night at the play, which gave us no very respectable opinion of the taste and politeness of a Valencian audience. The house was low, dark, and dirty; the actors execrable; and the pit full of men in cloaks and night-caps, driving such puffs of tobacco out of their *cigarros*, as filled the whole room with smoke, and at last forced us to make a precipitate retreat. We there met with our old acquaintance the duke of C. P. who a few months ago came post from France, to embark for the expedition against Algiers. When he arrived at Valencia, he found the fleet was failed, and an order sent for him to remain in exile here. The derangement of his finances, and some amorous connections, have procured him this order from court. His fate is truly ludicrous, but he did not drop the least hint to us of this unkind return for his patriotic spirit, and eagerness to serve the king.

L E T T E R XIV.

Alicant, December 8, 1775.

WE fet out early on Monday morning, without regretting in the least the rich gardens or brilliant sky of Valencia, which would be an admirable last retreat for our consumptive countrymen, were the approach by sea or land less difficult.

We travelled that day in a plain, as fertile as nature and frequent waterings can render it. At some miles distance from the city the soil is a red, sandy loam near the Albufera, a lake about four leagues long, which is very shallow, and communicates with the sea only as often as the sluices are opened to let in a supply of water in dry seasons, or to give vent to the overcharge of water brought down in winter by the
land

land floods. On the edge of it are salt-pans. It supplies the city with fish and water-fowl. Once or twice in a season all the shooters in the country assemble upon it in boats, and make prodigious havock among the flocks of birds, that almost cover the surface of the pond. Sometimes they meet with flamingos here.

Before we arrived at Alzira, a large town in an island of the Xucar, a deep, muddy river, we crossed a large tract of land astonishingly fruitful. The peas and beans in the fields were very high, and in full blow. The husbandmen use in their tillage a shovel plough, with which they turn the soil from the roots of the olive-trees, that they may benefit by the moisture of the season. We were stopped several times by long droves of mules, carrying corn to Valencia ; their conductors, most savage looking fellows, all clad in leather ; their broad belts were

fastened round their waist with seven buckles.

In the afternoon, at the entrance of a more mountainous country, we came to the rice-grounds, now in stubble. The process of that tillage is as follows:—In winter they plough out a piece of land, and sow it with beans that come into blossom about March, when they plough them in for manure; water is then let in upon the ground about four inches deep. It next undergoes a third ploughing, after which the rice is sown. In fifteen days it comes up about five inches out of the earth, and is pulled up, tied in bundles near a foot diameter, and carried to another well-prepared field, covered with water to the depth of four inches. Here each planter sets the plants of his bundle in the mud, in rows at about a foot distance one from another. Every stem ought to produce from ten to twenty-four fold, and grow so close, that the ears may touch. When
ripe,

ripe, it is gathered in sheaves, and put into a water-mill, where the lower grinding-stone is covered with cork; by which means the chaff is separated from the grain without bruising. The rice of Valencia is yellower than that of the Levant, but much wholesomer, and will keep longer without growing musty.

We entered the highlands, and came to lie at Xativa, which was a strong fortress, till destroyed by Philip the Fifth, who ordered it to be rebuilt by the name of San Felipe. The monster Rodrigo Borgia, pope by the name of Alexander the Sixth, was a native of this town. The farmers hereabouts have a very sturdy, good-looking breed of horses.

Our route from San Felipe lay up long winding vales, between ridges of high bleak mountains. On the right hand stands the castle of Montesa, head of the military order of Montesa, instituted in 1317, by

James the Second, king of Arragon, after he had driven the Moors as far back as the territories of Granada. All the possessions of the knight-templars in the province were bestowed upon the new order, into which none but natives of Valencia were to be admitted. They wear a plain red cross. The commanderies belonging to the foundation are thirteen in number ; and their yearly income, according to the king's books, where they are very low rated, amounts to four hundred and four thousand one hundred and twelve reals de vellon. In 1748, an earthquake overthrew the castle, and all the adjacent buildings ; burying under the ruins the greatest part of the chaplains, servitors, &c. belonging to the congregation. The remainder were removed to Valencia, where a new church is building for their use.

We did nothing the whole day but ascend through olive plantations, pine forests,
and

and bare chalky hills, up the course of a little brook, till we came to its source, which breaks out in the middle of a town on the confines of Castille. Hitherto, the olives I have seen are all of the smaller sort.

Next morning the frost was very smart on the high bare hills, where there is much corn-land, but no trees ; the farm-houses are scattered about pretty much as they are in the unclosed parts of England.

Just as we were going into Villena, a little, round, squat figure, in a brown montero cap, jacket, and breeches, with a yellow waistcoat, caught my eye. It is not possible to paint a better Sancho Pança ; and we were actually in a corner of the country of that 'squire, which makes me conclude Cervantes drew the picture from real life, in some of his journies through La Mancha. All the inhabitants of the town wear the same dress, which is neat enough. The castle of Villena is large, well situated, and

has been strong. I never saw a country so full of ruined towers, as these skirts of Valencia and Castille; not a village without its rocca perched upon some almost inaccessible cliff; none more singular than that of *Sax*. The hills here are broken, the landscape bleak; but about Elda the plan is improved to the best advantage. We passed by a string of ponds and caves, where the inhabitants of that town keep their provision of ice, for the summer's consumption. As there was a thin coat of ice on the surface of the water, they were very busy carrying it off with the greatest expedition, lest a sudden thaw should deprive them of it.

Before we came into the plain of Montfort, we had a vile piece of road, through a broken range of marly hills. We now found the style of salutation quite altered. Hitherto the peasants were wont to accost us as they passed, with a *Dios guarde V. M.*

“ God

“ God keep your worship ;” but here they begin, twenty yards before they come up to you, and bawl out as loud as they can, *Ave Maria purissima* ; to which you are expected to answer, either *Sin pecado concebida*, or *Deo gratias*.

Late in the evening, we passed a large encampment of carriers of salt-fish. Their carts formed an outer circle, and their oxen a smaller one, round a roaring fire, where some of the men were cooking, others working at their tackle, but the greater part stretched out fast asleep. The moon shone very bright, and all was soft and still ; I quite envied the pleasant sensations of those fellows.

Our road this morning was bad, the country abominable, a white clay in powder, and not a stick of wood. In rainy years the crops of corn are extremely plentiful. Though it was a bitter cold day, the clouds of dust almost stifled us.

We

We got in here very early, and took up our lodgings at an inn, which hangs over the sea ; the waves beat gently against the walls under our windows, and the whole road and harbour lie beautifully stretched out before us. Unfortunately, the warmth and stillness of the situation tempt the boatmen to make use of this part of the beach as a necessary, and we cannot venture to lean out, and feast our eyes with the fine prospect of the sea, without suffering exceedingly in another sense. The landlord endeavours to comfort us, by assuring us that to-morrow's fun will dry all up.

I begin to have my apprehensions, that my letters, instead of acquiring life and spirit from our progress in this kingdom, have, on the contrary, betrayed of late a great propensity towards stupidity. Heaven forbid, the enfeebling air of Valencia should have settled upon my pen ! I must shake

shake it off, and strive to afford you better entertainment.

L E T T E R X V .

Alicant, December 11, 1775.

WE have been received with the usual politeness by the British subjects residing here, whose hospitality knows no bounds, when any of their wandering countrymen appear to lay claim to it. The factory, which consists of five houses, lives in a style of elegance we did not expect to meet with any where out of a capital: every circumstance attending our reception here, is beyond measure agreeable. After so warm an acknowledgment of our obligations to the inhabitants, you will naturally suppose I shall launch out in praise of the town, and varnish over every defect; but there

there you will find yourself mistaken. I confess it has neither buildings nor streets to recommend it to notice ; though the houses in general are solidly built with flat roofs, covered with cement ; their walls are plastered, and every thing as white as the soil of the adjacent country ; which fatigues the eye most cruelly in sun-shiny weather, that is, almost every day in the year. Then the dust flies about in whirlwinds ; if it rains, there is no possibility of making one's way through the streets without boots, the *Callemayor* being the only paved street in the whole town. In the hot months, this place is a very furnace, its form being the best calculated in the world for intercepting the rays of the sun, and collecting them as in one focus ; the mountain behind shuts out the winds, that, blowing from the cool quarters, might refresh the atmosphere ; but I believe the sea-breeze must occasionally contribute to the cooling of the air. In
such

such mild winter weather as we have felt here, it is impossible not to be delighted with the climate, and the beauties of situation that the port of Alicant affords. It stands on the middle of a narrow neck of land, that runs out into the sea a considerable way, and almost comes round in a semi-circular form ; in the centre of which ships ride with as much safety as in a harbour ; a rocky mountain rises directly behind the town ; on its summit is the castle, now fortified after the modern method, and extended far beyond the limits of the old fortrefs, great part of which was blown up, with a fragment of the rock, in the war with the allies, in the reign of our queen Anne. The English garrison refused to capitulate, though the French gave them notice of the mine being ready to be sprung. A well that communicated with the mine gave it some vent, and prevented the rest of the mountain from being shivered to pieces

pieces by the explosion; however, most of the officers were blown up, and the remainder of the troops so stunned by the shock, as to be many hours deprived of all power of motion.

Behind the castle-hill, is a plain some leagues in circumference, called *Las buertas*, the gardens of Alicant lying along the seashore, furrounded on three sides by very lofty mountains. It is a very beautiful vale, thickly studded with villages, villas, farms, and plantations of all kinds of fruit-trees; but in the hot part of the year the air is very unwholesome, and few or none escape agues or fevers. Here the fine Alicant and Tent wines are made. Only two, of the great number of proprietors of vineyards, make a practice of keeping their wine to a proper age. As the value is enhanced many-fold by keeping, the high price they get for their wines amply repays them for the time they are out of their money.

ney. Of the common forts, about five thousand tun may be the amount, most of which is destined for the Bourdeaux merchants.

Water is the great agent, the *primum mobile* of all productions in this country; every thing languishes, and soon is parched up, without an ample supply of it; abundance of rain secures both a plentiful harvest and a copious vintage. Wherever a spring breaks out, the king's people seize upon it, and allot to each landholder a proper hour for letting the water upon his grounds. It is of so much consequence, that the value of a guinea has been paid for an hour extraordinary.

The English factory imports all sorts of bale goods, corn, and Newfoundland cod. The articles of exportation are wine and barilla. This last grows in great quantities along the coast, especially near Carthagena: as I shall, in all probability, get bet-

ter intelligence there about it, in its vegetable state, I shall defer entering into any detail at present on that head. The merchants here, as they employ agents to transact the business for them, are very little informed of the qualities or peculiarities of the several sorts of barilla they ship off. It is brought hither in boats, duty free; afterwards it is packed with rush-mats, in lumps of about six hundred weight, which ought to be worth about three or four dollars per hundred; but, as this year has been favourable to the crops, it does not fetch above two and a half.

We have been all the morning in great uneasiness about Sir T. G.'s valet-de-chambre, who, till within this hour, was not to be found in any of the places he usually frequents. His appearance has quieted our apprehensions; and it seems he has been, from sun-rise till dinner-time, locked up in the sacristy of the great church, curl-
ing

ing and frizzling the flaxen periwig of the statue of the Virgin, which is to-morrow to be carried in solemn procession through the city.

There is a sorry kind of an Italian opera here ; bad as it is, there is a something in Italian music, however ill executed, incomparably soft and grateful to ears like ours, so long fatigued with French squalling, and the drone of Spanish *seguidillas*. We were upon the point of being deprived of this amusement, by the wisdom of the clergy, who attributed the want of rain to the influence of that ungodly entertainment ; luckily for the poor strollers, and for us, there fell a smart shower just as the orders were ready to be issued out against any further performance, and as it continued to rain all next day, the church thought no more of the opera.

From Alicant is seen, at nine miles distance south, the island of S. Polo, where the

Conde de Aranda fettled a colony of Genoese and others, who formerly inhabited an island on the African coast. The regency of Tunis destroyed their settlement, and carried them all into slavery; from which they were redeemed by Spain, and, with the allowance of a pistreen a day, sent to form a new town on this barren island. As it yields no productions of any kind, they are obliged to be supplied from the main land with every necessary of life; so that should the administrators neglect to lay in a sufficient stock for their sustenance, in case of tempestuous weather they must inevitably perish with hunger and thirst. Even as matters now stand, from their scanty allowance and perpetual confinement, I believe they think themselves no great gainers by being rescued from their slavery.

L E T T E R XVI.

Carthagena, December 15, 1775.

TO continue the journal of our peregrinations:—We left Alicant on the 12th, and brought away with us some bottles of choice Tent for you. We hope, on our return, to present you with a complete collection of the best wines in Spain; travelling with such a waggon-load of things, a few bottles more or less are not felt: we are obliged to carry, not only our beds, but bread, wine, meat, oil, and salt, from one great town to another; for we seldom meet with any thing in the inns but the bare walls, and perhaps a few eggs, which are sold at an unconscionable price. If we chance to find a few unbroken chairs, we esteem ourselves uncommonly fortunate;

yet it is astonishing how dear travelling is in this country. As much is asked for giving you house-room, and for the *ruydo de la casa*, or the noise you make, as would purchase a good supper and lodgings in the best inns, in most other parts of Europe. As our health is excellent, and consequently our spirits good, we are easily reconciled to these kinds of hardships. Indeed we no longer look upon them in that light; the mildness of the climate obviates all inconveniences that might accrue from a total want of glass, or even paper, in the windows; or of a door or shutter that can be fastened close enough to keep wind or rain out.

As soon as we arrive at one of these barns, called Ventas, our first care is to set up our beds. The kitchen is generally at one end; the mules stand in the back part, and our apartment is a partition run up against the wall to the street, with a hole

or

or two for light, defended by three or four very useless iron bars, for a pigmy could not squeeze through the window.

Next, our cook takes his stand at the hearth, to warm our broth, which we carry, ready made, in a kettle behind our chaife; and if he can procure fuel and elbow-room, toffes up a hash, or some such campaign dish. Sometimes we are lucky enough to have an opportunity of setting our spit, or broiling a chop upon our gridiron; but these are luxuries we are not to expect above once or twice in the course of a week.

While our repast is preparing, we read, draw, or write, by the light of a long brass lamp. Our supper dispatched, and a bottle of wine placed between us, we enjoy an hour's merry chat, to give the servants time to sup, and then we retire to bed, where we lie very snug till the dawn of day calls us up, to our usual task of

four or five leagues before dinner, and about three in the afternoon. The continual tinkling of the bells of the mules was very irksome to us at first, but we are now so well accustomed to these chimes, that I believe we shall not be able to go to sleep without them, when we return to France.

We stopped at Elche, a large town belonging to the duke of Arcos, built on the skirts of a wood, or rather forest, of palm-trees, where the dates hanging on all sides in clusters of an orange colour, and the men swinging on bass ropes to gather them, formed a very curious and agreeable scene. The palms are old and lofty; their number is said to exceed two hundred thousand. Many of the trees have their branches bound up to a point, and covered with mats to prevent the sun and wind from getting to them. In process of time the branches become quite white, and are then cut off, and sent by ship-loads from Alicant

to Genoa, and other parts of Italy, for the grand processions of Palm-Sunday; an uncommon species of traffic, which is also carried on with Madrid, where every house has its blest palm-branch.

The country round this town is very cheerful, and so are the environs of Orihuela. They are indebted for their fertility to the abundance and proper distribution of water. In dry years, every field that has not some spring or aqueduct, to furnish it with repeated rigations, is sure to fail in its crop. There is a Spanish proverb in favour of the last-mentioned city; *Si llove, aytrigo en Orihuela, y si no llove aytrigo in Orihuela*: "If it rains, there is plenty of wheat in Orihuela, and if it does not rain, there is still plenty of wheat in Orihuela." Indeed we found its bread excellent, and it has the reputation of producing the best corn in Spain*. It is a bishop's see, pretty large,

* It is also noted for boxes made out of olive-tree roots.

and well enough built, at the foot of a ridge of bare rocks, near the head of a very fruitful *vega* or vale. Near it are avenues of Peru-pepper-tree, or *Schinus molle*, loaded with bunches of a handsome rose-coloured fruit; the people of the country call it *Tiravientos*, probably from some wind-exPELLING quality. From hence we proceeded along the skirts of the rocks, up into the celebrated vale of Murcia, far superior, in the variety and richness of its culture, to any plain we had hitherto travelled through. Although we were then in the heart of winter, its general appearance was a bright green, the colour of the young corn, flax, lucerne, pulse, and orange-groves. As this vale is not too extensive, but most agreeably bounded on both sides by mountains, the insipid sameness that cloy the eye in most flat countries, however well cultivated, is not perceptible here.

The city of Murcia is neither large nor
hand-

handsome. The *Segura*, a muddy river, which divides it into two unequal parts, though it contributes nothing to the embellishment of the town, claims the merit of creating, by means of its waters, the surprising fertility of the plain. Hundreds of small drains convey them to the inclosures; and, in spite of the effects of the scorching rays of the sun, preserve the vegetable system fresh and succulent.

The walks about the place are trifling; the streets so full of black stagnated water, as to be almost unpassable. The only thing we found worth seeing was the cathedral, a large massive pile.

Round one part of it is a chain, cut in stone, with a great deal of truth and ease. The steeple, though unfinished, is lofty, and intended, I presume, to exhibit specimens of every one of the five orders of architecture. You may ride up to the top by a passage that goes gradually winding round
the

the tower. From it we had a full view of the town and country; but at this season of the year, the landscape was not decked out in all its beauty, and the bare brown mountains appear too near to please. The names and banners of the Jews, that have been burnt in this town by the inquisition, are stuck up in the church like so many trophies won in the day of victory from some mighty foe.

From Murcia we struck directly across the vale, into the chain of mountains on the south side of the town, and the rugged bed of a torrent was all the road we found. You cannot conceive a more shocking one. The naked clayey cliffs that hemmed us in on each side were very unpleasant.

As soon as we emerged from this ditch, and surmounted a very greasy, marly height, we found before us a plain, almost without bounds, and absolutely without a tree. A ridge of mountains separates it from the
sea-

sea-shore. Our muleteers pointed out to us the break in it, where the island of Escobrera closes in the harbour of Carthage. A cluster of islands to the left appear as if they had been struck off the mountain by some furious earthquake, and tumbled headlong into the sea. Most of the plain is sown with barilla.

We dined at the door of a most pitiful *venta*, where we found only one man, sent out by the magistrates of Carthage to wait upon travellers, as the inn-keeper and all his family had been lately carried to prison, on account of a woman, who had been murdered and thrown into a pond behind his house, in which transaction they were suspected of being, at least, accessaries.

We arrived early at Carthage ; for the story of the murder had operated powerfully on the minds of our muleteers, who drove very fast over the plain, to get in before night. We are lodged at the
Golden

Golden Eagle, kept by a Frenchman, the best cook, in the best inn we have met with in Spain.

L E T T E R XVII.

Carthagená, December 17, 1775.

I AM in a very bad disposition for writing, for we are just returned from the arsenal, where every feeling of our humanity has been put to the torture. Heaven forbid I should communicate to you any part of the disagreeable sensations the sight of so many of my fellow creatures in misery has excited in my soul ! But I shall dwell upon the subject no longer than will be necessary to inform you of the plain matter of fact. A letter from Barcelona procured us an order from the governor for seeing the docks and magazines of this port,

one

one of the most considerable of the Spanish dominions.

This arsenal is a spacious square, south-west of the town, under the mountains; forty pieces of cannon defend its approach from the sea; but on the land-side it is without defence. We only saw one seventy-gun ship on the stocks, and a rotten hulk heaved down to be repaired, which scarce seemed worth the time and expence bestowed upon it. Mr. Turner, an Englishman, is the head builder. The timber for ship-building lies in ponds, behind a long range of magazines for stores, opposite which the men of war are moored in a wet dock, each before the door of its own magazine. We were told that every one of these store-houses contained all things requisite for the complete equipment of a ship of war; but, from the slight survey I took in walking through, I dare venture to
 affirm,

affirm, that there is not at present, in the whole yard, a sufficient quantity of every article to fit out a frigate. The new ropery, and the forges where they put fresh touch-holes into old cannon, are established upon an extensive plan, but there is little activity in either.

The government of this yard is now in the hands of the officers of the navy, having been lately taken out of those of the civil intendants. Upon the whole, the making of these docks, and their actual management, have been, and still are, conducted after the most prodigal manner; and either from the vast demands of the late expedition, or from neglect in the administrators, there is now so inconsiderable an assortment of arms and stores, that, were it not for its celebrity, it would scarce deserve a minute's attention from a curious traveller. Yet the Spaniards are very jealous, and appear uneasy when strangers visit

visit it ; perhaps from a consciousness of there being nothing in it. There was no persuading them [that we travelled merely for pleasure, with no sinister views.

The ships are heaved down in a dry dock, which, by reason of the back water, and the springs that ooze through the marshy soil, would never be clear of water, were it not for several fire-engines continually going, and for the great pump, which is plied without intermission by Spanish criminals and Barbary slaves. Of the former they have eight hundred ; of the latter six hundred : most of these wretches are kept at it sixteen hours out of the twenty-four, by four hours at a time ; some work only twelve, and most of the Moors only eight hours. It is the hardest labour in the world : ten men are set to each pump, to the amount of above an hundred, in the room above ground, and as many in a kind of dungeon below. In summer-time
scarce

scarce a day passes without some of them dropping down dead at their work ; and even at this cool season of the year, we have met every day some of them carrying to the hospital. The despair that seizes them is so outrageous, that if they can get within reach of a weapon, there are many instances of their having plunged it into their own breast, or that of some person near them, which answers the same purpose, a speedy deliverance from all their woes by death. As we were looking at them, a dirty little keeper struck a fine tall Moor over the head, for leaving his pump to beg of us. The Muffulman darted a look of indignation at his tyrant, and resumed his task, without saying a word, or shrinking from the blow.

On our leaving this house of sorrow, we met several strings of galley-slaves, going to relieve those at work, or to fetch their provisions.

provisions. The Moors had an M on the sackcloth that covers them, and the whole gang were lively pictures of malady and despair. The king allows them a pifteen a day, but I am afraid they are defrauded of their allowance ; for we faw them making their dinner upon black bread, and horfe-beans boiled in falt-water. We are returned quite melancholy from this fcene of woe. The only reflection that diminifhes our compaffion, is the atrociousnefs of the crimes that have brought the Chrif- tians to the chain ; none are here that have not deferved death in fifty fapes. One boy, of fifteen years old, is here for the murder of his father and mother ; and either murder, facrilege, or fome fuch enormous and horrible offences, have been perpetrated by almoft all thofe condemned for life to this punifhment. The feverity exercifed over the Moorifh captives, is not fo eafily reconciled to the principles of human-

ity, and the meek doctrine of Christianity. Retaliation does not seem a sufficient plea.

Since I wrote the foregoing part of my letter, we have been upon a more agreeable party, which has helped to dissipate the gloomy impressions of the morning. The governor gave us leave to take a boat and row round the harbour. Some gentlemen of our acquaintance were so obliging as to accompany us, and explain the situation and intent of each particular place and fortification.

The port of Carthagena is the completest I ever saw, formed by the hand of Nature in the figure of a heart. The island of Escombrera blocks up the entrance, and shelters it from the violence of wind and waves. High, bare mountains rise very steep, from the water-edge, on the east and west. On the north, a narrow, low ridge of hills, on which the city stands, shuts out the view of the inland country. We
first

first rowed by the arsenal, and under the mountains on the right hand, the deepest and safest position in the whole bay, where a large fleet may lie in the utmost security, out of the sight of all ships that may be at sea, or even in the narrow part of the entrance of the harbour. There are at present two frigates and four chebecs in port. As we came along-side of the St. Joseph, the commodore, she fired a gun, which our steersman informed us was the signal for weighing anchor and getting under sail, orders being come from court for them to leave Carthagena this day. As we were desirous of learning a little of the method and skill of the Spanish seamen, we desired our master (who, from having been long employed in the service of the English merchants, has contracted the habit of looking upon himself as an Englishman) to lie upon his oars and remain along-side, that we might have the pleasure of seeing

the men of war move out. The old sailor laughed heartily at our request, and, after reminding us that we were not at Portsmouth, nor these ships English men of war, bade his men row away, as he was very certain none of the vessels would be ready to depart for three days at least, and that the gun was fired merely in compliance with the letter of the orders.

On our approach to the mouth of the harbour, we got out of the calm, still water we had hitherto glided upon, and began to be tossed about with great violence. The day grew cold, and the sky looking lowering towards the sea, we struck directly across the passage, in order to return to the town by the east side of the bay. This entrance is much wider than I had any idea of; the forts on the rocks, on each promontory, seem to be too far distant from the middle to do any damage to an enemy that might think it necessary to push through;

but

but without a skilful pilot, I doubt a stranger would pay dear for his temerity; for directly in the center of the haven, in a line between the mouth and the mole-gate, lies a ledge of rocks, only five feet under water, without any breakers, or rippling near it.

The east side of this port is much shallower than the west side, and the anchorage is loose and sandy. Vessels have been frequently forced from their anchors, and dashed to pieces against the rocks, by the storms from the south-west. However, with good cables, I was assured there is no great danger to be apprehended. In any other part of the harbour, the waters are perfectly dormant, never ruffled by wind or tides. There is so little agitation in them, that, during the stay of the many hundreds of vessels destined for the Algerine expedition, they became absolutely putrid and infectious, from the filth thrown out of the ships. Just as we landed on the pitiful

platform called the mole, we had an opportunity of knowing the exact spot where the rocks lie. An English merchantman coming in at a great rate before the wind, but unfortunately without a pilot, struck upon the ledge, and was not got off without some damage.

We are now going to the play, where we are not to expect any scenes, as it is a working-day; and the actors come out from behind a bit of red curtain hung across the stage, and never move far from it, as a file of prompters are drawn up behind, whose shadows and motions are not unlike that kind of entertainment called *Italian shades*. Though there are three regiments here in garrison, besides engineers and naval officers, you can scarce imagine any thing so dull as this town. Except the wretched comedy, and the coffee-house, there is not the least life or amusement going forward. This city is large, but has
very

very few good streets, and still fewer grand or remarkable buildings. The hospital is a large square house, round two courts, three stories high towards the sea, and only one towards the land: the architecture, and method of laying out the plan, are good; but the stone is of so soft and friable a contexture, that the sea air has corroded it, and made it crumble away more than half: there is no probability of any care being taken to repair the injury.

Farther east, at the foot of the summer-evening walk, is a small church, erected in honour of St. James, the patron of Spain, who is piously believed to have landed here, when he came from Palestine to convert this country to Christianity.

L E T T E R XVIII.

Carthagena, December 18, 1775.

I HAVE been busy all the morning walking about the fields near the town, in search of specimens of the various plants, that produce the false and true barilla; but the season of the year is unfavourable to my researches, and I have only been able to meet with two sorts. Mr. James Macdonnel, a young gentleman lately settled in business here, has been so obliging as to furnish me with some notes on that head, which contain the result of many observations made on these plants in their vegetable state, and on the different modes of cultivating and preparing them for sale. The following pages convey the substance of his memorandums.

There are four plants, which in the early part of their growth bear so strong a resemblance

femblance to each other, as would deceive any but the farmers, and very nice observers. These four are, *barilla*, *gazul* (or, as some call it, *algazul*) *soza*, and *salicornia* or *salicor*. They are all burnt to ashes, but are applied to different uses, as being possessed of different qualities. Some of the roguish farmers mix more or less of the three last with the first; and it requires a complete knowledge of the colour, taste, and smell of the ashes, to be able to detect their knavery.

The first, Barilla, is sown afresh every year. The greatest height it grows to above ground is four inches: each root pushes out a vast number of little stalks, which again are subdivided into smaller sprigs, resembling samphire, and all together form a large, spreading, tufted bush. The colour is bright green; as the plant advances towards maturity, this colour dies away, till it comes to a dull green tinged with brown.

The

The second, Gazul, bears the greatest affinity to barilla, both in quality and appearance; the principal difference consists in its growing on a still drier, saltier earth, consequently it is impregnated with a stronger salt. It does not rise above two inches out of the ground, spreading out into little tufts. Its sprigs are much flatter, and more pulpy, than those of barilla, and are still more like samphire. It is sown but once in three, four, or five years, according to the soil.

The third, Soza, when of the same size, has the same appearance as gazul, but in time grows much larger, as its natural soil is a strong salt-marsh; where it is to be found in large tufts of sprigs, treble the size of barilla, and of a bright green colour, which it retains to the last.

The fourth, Salicor, has a stalk of a green colour, inclining to red, which last becomes by degrees the colour of the whole plant.

From

From the beginning it grows upright, and much resembles a bush of young rosemary. Its natural soil is that on the declivities of hills, near salt-marshes, or on the edges of the small drains or channels cut by the husbandmen for the purpose of watering the fields: before it has acquired its full growth, it is very like the barilla of those seasons in which the ground has been dunged before sowing. In those years of manuring, barilla, contrary to its nature, comes up with a tinge of red; and when burnt, falls far short of its wonted goodness, being bitter, more impregnated with salts than it should be, emitting a disagreeable scent if held near the nose, and raising a blister if applied for a few minutes to the tongue. The other three species always have that effect. Barilla contains less salts than the others; when burnt, it runs into a mass resembling a spongy stone, with a faint cast of blue.

Algazul, after burning, comes as near
barilla

barilla in its outward appearance, as it does while growing in its vegetable form ; but if broken, the inside is of a much deeper and more glossy blue. Soza and falicor are darker, and almost black within, of a heavier consistence, with very little or no sign of sponginess.

All these ashes contain a strong alkali ; but barilla the best and purest, though not in the greatest quantity. Upon this principle, it is the fittest for making glass, and bleaching linen ; the others are used in making soap : each of them would whiten linen, but all, except barilla, would burn it. A good crop of barilla impoverishes the land to such a degree, that it cannot bear good barilla a second season, being quite exhausted. To avoid this inconvenience, the richer farmers lay manure upon the ground, and let it lie fallow for a season ; at the end of which, it is sown afresh without danger, as the weeds that have sprung

sprung up in the year of rest, have carried off all the pernicious effects of the dung. A proper succession of crops is thus secured by manuring and fallowing different parts of the farm, each in its turn. The poorer tribe of cultivators cannot pursue the same method, for want of capital, and are therefore under the necessity of sowing their lands immediately after manuring, which yields them a profit just sufficient to afford a present scanty maintenance, though the quality and price of their barilla be but trifling.

The method used in making barilla, is the same as that we follow in the north of England, in burning kelp. The plant, as soon as ripe, is plucked up and laid in heaps, then set on fire; the salt juices run out below, into a hole made in the ground, where they consolidate into a black vitrified lump, which is left about a fortnight to cool. An acre may give about a tun. I

was

was told, that there is a species of *Scarabæus*, or beetle, that burrows in the root of the barilla, and there deposits its eggs, which foxes are so fond of as to dig up the plant to come at this favourite morsel. To gratify this appetite, they would in one night lay waste a whole plantation, if the peasants did not keep a strict watch with guns to destroy or drive them away. Nevertheless, I cannot depend enough upon my information, to vouch for its authenticity.

Not far from Carthagená, is a place called Almazaron, where they gather a fine red earth called Almagra, used in the manufactures of Saint Ildephonso, for polishing looking-glasses. In Seville, it is worked up with the tobacco, to give it a colour, fix its volatility, and communicate to it that softness, which constitutes the principal merit of Spanish snuff.

L E T T E R XIX.

Isnallos, 7 at night, December 24, 1775.

WE are just arrived at this dismal ruinous village of mud walls, after the hardest day's labour of our whole journey, benighted, our baggage-vehicle broken to pieces, and every bone about us aching. We have been fourteen hours on the road without unharnessing the mules. I have walked many miles to-day, which has tired my legs; but at least my spirits are less jaded than they would have been had I remained locked up in the chaise, through the dangerous passages and dreadful precipices of this day. I am happy to hear that from hence to Cadiz is almost all level road, and if it does not rain, not very bad; if there should fall a great quantity of rain, I doubt we may come to stick in the clays of Andalusia. Our cook is hard at work below
 4 stairs,

stairs, making us a dish of something warm to cheer our drooping hearts; with that help, a bottle of wine, and a tolerable clean room, we hope soon to drive away all remembrance of our distresses and fatigues.

On the 19th, we left Carthagena, and for two long days travelled up the plain, till the two ridges of mountains, that run on each side of it, unite at its head. The first part of this plain is very naked, but well cultivated; the last two-thirds are as complete a desert as any in the sands of Africa; not a bush, tree, or house, to be seen in all the vast expanse of level ground; the mountains are as bare as the low lands. The want of water, productive of a want of inhabitants, accounts for this prodigious desolation; for the soil seems very fit for tillage. One of the days we dined at Lorca, a large town at the foot of the hills. I saw nothing in it to make a note of, but the dress of a gipsy, daughter to the innkeeper.

Her

Her hair was tied in a club, with a bunch of scarlet ribbons; large drops hung from her ears; and on her breast she wore a load of relics and hallowed medals; the sleeves of her gown were fastened together behind by a long blue ribbon, that hung to the ground. I could not prevail upon her to explain the use of this last piece of ornament.

On the 21st, the scene changed, but did not improve upon us; the dry bed of a torrent was our highway for half the day, and steep barren mountains for the remainder. This proved the first day of disagreeable weather we had met with on the road since we left France. It blew a perfect hurricane, and rained very heavily, with a sharp biting wind.

The next morning brought us back sunshine and genial warmth; the road grew mountainous, and more disgustingly bare, except for a mile or two, while we passed

through an uneven country pretty well tilled, and planted with large bushy evergreen oaks, exactly in the manner of some of our English parks. We saw this day many vultures on wing, but they never came within reach of our guns. I can give you no information concerning the town of Baça, as we entered it after it was dark, and left it before break of day. It stands quite in a bottom, furrounded by high mountains over which we, next morning, found the passage both difficult and frightful. Not the least agreeable patch of country on the heights, except some poor remains of ancient forests of evergreen oaks. We dined at a venta near some mountains, where we were told of mines of gold having been wrought in days of yore, but now long lost and forgotten; the little brook that runs down from them abounds in many metallic particles, which appeared to the eye lead and copper. Much *gypsum*,

or plaister-stone, is also to be found in this torrent.

Yesterday afternoon, we had nothing but rapid ascents and descents, rendered incredibly greasy and fatiguing by the heavy rain of the foregoing night. Guadix, an episcopal see, is exactly situated in the same kind of gully as Baça; a narrow valley worn down by the river. The clay-hills, that encompass it on every side, are the most extraordinary in nature; they are very high, and washed into broken masses, resembling spires, towers, and mishapen rocks. Whole villages are dug in them, the windows of which appear like pigeon, or rather marten holes. The passage through is remarkably singular, winding for half a mile between two huge rugged walls of earth, without the least mixture of rock or gravel.

The Cuesta yerma, which with the utmost difficulty we climbed up this morning, is perhaps not to be matched for badness on

any carriage-road in the world. All our mules yoked together were scarce able to wrench either of the carriages out of the narrow pass between the rocks, or drag them up the almost perpendicular parts of this abominable mountain. After this happy deliverance from our well-grounded fears of passing the whole day, and perhaps night, in fruitless endeavours to extricate ourselves, we travelled along a high level country, winding round the mountains of Granada. The wind was very loud, but the air warm and pleasant, though the snow lay in view along the top of that high ridge of mountains called, from their covering of snow, *sierra nevada*.

Thus, methinks, I have brought you very fairly as far as myself on our dreary journey; and have as yet a right to think, that neither the beauties of nature, nor those of art, to be met with in this kingdom, can be deemed an equivalent for the tediousness

of travelling, the badness of the roads, or the abominable accommodations of the inns: certain it is, that no man has as yet undertaken this tour a second time for pleasure; and, if my advice be listened to, no body will ever attempt it once,

Granada, December 25.

OUR baggage being put upon a cart this morning, we proceeded down a valley, and over some heath and forest land, till we came in view of the plain and city of Granada.—Beautiful beyond expression even in its winter weeds, what must it be when decked out in all the gaudy colours of spring? You must not expect an account of it for some days, as I intend getting all possible intelligence, turning over all my books, and examining every place, before I venture to describe this city, its palace, and environs.

LETTER XX.

THE Moorish kingdom of Granada consisted of those parts of Spain that lie in the south-east corner of the peninsula, and at its most flourishing period never exceeded seventy leagues in length from east to west, and twenty-five in breadth from north to south. Its historians have laboured hard to prove, that it had separate monarchs soon after the Moorish conquest of Spain; but it is more than probable that this country did not become a distinct sovereignty, while the Caliphs of the East retained any authority in Europe. By degrees, the weakness of the other Mahometan potentates, who could afford no succour against the common enemy; the coalition of the Christian kingdoms under one or two powerful heads; and,

and, more than all, their own civil discords and deadly feuds, had, long before its final overthrow, reduced the kingdom of Granada to little more than the Alpuxaras mountains and the capital city.

The Granadine antiquaries, with Pedraza at their head, insist that Granada was a colony of the Phœnicians, known to the Romans by the name of Illiberia. They allege, in support of their system, that the walls of the most ancient of its inclosures, which was afterwards called the Alcaçaba, are of a different sort of masonry from those of the Romans and Saracens, and similar to such remains of antiquity as are universally acknowledged to be the work of the Phœnicians. The spot where this mode of building is most conspicuous, is, the *Hetna-roman*, a tower where the stones are very long and narrow, laid regularly upon beds of cement of equal thickness with the stones. It is now of little consequence to endeavour

to discover the founders of this city, and an analysis of the volumes published on these chimerical topics, would but ill repay the time lost in writing and reading such a dissertation.

Another argument, that has afforded much entertainment to many doctors profoundly skilled in etymologies, is, the meaning, date, and origin, of the name of Granada. Some writers make out the derivation by compounding the word *Nata*, which they set down as the name of Count Julian's daughter,* with the word *Gar*, a cave,

* It is the common opinion (though not sufficiently warranted by authentic testimonies) that Rodrigo, last king of the Goths, ravished the daughter of Julian, governor of Africa. The father, enraged at such an injury, made a treaty with the Saracens, whom he induced to cross the Straits and invade Spain. Musa, lieutenant of the Caliph Walid, sent over Tarif with a small force to try his strength. There being great appearance of success, Tarif received a considerable rein-

cave, where she retired after the battle of Xeres: others will have it to come from the abundance of corn (*Grano*): and some again from *Nata*, a goddess of the Aborigines: others, with an appearance of probability, ascribe the origin of the name to the pleasantness and fertility of its environs, a word very like it, in the Phœnician language, meaning *fruitful* and *agreeable*. The Romans expressed the same signification by the title of *municipium florentinum illiberitanum*. The Arabs called it *Roman*; the Jews *Rimmon*: and there are authors that derive it from *Granatum*, a pomegranate, brought from Africa, and first planted near

reinforcement, and attacked the Goths near Xeres de la frontera. The Goths were defeated, their king killed, and the Gothic empire annihilated in 712. Musa, and his immediate successors, completed the conquest of all Spain, except the mountains of Oviedo, where Pelayo afterwards formed a principality, the parent of all the other Spanish kingdoms.

this

this place. Many affirm it to be called so from the resemblance its position bears to that fruit when ripe; the two hills to represent the bursting skin, and the houses crowded into the intermediate valley, the pips. This is a very favourite opinion, and seems to be adopted by the nation, which gives a split pomegranate for its arms, and places it upon every gate or ornamented post in the streets and public walls.

Granada stands on two hills, at the foot of the *Sierra nevada*, where two small rivers join their waters. One of them, the Dauro, sometimes washes down gold; the other, the Xenil, virgin silver; but it was not possible for me to procure any specimens of either, on account of the severe prohibition issued out by government against all searchers after mines and minerals. The ancient palace of the *Alhambra*, and the *Torre vermaja*, crown the double summit of the hill between the rivers; the other hill, north
of

of the Dauro, is covered with the *Albaycin* and *Alcaçaba*. The remainder of the city extends along the skirts of the plain in a femicircular form. The Vega, or plain, is eight leagues long, and four broad; a gentle slope of beautiful hillocks bound the horizon on all sides, except that of the Sierra nevada, and to the north-west, where it is terminated by the bare top of the *Sierra Elvira*, or *Sierra de los infantes*. This mountain was so named from the death of the princes of Castille, Peter and John, who perished here, through excess of heat and thirst, in a battle against the Moors, 1319.

The country about Granada was so alluring, the situation so striking, and the salubrity of its air so universally celebrated, that the victorious Saracens soon were induced to turn their arms that way. It was taken by the forces of Tarif in 715, the ninety-fifth year of the Hegira.* As long

* The flight of Mahomet, which happened in the night between the 15th and 16th of July, in the year 622.

as Spain remained subject to the viceroys of the Caliphs of the family of the Om-miades, Granada does not appear to have undergone any great revolution, although now and then an ambitious governor might make an attempt towards independency. The first that brought this design to bear, and rendered the crown hereditary in his family, was Mehemed Alhamar, governor of Arjone, who began his reign in 1236.

Mehemed Alhamar.

1236. This first king became tributary to St. Ferdinand, king of Castille, and paid him one moiety of all his revenues, which half amounted to one hundred and seventy thousand pieces of gold: he even assisted that prince in his conquest of Seville.

1273. The second king was his son Mu-ley Mehemed Abdallah, who is said to have begun the Alhambra.

1302. 3. *Mehemed Abenahamar* the blind,
son

son to Muley, was dethroned and murdered by his brother. Mehemed had a great passion for building; one of the magnificent monuments he left for the admiration of posterity was the great mosque included in the Alhambra. The form was most elegant, the inside mosaic, adorned with ingenious devices in sculpture, supported upon lofty pillars with silver bases and capitals. He endowed this pious foundation with revenues arising from the baths which he had built opposite to it, out of the tribute paid by the Christians and Jews. He also purchased lands, and let them out for the benefit of this mosque.

1310. *Nazer aba algueiusb* murdered his brother, and was himself driven into banishment by his sister's son.

1315. *Ismael ben pharagi abulgualid*, who was murdered by the alcayde of Algeziras,

geziras, from whom he had forcibly taken a very beautiful female captive.

1326. *Mehemed Abuabdallah*, his son, succeeded. This prince was murdered by his own servants*, and succeeded by his son.

1333. *Jusaf Abuhagiagi*. In 1340, this king, and Abi Haffan, king of Morocco, were defeated in the famous battle of Salado, by Alphonfus the eleventh. From that day Granada declined in power, and gradually

* In a fally which the Christians made during the siege of Baeca, this king of Granada hurled a lance enriched with precious stones, at a Spanish foldier : who finding himself grievously wounded, limped away towards the town with the weapon fixed in his body. The Moors rushed forwards to recover the lance, but Mehemed forbade them to molest the poor wretch, and suffered him to carry away the spear to pay for his cure.

dwindled away. The uninterrupted series of evil fortune that attended this unhappy prince, at length drew upon him the universal hatred of his subjects, one of whom stabbed him in the street.

1354. His successor was *Mehemed Lago*, a younger brother of Pheragi. He was dethroned by his cousin, *Mehemed Ismael ben Alhamar*. Don Pedro, king of Castille, having always been intimately connected with Lago, espoused the cause of that exiled prince with great warmth, and made several attempts to reinstate him. Ben Alhamar, diffident of his own strength, and pressed to it by the entreaties of his counsellors, thought it safest to submit, and purchase the friendship of Pedro at any rate. With this view, he demanded a safe conduct, and went to the court of Seville, where

where he threw himself at the feet of the Spanish monarch, with the immense treasures he had brought with him as presents. That king received him with all apparent respect and cordiality for a few days, but then he ordered him, and thirty of his most noble attendants, to be led round the city upon asses, and afterwards to be brought to the field of the Tablada, where, if any credit is to be given to the Spanish historians, Don Pedro himself ran the unfortunate Mehemed through with a lance. His death being made known at Granada, Lago resumed the reins of government without opposition, and died quietly in 1379.

1379. His son, Mehemed Abouhadjad, was one of the best kings that ever reigned in Granada. He preferred the solid advantages of peace to all the

the brilliancy of military glory. Under his wife administration, the kingdom gradually recovered its vigour; commerce and husbandry gave spirit and alacrity to every part of the realm, and spread abundance over the face of the land. His attention to the more important objects of government, did not prevent his shewing himself an earnest promoter and protector of the fine arts. The cities of Granada and Guadix were embellished with many noble structures during his reign. His affection for the latter was so conspicuous, that he was surnamed by his people, Mehemed of Guadix. He had the address to maintain peace with the Castillians, and at his death left a flourishing, peaceful succession to his son.

1392. Juzaf Abiabdallah, who was de-

stroyed by means of an envenomed shirt, sent as a present by the Sultan of Fez.

1396. Mehemed Balba, second son to Juzaf, seized upon the crown in prejudice of his elder brother, and passed his life in one continual round of disasters. His wars with Castille were invariably unsuccessful. His death was also caused by a poisoned vest. As soon as he found his case desperate, he dispatched an officer to the fort of Salobrena, to kill his brother Juzaf, lest that prince's party should form any obstacle to his son's succeeding to the crown. The Alcajde found the prince playing at chess with an Alfaqui or priest. Juzaf begged hard for two hours respite, which was denied him; at last, with great reluctance, the officer permitted him to finish the game. Before it

was

was ended, a messenger arrived with the news of the death of Mehemed, and of the unanimous election of Juzaf to the crown.

1408. Juzaf Abul Haxex. The most unwearied importunity, and abject submission, were unable to procure him a peace with the Christians. The regent of Castille, D. Ferdinand, being inflexibly bent upon expelling the whole Saracen race out of our continent. At length, Ferdinand was elected king of Aragon, and finding sufficient employment with the affairs of his new kingdom, gave up all thoughts of his Moorish conquests and listened to the proposals of the king of Granada. A truce was agreed upon, and afterwards a peace concluded, which afforded Juzaf an opportunity of repairing his losses. He wound up the end of his days in

tranquillity, and employed them solely in gaining the affections of his people, by a steady pursuit of a most equitable plan of administration. From the time Juzaf became possessed of the royal dignity, he was never known to shew the least sign of resentment against the grandees that had assisted his brother in depriving him of his birth-right and liberty : nay more, he conferred great honours and favours upon many of them, and gave them posts of trust in various capacities. Some of his own party found fault with his lenity, and endeavoured to work him up to the destruction of those noblemen ; but Juzaf always made answer, Would you have me, by my cruelty, furnish them with an excuse for having preferred my brother to me ? He educated the sons of Mehemed in his palace,

palace, and treated them in every respect like his own children.

1423. His eldest son, Mehemed Elazari, or the left-handed, succeeded. He was more remarkable for the strange vicissitudes of his fortune, than for any thing great of his own achieving : his tyranny and negligence encouraged his cousin-german,

1427. Mehemed El Zugair, or the lesser, to take up arms against him, and drive him out of the kingdom. Two years after Elazari, with the assistance of the kings of Castille and Tunis, retook Granada, and made El Zugair prisoner, whom he put to death in the most cruel and ignominious manner that could be devised.

1429. Elazari being thus restored to his throne, was far from altering his method of proceeding ; in consequence of which, after many defeats in a

bloody war against the Christians. he was a second time dethroned, and the grandson of that Mehemed who was killed at Seville, raised up in his stead.

1432. Juzaf aben Almaalnayar gave great hopes of his proving a just and wise monarch ; but his death, which happened in the sixth month of his reign, put an end to all his projects, and Mehemed Elazari, was once more proclaimed king. The people of Granada were now become so well accustomed to a frequent change of masters, and so very prone to novelty, that it was no longer possible for any prince to remain firm in the royal seat for any length of time. Accordingly Elazari, that perpetual butt of fortune, was for the third and last time deprived of his sceptre, and shut up in a close prison by his nephew,

1445. Mehemed ben Ofmin, furnamed the Tame. In the beginning of his reign, he waged war against the Christians with great success; but, in the year 1452, his good fortune abandoned him, and he met with nothing ever after but crosses and disappointments. The king of Castille spirited up against him a competitor for the crown, Ismael, his cousin-german; who being admitted into the capital by a party he had previously secured, surpris'd Mehemed, and threw him into the same dungeon where their common uncle had already languish'd eight years. Thus ended these two princes like puppets, which, after having been made to move upon the stage the time allotted for representation, are thrown by in a lumber room, and never thought of more.

1453. Ismael thus found himself in the peaceable possession of a crown, which had been so often shifted from head to head, and so mutilated and curtailed during a long series of misfortunes, that any sagacious observer might safely pronounce the period of its final dissolution to be near at hand. The Christians had so long laid waste with fire and sword the rich plain of Granada, that Ismael found that source of plenty almost irretrievably lost. To make up in some degree for this deficiency, he ordered a large tract of forest to be cleared, and the mountainous lands behind Granada to be levelled, and converted into arable and garden grounds. Earth was even brought from the Vega, to render the hills more fruitful. Great supplies of water were conveyed from the Dauro, by means of aqueducts and conduits,

to

to water those eminences naturally barren and parched up by the sun. These improvements were the support of the Granadines, after their implacable enemies had not only burnt their crops in the plains, but even destroyed their farms, cut down their fruit trees, rooted up their vines, and changed one of the most delightful spots on earth into a mere naked desert. Upon engaging to pay an annual tribute of twelve thousand ducats, and to deliver every year six hundred Christian captives, or, in case of there being none to release, an equal number of Moors (an almost incredible condition, which more than any thing evinces the miserable state of this kingdom), the Moors at last obtained a peace, or rather truce, which even did not extend to that part of the kingdom that is near Jaen.

1475. Muley Mehemed Abilhaffan succeeded his father Ismael, and was so imprudent as to engage in a war with Castille, which ended only with the ruin of the Mussulman empire in Spain. The first important conquest of the Spaniards was Alhama, a town famous for its magnificent baths, whither the Moorish princes were wont frequently to retire for their health and diversion.

In 1484, Abilhaffan having put away his wife Ayxa, and taken to his bed Fatima, a Grecian slave, famed for her beauty *Zoraya*, or the morning-star, the disgraced Sultana made her escape from the Alhambra, and raised a rebellion in favour of her son Abouabdoulah. The old king was forced to fly for refuge to Malaga, to his brother El Zagal, who soon after gained great glory by a victory he obtained over the grand master of St. Jago. About the same time,
the

the young king was routed and taken prisoner by the Castillians at Lucena, being the first Arabian prince led into captivity by the Christians. Hassan was restored; but Ferdinand of Aragon, husband to Isabella of Castille, set the son at liberty, with a view of fomenting their civil dissensions, and thereby facilitating the conquest of their kingdom. El Zagal soon quarrelled with the old king, and drove him into exile, where he died soon after, in misery and despair.

Abouabdoulah, or the young king, was the lawful monarch; but his uncle, who had already destroyed one rival, endeavoured to put the other also out of the way by assassination. The plot was discovered, the nephew's party prevailed, and El Zagal, rather than submit to his own relation, from whom he had no right to expect mercy, went over, and delivered up all his possessions to Ferdinand. The Spanish monarch immediately

mediately summoned Abouabdoulah to fulfil the conditions of the treaty, upon which he had obtained his liberty. These were, to deliver up Granada, as soon as Almeria, Guadix, and Baca, should be in the hands of the Spaniards. This contingency was now come to pass. It was not natural to suppose the Moor would submit tamely to his utter ruin; therefore Ferdinand, who had foreseen his refusal, laid siege to Granada. After nine months blockade, for the completing of which he built a new town, called Santa Fé, he obliged the Moorish king to surrender. Ferdinand and Isabel made their triumphant entry on the 2d of January 1492. Abouabdoulah, in his way to Purchena, the place appointed for his residence, stopped on the hill of Padul, to take a last farewell look of his beloved Granada. The sight of his city and palace, to which he was then about to bid an eternal adieu, overcame his resolution: he burst into a flood of tears,

and, in the anguish of his soul, broke out into the most bitter exclamations against the hardness of his fate. The Sultaneſs Ayxa, his mother, upbraided him for his weakneſs, in the following terms: "Thou doſt well to weep, like a woman, over the loſs of that kingdom, which thou kneweſt not how to defend, and die for, like a man."

This prince was the laſt Moor that reigned in Spain, where their empire had ſubſiſted ſeven hundred and eighty-two years.

Such Moorish families as remained in Granada, after the diſſolution of the monarchy, were continually moleſted by zealous prieſts and bigotted princes. Every article of the capitulation was in its turn eluded, or openly violated, and the Moors reduced to the alternative of renouncing the religion of their anceſtors, or of abandoning their native country. The Spaniſh clergy, not at all ſatiſfied with the outward ſhew of conversion in thoſe that had embraced the

Chriſtian

Christian religion, were eager to discern the sincere from the hypocrite, and therefore set spies over them, encouraged all accusations, and cavilled with every part of their dress and behaviour. Thus harrassed, and urged to the very brink of despair, the Moriscos, as they were then called, formed a grand conspiracy, which broke out on Christmas night, in the year 1568. Having placed at their head a young man, descended from their ancient princes, by name Ferdinand de Valar, which he changed to Mehemed Aben Humeya, they rose in arms in most parts of the kingdom of Granada. The revolt began by wreaking the most bloody vengeance on all Christians, especially priests, that fell into their hands. Notwithstanding considerable forces were sent against them, and many furious battles fought between the Spaniards and the insurgents, generally to the disadvantage of the latter, the rebellion continued in great vigour near two years.

Aben

Aben Humeya, having betrayed an inclination to capitulate, was murdered by his own officers, and a desperate captain, called Aben-aboo, elected in his stead. This shadow of royalty soon passed away, and met with the fate of his predecessor. After his assassination, the Moriscos submitted, and were dispersed all over Spain, the rabble of the two Castilles being sent to occupy their lands.

In the year 1610, Philip the Third issued out an edict, commanding every person of Moorish extraction, without exception, to retire out of Spain: which rigorous and extraordinary order was to all appearance punctually obeyed: yet so late as the year 1726, the inquisition ferreted out, and drove into banishment, some considerable remnants of that unfortunate race.

L E T T E R XXI.

DRYDEN has built the ground-work of his play, of *The conquest of Granada*, upon circumstances taken out of a romantic history of the dissensions between the Zegris and the Abencerrages, noble Moors of Granada, by Giles Perez. The Spanish ballad, translated in Dr. Percy's relics of ancient poetry, is drawn from the same source. As Perez is an author read by all ranks of people in this country, his dreams are generally received as undoubted facts, consecrated by tradition ; and most of the tales repeated by the keepers of the palace, &c. have been learnt in his book. Indeed * Medina Conde,

* Conde, in order to favour the pretensions of the church in a great lawsuit, forged deeds and inscriptions, which he buried in the ground where he knew they would
 shortly

de, author of the *Passeos de Granada*, pretends to have found an Arabic manuscript account of these times, which corroborates the testimony of Peres : but these writers are such notorious impostors, that little credit can be given to any thing they advance :

shortly be dug up again. Upon their being found, he published engravings of them, and gave explanations of their unknown characters, making them out to be so many authentic proofs and evidences of the assertions of the clergy. His imposture was detected, and he now lies in prison, without much hope of ever recovering his liberty. I am told he is a most learned, ingenious man, profoundly skilled in the antiquities of his country. The Morocco ambassador, in his way through Granada, purchased of this man a copper bracelet of Fatima, which Medina proved by the Arabic inscription, and many certificates, to be genuine, and found among the ruins of part of the Alhambra, with other treasures of the last king, who had hid them there, in hopes of better days. This famous bracelet turned out afterwards to be the work of Medina's own hands, and made out of an old brass candlestick.

however, there must undoubtedly be some foundation for these anecdotes, and a previous knowledge of them is rather necessary for the perfect understanding of the description of the Alhambra ; I shall therefore presume so far upon your patience, as to sketch you out an abstract of the latter part of this history.

In the days of Boabdil or Abouabdoulah, the last king of Granada, the Alabeces, Abencerrages, Zegrís, and Gomeles, were the most powerful families in that city ; they filled most of the great employments about court, and scarce a brilliant achievement in war was heard of, that was not performed by the arm of some knight of these four houses. High above the rest towered the Abencerrages, unequalled in gallantry, magnificence, and chivalry. None among the Abencerrages more accomplished, more distinguished, than Albin Hamet, who for his great wisdom and valour stood deservedly

servedly foremost in the list of the king's favourites. His power rose to such a pitch, that it excited the most violent envy in the breast of the Zegris and Gomeles, who determined to pull him down from this post of superior eminence. After concerting many schemes for his destruction, none appeared to them more effectual than one proposed by a consummate villain of the Zegri family. He seized an opportunity of being alone with the king, whose character was as yet frank and unsuspecting: assuming an air of extreme anguish of mind, he observed to the prince how very weak his conduct appeared to all wise men, by reposing such unbounded confidence in, and trusting his person with, such traitors as the Abencerrages, who were well known to be laying a scheme for a general revolt, thereby to deprive Abouabdoulah of his life and crown. Nay more, he, and three men of honour, had seen the queen in wanton dalliance

with Albin Hamet Abencerrage, behind the lofty cypresses in the gardens of the Generaliph, from whence Hamet had returned insolently crowned with a garland of roses. These calumnies roused all the furies of jealousy in the breast of the credulous monarch, and the destruction of the whole lineage of Abencerrage was planned in the bloody junto. The principal men of the devoted family were, under some pretence or other, summoned one by one to attend the king in the court of lions. No sooner was each unhappy victim admitted within the walls, than he was seized by the Zegrís, led to a large alabaster basin in one of the adjoining halls, and there beheaded. Thirty-six of the noblest of the race had already perished, before the treachery was discovered. A page belonging to one of those noblemen having found means to follow his master in, and to get out again unseen, divulged the secret of this bloody transaction. The

treason

treason once known, all Granada was in an instant up in arms, and many desperate combats ensued, which, by the great havock made amongst the most valiant of its chieftains, brought the state to the very brink of ruin. These tumults being appeased by the wisdom of Musa, a bastard brother of the king, a grand council was held, in which Abouabdoulah declared his reasons for the punishment inflicted on the Abencerrages; *viz.* their conspiracy, and the adultery of the queen. He then solemnly pronounced her sentence, which was, to be burnt alive, if within thirty days she did not produce four knights to defend her cause against the four accusers. The queen's relations were upon the point of drawing their scimitars in the audience-chamber, and rescuing her from the danger that threatened her; but their fury was checked by the eloquence of Musa, who observed to them, they might by violence save the life of the Sultana, but

by no means clear her reputation in the eyes of the world; which would certainly look upon that cause as unjust, which refused to submit to the customary trial. The queen was immediately shut up in the tower of Comares. Many Granadine warriors were ambitious of having the honour of exposing their lives in her quarrel, but none were so happy as to prove the object of her choice. She had conceived so high an idea of the Christians, from the valour she had seen them display in a great tournament lately held at Granada, and the treachery of the Zegrís had impressed her with so despicable an opinion of Moorish honour, that she was determined to rest her defence upon the gallantry of the Spanish knights. In hopes of rousing their noble spirit to action, she dispatched a trusty messenger with a letter to Don Juan de Chacon, lord of Carthage, entreating him to espouse her cause, and, like a true knight,

bring

bring with him three brave warriors to stand her friends on the day appointed. Chacon returned for answer, that he set too high a price upon that honour, not to be punctual to the hour of trial. The fatal day arrived, and all Granada was buried in the deepest affliction, to find that their beloved queen had been so remiss as not to have named one of her defenders. Musa, Azarque, and Almoradi, the judges of the combat, pressed her, in vain, to accept of their swords, or those of several other warriors willing to assert the justness of her cause. The Sultana, relying on the Spanish faith, persisted in her refusal : upon which the judges conducted her down from the Alhambra, to a scaffold in the great square hung with black, where they seated themselves on one side. At the sight of this beauty in distress, the whole place resounded with loud cries and lamentations ; and it was with difficulty that the spectators could

be restrained from attacking her enemies, and rescuing her by main force. Scarce were the judges seated, when twenty trumpets announced the approach of the four accusers, who advanced armed cap-à-piè, mounted on the finest courfers of Andalusia. Over their armour they wore loose vests, with plumes and fashes of a tawny colour. On their shields were painted two bloody swords, and these words: *For the truth we draw them.* — All their kinsmen and adherents accompanied them to their post within the lists. In vain did the crowd cast a longing eye towards the gate through which the champions of injured innocence were to enter; none appeared from eight in the morning to two in the afternoon. The Sultana's courage began to fail her; and, when four valiant Moors presented themselves, to sue for the honour of drawing their swords to vindicate her innocence, she promised to trust her life in their hands, if within two
hours

hours the persons she expected should not appear. At that instant a great noise was heard, and four Turkish horsemen came prancing into the square. One of them addressed the judges, requesting the favour of speaking to the Queen; which being granted, he knelt down and told her aloud, that he and his companions were Turks, come to Spain with the design of trying their strength against the heroes of Ferdinand's army; but that, hearing of this solemn trial, they had changed their resolution, and were now arrived at Granada, to devote their first essay of arms in Spain to her service, and hoped she would approve of them for her champions. As he spoke, he let drop into her lap the letter she had written to Don Juan; by the sight of which she discovered this feigned Turk to be no other than the lord of Carthagená, who had brought with him, as companions in this dangerous conflict, the duke of Arcos, Don Alonzo de

de Aguilar, and Don Ferdinand de Cordova. The Queen accepted of their proposal; and the judges having solemnly declared her choice, gave orders for the charge to sound. The onset was fierce, and the fight long doubtful. At length Don Juan overthrew Mahandin Gomel, and the duke slew Alihamet Zegri; Mahandon Gomel fell by the sword of Aguilar, and the last of all, the arch-traitor Mahomed Zegri, disabled by repeated wounds, and fainting with loss of blood, sunk at the feet of Don Ferdinand; who setting his knee on the infidel's breast, and holding his dagger to his throat, summoned him to confess the truth, or die that instant. "Thou need'st not add another wound," said Mahomed, "for the last will prove sufficient to rid the world of such a monster. Know then, that to revenge myself of the Abencerrages, I invented the lye that caused their destruction, and the persecution of the Sultana; whom I here de-

clare

clare free from all stain or reproach whatsoever, and with my dying breath implore her forgiveness." The judges came down to receive this deposition of the expiring Zegri, and it was afterwards announced to the people, who expressed their joy by the loudest acclamations. The day ended in festivity and rejoicing. The Queen was escorted back in triumph to the palace, where the penitent Abouabdoulah fell at her feet, and with floods of tears endeavoured to atone for his crime, but to no purpose; for the Queen remained inflexible, and, retiring to the house of her nearest of kin, refused to have any further intercourse with him. The four knights left Granada, without discovering themselves to any other person; and soon after, the numerous friends and adherents of the Abencerrages abandoned the city, and, by their secession into Castille or Africa, left Abouabdoulah destitute of able officers, and
entirely

entirely at the mercy of his enemies, who in the course of a few months deprived him of his kingdom.

L E T T E R XXII.

WE have got acquainted with a very conversable old Spanish officer, of a great family and still greater appetite. He has very freely imparted to us all he knows about the present as well as ancient state of this province, and the comparisons he makes between them often draw a sigh from us all three. His nephew is possessed of large lordships and estates in the neighbourhood; which has afforded him many opportunities of coming at good information on a subject we are very desirous of investigating, I mean, whether there exist any remains of Moorish families in this country, and what is the tradition concerning

cerning the manners and customs of that people before their expulsion.

Granada, while governed by its own kings, the last years excepted, seems to have enjoyed greater affluence and prosperity than ever it has done since it became a province of Spain. Before the conquest, it was one of the most compact, well-peopled, opulent kingdoms in the world. Its agriculture was brought to great perfection, its revenues and circulation were immense; the public works carried on with great magnificence, and its population not to be credited by any person that sees it in its present condition. Nothing but the numerous ruins scattered over its hills can induce one to believe, that those bleak, barren wastes, which make up more than two-thirds of the province, were formerly covered with luxuriant plantations of fruit-trees, abundant harvests, or noble forests. Each Moor had his allotment of as much ground as sufficed for his habitation, the maintenance of

of his family, and the provender of his horse, which every man was obliged to keep. These small freeholds formed the general appearance of the country, before the incessant inroads and ravages of the Christians had driven the Moors to cities, mountains of difficult access, or quite away to the coast of Barbary. The single city of Granada contained eighty thousand families, and frequently sent out armies of thirty thousand foot, and ten thousand horse. An Arabian author says, that the kings had a constant stock of an hundred thousand horses for their own use, and for mounting their cavalry in time of war, and more than once had mustered two hundred thousand soldiers in actual pay, for the purpose of making war upon the Castillians.

A great deal of silk was produced in the plain, and the hills behind the city afforded corn enough for its consumption. The rich mines of the mountains were opened, and, though not wrought with any thing like the skill

skill of modern miners, yielded such a quantity of gold and silver, that both metals were more common in Granada than in any country in Europe. I cannot give you a more distinct idea of this people, than by a translation of a passage in an Arabic manuscript, in the library of the Escorial, intitled, "The History of Granada, by Abi Abdallah ben Alkalhibi Abfaneni," written in the year of the Hegira 778, which answers to the year of Christ 1378; Mahomet Lago being then for the second time king of Granada.

It begins by a description of the city and its environs, nearly in the following terms:

"The city of Granada is surrounded
 "with most spacious gardens, where the
 "trees are set so thick as to resemble hedges,
 "yet not so as to obstruct the view of the
 "beautiful towers of the Alhambra, which
 "glitter like so many bright stars over the
 "green forests. The plain, stretching far
 "and wide, produces such quantities of
 "grain

“ grain and vegetables, that no revenues,
 “ but those of the first families in the king-
 “ dom, are equal to their annual produce.
 “ Each garden is calculated to bring in a
 “ neat income of five hundred pieces of
 “ gold (aurei *) out of which it pays thirty
 “ minæ * to the king. Beyond these gar-
 “ dens lie fields of various culture, at all
 “ seasons of the year clad with the richest
 “ verdure, and loaded with some valuable
 “ vegetable production or other; by this
 “ method a perpetual succession of crops is
 “ secured, and a great annual rent is pro-
 “ duced, which is said to amount to twenty
 “ thousand aurei. Adjoining, you may see
 “ the sumptuous farms belonging to the
 “ royal demesnes, wonderfully agreeable to
 “ the beholder, from the large quantity of
 “ plantations of trees, and the variety of

* I was not able to obtain from the interpreters of
 Arabic, any satisfactory account of the real value of these
 Granada coins, therefore have left them as I found
 them in Casiri's Latin translation.

“ the plants. These estates occupy an extent
 “ of twenty miles square ; for the purpose
 “ of taking care of and working them, are
 “ kept numbers of able-bodied husbandmen
 “ and choice beasts, both of draught and
 “ burden. In most of them are castles,
 “ mills, and mosques. Great must be the
 “ profit upon these royal farms, arising from
 “ consummate skill in husbandry, assisted
 “ by the fertility of the soil, and the tem-
 “ perature of the air. Many towns, re-
 “ markable for the number of their inhabi-
 “ tants, and the excellence of their produc-
 “ tions, lie dispersed round the boundaries
 “ of these crown lands. The plain contains
 “ also large tracts of meadow and pasture,
 “ villages and hamlets full of people, country-
 “ houses and small dwellings belonging to
 “ one person, or to two or three copartners.
 “ I have heard the names of above three
 “ hundred hamlets in the environs of Gra-
 “ nada : within sight of the city walls may

“ be reckoned fifty colleges and places of
 “ worship, and above three hundred water-
 “ mills.”

He next proceeds to the character of the inhabitants.

“ The Granadians are orthodox in religi-
 “ on, of the sect of the Molekites. They pay
 “ implicit obedience to the mandates of their
 “ princes; are patient of labour, and above
 “ measure liberal: in person comely; of a
 “ middle stature, with small noses, clear
 “ complexions, and black hair: elegant in
 “ their language, but rather prolix in dis-
 “ course: indiffering and disputing, haugh-
 “ ty and obstinate. The greater number of
 “ their families derive their origin from
 “ houses of Barbary. Their dress is striped
 “ Persian or Turkish robes of the highest
 “ prices, either fine woollens, linens, silks,
 “ or cottons. In winter they wear the *Al-*
 “ *bornos*, or African cloak; in summer a
 “ loose white wrapper. The soldiers of
 “ Spanish

“ Spanish extraction use in war a short coat
 “ of mail, light helmet, Arabian horse-fur-
 “ niture, a leathern buckler, and slender
 “ spear. Those born in Africa bear very
 “ long staves, which they call *Amras*, i.
 “ e. rope-ends. Their dwellings are but
 “ slightly built. It is very curious to assist at
 “ the diversions of their festivals: for then
 “ the young people assemble in sets at the
 “ dancing-houses, and sing all manner of li-
 “ centious ballads. The citizens of Granada
 “ eat the very best of wheaten bread, through-
 “ out the year; the poorer sort, and labour-
 “ ers, are sometimes, in winter time, obliged
 “ to put up with barley-bread, which, how-
 “ ever, is excellent in its kind. They have
 “ every sort of fruit in abundance, especially
 “ grapes, of which the quantity eaten is in-
 “ credible. The vineyards in the neighbour-
 “ hood bring in fourteen thousand aurei. Im-
 “ mense are the hoards of all species of dried
 “ fruits, such as figs, raisins, plums, &c.

“ They have also the secret of preserving
 “ grapes sound and juicy from one season to
 “ another.

“ Both their gold and silver coin is good,
 “ and near to purity.

“ Many are the amusements and recre-
 “ ations of the citizens, when they retire in
 “ autumn to their pretty villas in the sub-
 “ urbs. They are passionately fond of deck-
 “ ing themselves out with gems, and orna-
 “ ments of gold and precious stones.

“ The women are handsome, but of a
 “ stature rather below the middle size, so that
 “ it is rare to meet with a tall one among
 “ them : they are very delicate, and proud
 “ of encouraging a prodigious length of
 “ hair; their teeth white as the driven snow,
 “ and their whole person kept perfectly
 “ sweet, by the abundant use of the most
 “ exquisite perfumes ; light and airy in their
 “ gait, of a sprightly acute wit, and smart
 “ in conversation. In this age, the vanity
 “ of

“ of the sex has carried the art of dressing
 “ themselves out with elegance, profusion,
 “ and magnificence, to such an excess, that it
 “ can no longer be simply called luxury, but
 “ is become absolute downright madness.”

In Granada, no house was without its pipe of water, and in every street were copious fountains for the public convenience, and for religious ablutions. In short, they neglected no art or invention that could contribute towards rendering their lives easy and voluptuous. I am afraid their urbanity and refinement helped to accelerate their ruin.

You have hitherto been shewn the brilliant side of the picture ; alas ! how different will you find it, when considered from another point of view, that of its present state ! The glories of Granada have passed away with its old inhabitants ; its streets are choaked with filth ; its aqueducts crumbled to dust ; its woods destroyed ; its territory depopulated ; its trade lost ; in a word, every thing,

except the church and law, in a most deplorable situation.

At the time of the expulsion of the Moors, such of them as were particularly skilled in the silk-manufactures, or in the art of conveying and distributing water to the grounds, were suffered to remain in the kingdom. Besides these, some were lucky enough to find powerful protectors, who screened them from sharing the common fate of their brethren. So late as the year 1726, the inquisition, with the sanction of government, seized upon three hundred and sixty families, accused of secret Mahometanism, and confiscated all their effects, which have been estimated at twelve millions of crowns: an immense sum, of which no account was ever given! The ancestors of these people had at their baptism assumed the surnames of their godfathers, by which means they had the same appellations as many of the best families in Spain; a kind of relationship
that

that was of great service to them in their misfortune, and probably saved their lives from the fury of the holy office. They were dispersed into distant parts of Spain, where, it is said, that with so much experience and skill in commerce, they soon grew rich again, and no doubt acquired wisdom enough to secure their second acquisitions better than their first. They were the principal merchants and monied men of Granada; their custom was to buy up for ready money all the silk made in the Vega, and sometimes advance the value of it to the landholders before the season. This raw silk they distributed to the manufacturers in the city, whom they supplied with cash for their present maintenance, and were repaid by degrees in wrought silks. All these artificers thrived under their protection, and provided a comfortable subsistence for themselves and their families. The proprietors of land felt the sweets of a ready sale for their commodities; and the

annual produce of silk in this province, before the year 1726, seldom fell short of two millions six hundred thousand pounds weight, whereas now it does not exceed one hundred thousand.

The sea-coast of Granada, from Marbella to Motril, afforded formerly large quantities of sugar, which was an article of commerce to Madrid, till within these thirty years. What is now produced, is consumed in the neighbourhood in sweetmeats. From heavy duties which were laid on this branch of trade, and still continue, it is almost lost, there being now only three mills at work, in a declining state. At Motril, and at Toros near Velez, sugar-canes have been produced nine feet high, and of a proportionable thickness. The first plants are said to have been imported from Sicily, and afterwards carried to the West Indies; and the quality and grain of the Spanish sugar is affirmed

firmed to be equal to any imported from thence.

A village in the mountains, up the Dauro, is to this day almost wholly composed of the descendants of Moors; but it is not possible to know whether they have retained any attachment to the customs and religion of their ancestors, or whether they are as good Christians at heart as in outward appearance. You may easily distinguish them from the Castilians who were transplanted hither, by their round plump faces, and small bright eyes, little nose, and projecting under-jaw. In their deportment, they are extremely humble and smooth-tongued; but so tenacious of their ready money, that it is with difficulty they can prevail upon themselves to part with the rents and dues which they cannot well avoid paying. These people, and the progeny of the Mosarabic Christians, who inhabited the country before the conquest, are esteemed a much better race of men,

men, both as to morals and industry, than the descendants of those vagabonds of Castille, who constitute the major part of the present inhabitants. Many vestiges of Moorish manners and customs may still be traced:—when they go in summer to bathe, at the end of a plentiful harvest, or on receiving a piece of good news, they are wont to set up the most hideous yells and outcries imaginable. I was assured, that whenever any sailors belonging to the Maltese ships stray up from Malaga, the populace of Granada, hearing them speak Arabic, and seeing them dressed in a kind of Moorish habit, follow them up and down the streets, and pay them extraordinary respect.

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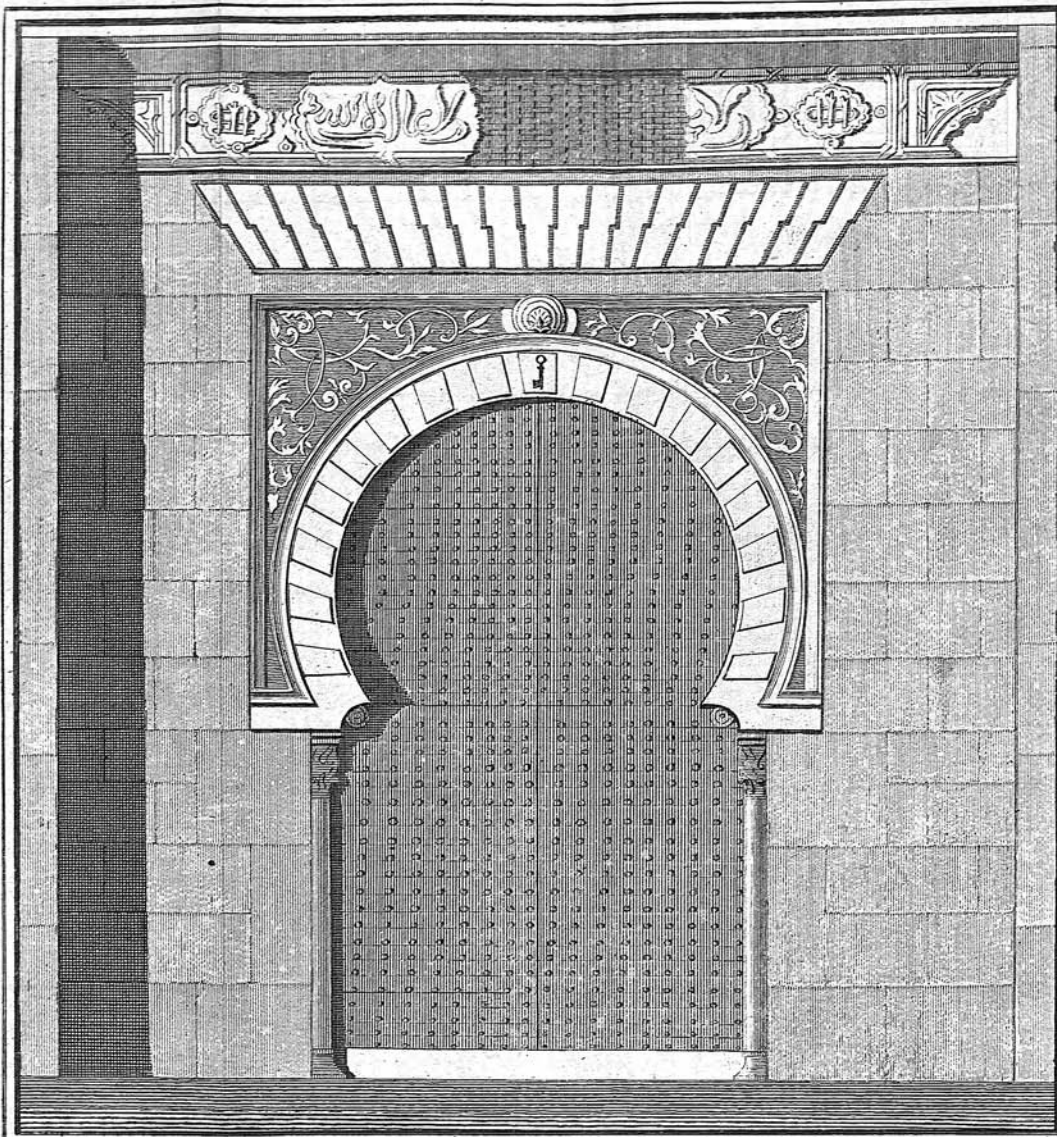
L E T T E R XXIII.

AFTER the tedious preamble of three long letters, it is high time to bring you to the palace of the Alhambra.

This ancient fortress, and residence of the Mahometan monarchs of Granada, derives its name from the red colour of the materials that it was originally built with, Alhambra signifying a red house. Most of the sovereigns took a delight in adding new buildings to the old towers now called *Torres de la campana*, or in embellishing what had been joined by their predecessors. The pleasantness of the situation, and purity of its air, induced the emperor Charles the fifth to begin a magnificent edifice on the ruins of the offices of the old palace, and it is thought he intended to fix his chief abode

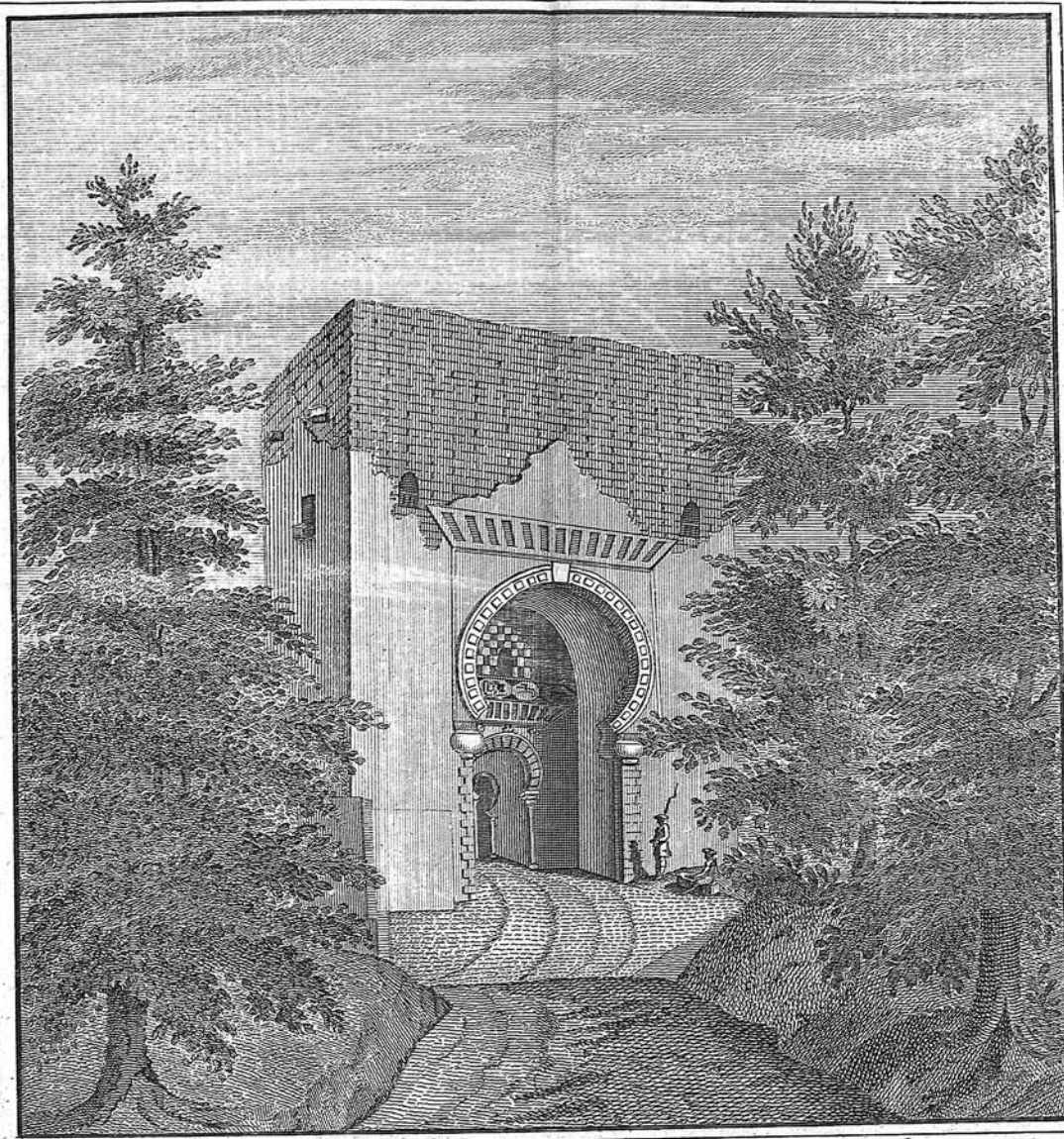
abode here ; but his volatile temper, continual wars, and frequent absences from Spain, made him give up all thoughts of Granada, long before he had finished the plan. It stands between the rivers, on a very high hill, that projects into the plain, and overlooks all the city ; the road up to it is through a narrow street, called *Calle de los Gomeles*, from a great family among the Moors. This brings you through a massive gate, built by the emperor, into the outward inclosure of the Alhambra. You then continue to ascend by a very steep avenue of elms, which soon increases to a wood, intersected in many directions by wild, neglected walks, where stream of clear water, finding their passage obstructed by the rubbish of their old channels, spread over the whole road. A large fountain adorns the platform near the top of the hill. The water, diverted from its proper conduits, has been suffered to run at random
for





H.S. del 1775. PUERTA DE LOS SIETE SUELOS.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
Pies Castellanos.



F. Giomignani. sc.

PUERTA DEL JUICIO.

for such a length of time, that it has destroyed most of the sculpture and embellishments, which were in a very good taste. Here you turn short to the left, and come under the walls of the inner inclosure. Its appearance is that of an old town, exhibiting a long range of high battlemented walls, interrupted at regular distances by large, lofty, square towers. These have one or two arched windows near the top, and a precipitate slope from the bottom into a dry ditch. The whole is built with round, irregular pebbles, mixed with cement and gravel. Some parts are covered and smoothed over with a thick coat of plaster; in other places, mortar has been laid in between the stones, leaving as much of them uncovered as came to the level; then the trowel has been carefully drawn round, forming about them triangles, half-moons, &c. Just before you, stands the present principal entrance into the castle, a square tower built

by



by the king Juzaf Abuhagiagi, in 1348, as an inscription informs us: from its being the place where justice was summarily administered, it was styled *The Gate of Judgment*. You pass through it under several arches (each of which is more than a full semicircle, resting upon a small impost, the ends of the bow being brought towards each other in the form of a horseshoe). On the key-stone of the outward arch, is sculptured the figure of an arm, the symbol of strength and dominion: on that of the next arch is a key embossed, the armorial ensign of the Andalusian Moors. Above it, the wall of this partition is covered with a beautiful blue and gold mosaic, in the middle of which the Christians have placed an image of the Virgin Mary. As this is not a gate ever used for carriages, the passage winds through several turns, full of images, indulgences, and altars, before you get through, out into a narrow street, between

a row

a row of shabby barracks on the right, and on the left the castle wall, supposed to be built by the Phœnicians. I examined the work very narrowly, and found it consisted of a layer of cement one or two inches thick, upon which is placed flatwise a stone of the same thickness, chiselled on the face into a kind of chequered design. This is the regular method employed from top to bottom. This lane ends in the great square, or *Plaza de los Algibes*, so named from the ancient cisterns, that undermine it from end to end, and are constantly fed by a supply of running water. The prospect from the parapet-wall is wonderfully grand, over the vale of Dauro, the Albaycin, and down the Vega. On the very brow of the hill, hanging over the city, stand the *towers of the bell*, a group of high square buildings, which now serve for prisons. Below them, on the south-side, on a slip of terrace, is the governor's garden, a very pleasant walk,

full

full of fine orange and cypress trees, and myrtle hedges, but quite abandoned. The view it commands is incomparable. Two large vases enamelled with gold and azure foliages and characters are the only ornaments left : these were taken out of the vaults under the royal apartments. On the right hand of the Plaza de los Algibes, is a solitary gateway, formerly the entrance into some of the outward quadrangles thrown down by Charles the fifth, to make room for his superb palace, which stands facing the *Torres de la campana*. This edifice is a perfect square of two hundred Spanish feet ; it has two orders of pilasters, Doric and Ionic, upon a rustic base. The whole measures sixty-two feet from the top of the upper entablement to the ground. Three of the fronts are free from all other buildings ; the fourth (that to the north) is joined and connected with the ancient palace of the Moorish kings. It was never
finished,

finished, which is much to be regretted by all lovers of the fine arts, for there are few edifices more deserving of their admiration. The architect was Alonzo Verruguete, a native of Paredes de Navas, near Valladolid. In this work he has discovered a most transcendent genius, grandeur of style, and elegance and chastity of design. How different from all that has been done for a century past in this kingdom ! The doors are designed in a great manner ; the bas-reliefs, figures, festoons, medallions, &c. are of excellent invention and execution ; the ornaments of the cornices, windows, and capitals are delicate, and suitable to the general effect. On the pedestals of the columns, that support the entablement of the great door, are reliefs on dark marble, that for polish might pass for bronze at a little distance ; the Doric door in the south side, called El Zanguenete, pleased me greatly, as there is something simply elegant in the taste,

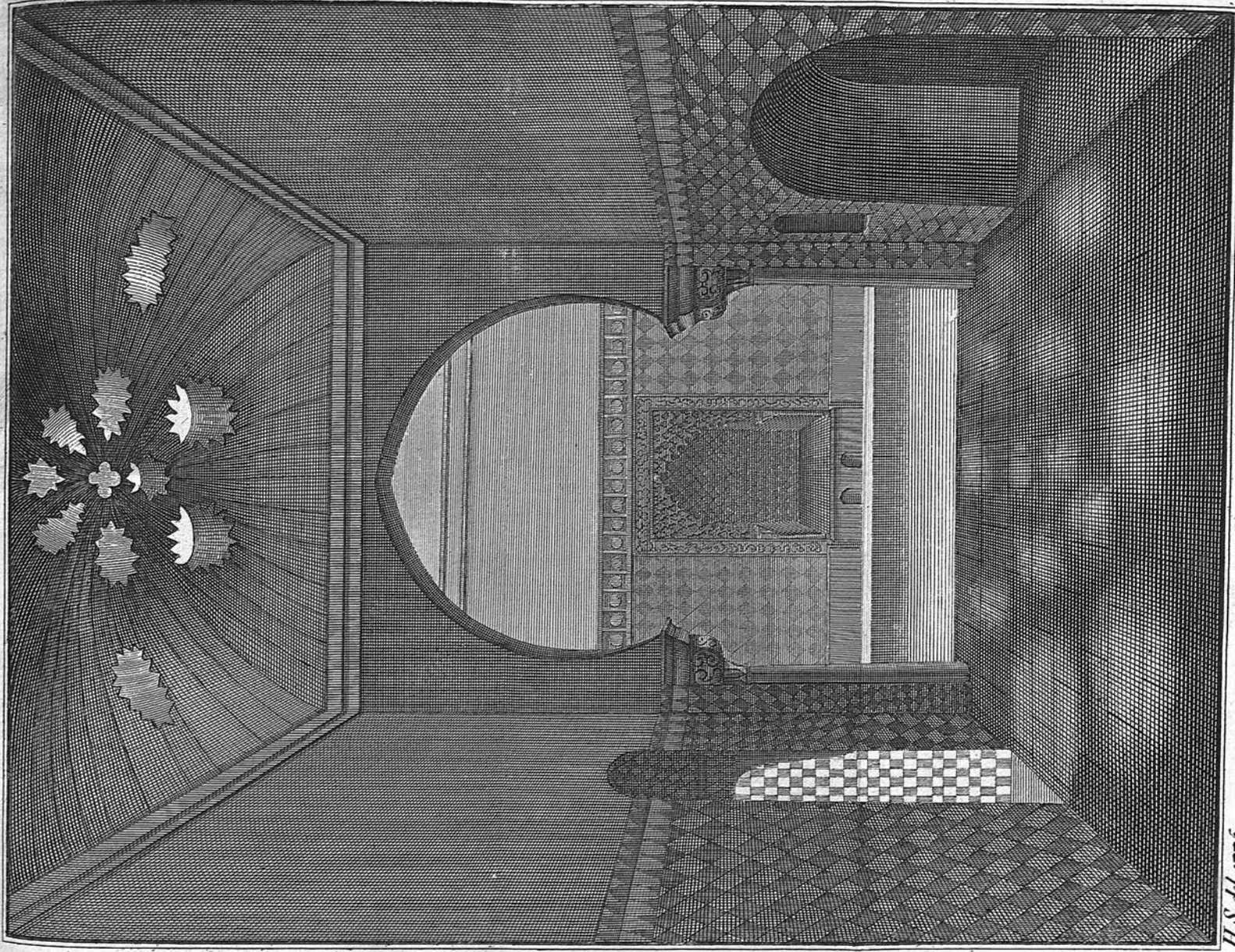
and new in the ornamental part; the pediment is filled with a scroll thrown with great ease, on which is inscribed *plus outre*, the motto of the Emperor, which he never failed introducing into every public work he undertook. You come, through an oblong vestibule, into the court which forms the center of the palace. It is an exact circle, of one hundred and forty-four feet diameter, round which runs a Doric colonnade, or portico, of thirty-two columns, supporting an upper gallery of an equal number of pillars, of the Ionic order. They are all of them of one entire block of reddish marble. The portico is nineteen feet wide, and serves as a communication with the staircase, and the intended apartments, which are disposed round the court in various forms and proportions. The roof of the gallery is crumbling away very fast, and many of the columns are much damaged. The apartments never had any other covering than

than the sky ; and nothing but the matchless temperature of the climate could have saved this beautiful work, so many years, from total ruin. The magnificence, the unity of this whole pile, but, above all, the elegance of the circular court, quite transported me with pleasure, on the first view, and I have ever since found my admiration increase in proportion to the number of my visits.

Adjoining (to the north) stands a huge heap of as ugly buildings as can well be seen, all huddled together, seemingly without the least intention of forming *one* habitation out of them. The walls are entirely unornamented, all gravel and pebbles, daubed over with plaster by a very coarse hand ; yet this is the palace of the Moorish kings of Granada, indisputably the most curious place within, that exists in Spain, perhaps in Europe. In many countries, you may see excellent modern as well as ancient architecture,

both entire and in ruins ; but nothing to be met with any where else can convey an idea of this edifice, except you take it from the decorations of an opera, or the tales of the Genii. I therefore look upon it to stand alone in its kind, and consequently think no excuse necessary, previous to my entering upon the minute detail I intend giving you of it.

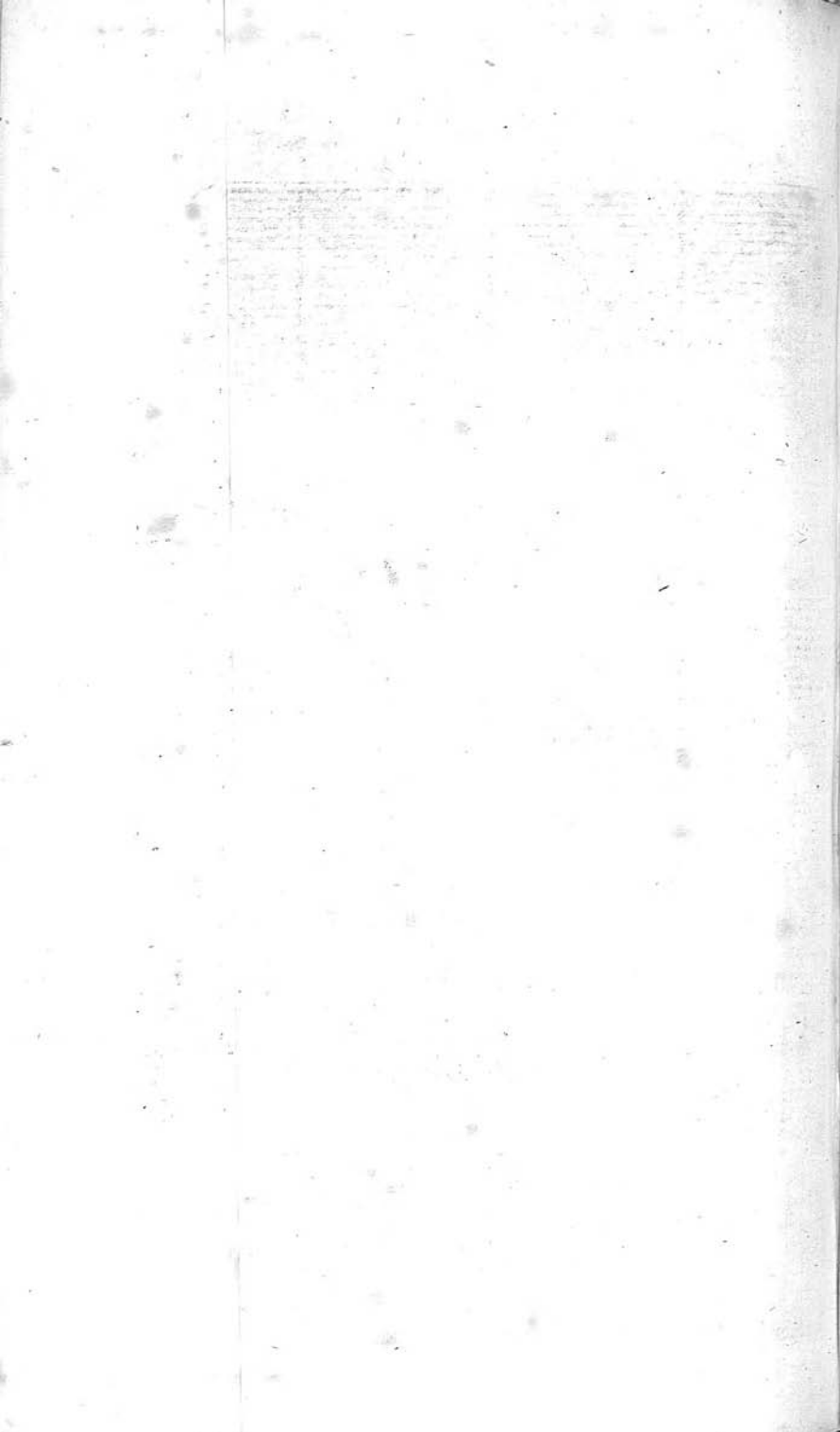
Passing round the corner of the Emperor's palace, you are admitted at a plain unornamented door in a corner. On my first visit, I confess, I was struck with amazement, as I stepped over the threshold, to find myself on a sudden transported into a species of fairy-land. The first place you come to, is the court called the *communa*, or *del mesucar*, that is the *common baths* : An oblong square, with a deep basin of clear water in the middle ; two flights of marble steps leading down to the bottom ; on each side a parterre of flowers, and a row of orange trees. Round the court runs a peristyle paved with
 and 4 marble ;



H.S. del. 1775.

GREAT BATH OF THE ALAMBRA.

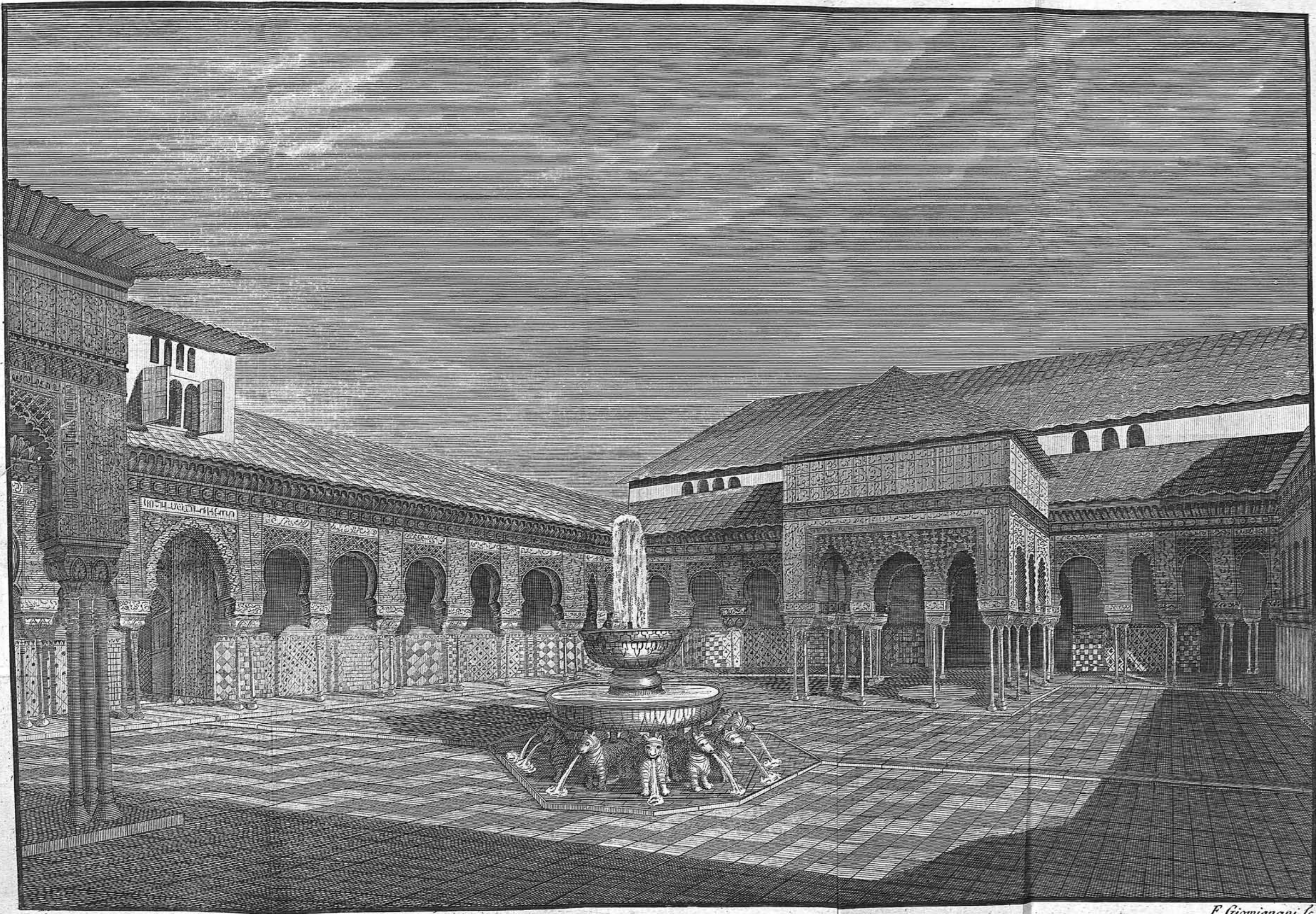
F. Giomignani sc.



marble; the arches bear upon very slight pillars, in proportions and style different from all the regular orders of architecture. The ceilings and walls are incrustated with fret-work in stucco, so minute and intricate, that the most patient draughtsman would find it difficult to follow it, unless he made himself master of the general plan. This would facilitate the operation exceedingly, for all this work is frequently and regularly repeated at certain distances, and has been executed by means of square moulds applied successively, and the parts joined together with the utmost nicety. In every division are Arabic sentences of different lengths, most of them expressive of the following meanings: "There is no conqueror but God;" or, "Obedience and honour to our Lord Abou-abdoulah." The ceilings are gilt or painted, and time has caused no diminution in the freshness of their colours, though constantly exposed to the air. The lower part

of the walls is mosaïc, disposed in fantastic knots and festoons. A work so new to me, so exquisitely finished, and so different from all I had ever seen, afforded me the most agreeable sensations, which, I assure you, redoubled every step I took in this magic ground. The porches at the ends are more like grotto-work, than any thing else I can compare them to. That on the right hand opens into an octagon vault, under the Emperor's palace, and forms a perfect whispering-gallery, meant to be a communication between the offices of both houses.

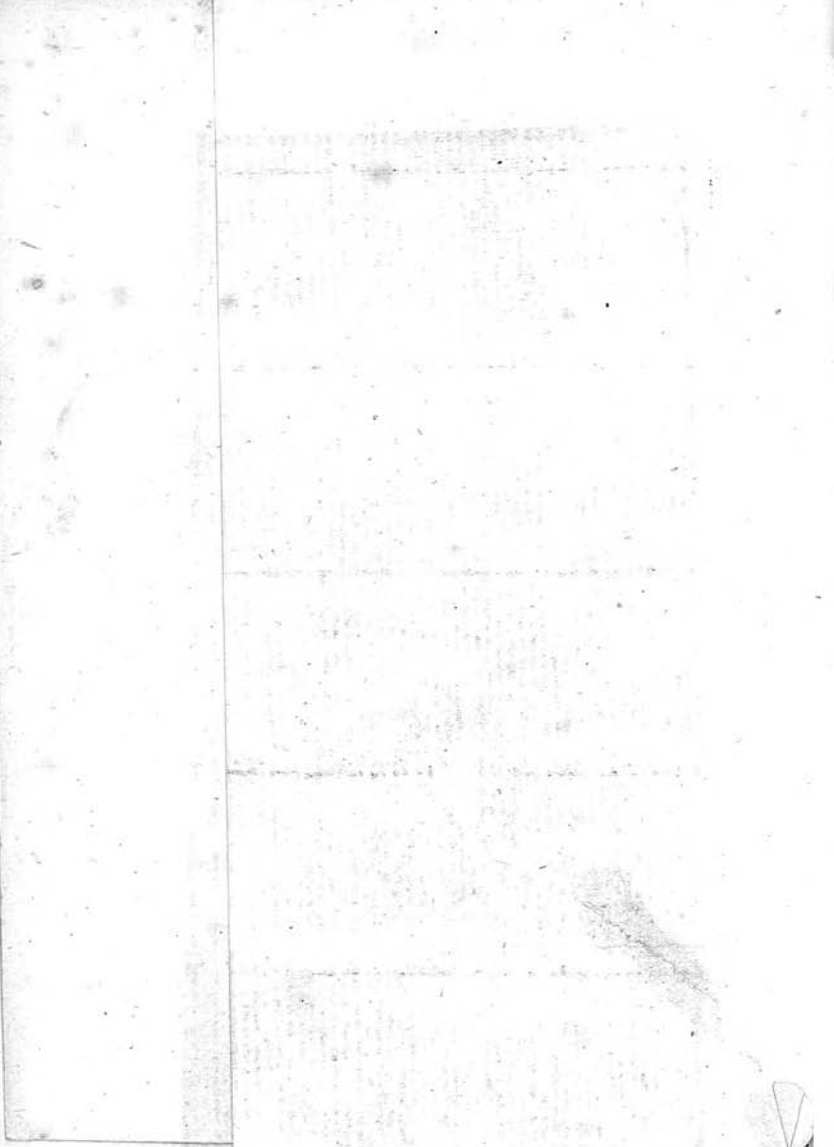
Opposite to the door of the communa through which you enter, is another, leading into the *Quarto de los leones*, or apartment of the lions, which is an oblong court, one hundred feet in length, and fifty in breadth, environed with a colonnade seven feet broad on the sides, and ten at the end. Two porticos or cabinets, about fifteen feet square, project into the court at the two
extre-



H.S. del. 1775.

F. Giomignani sc.

COURT of the LIONS in the ALHAMBRA or MOORISH PALACE of GRANADA.



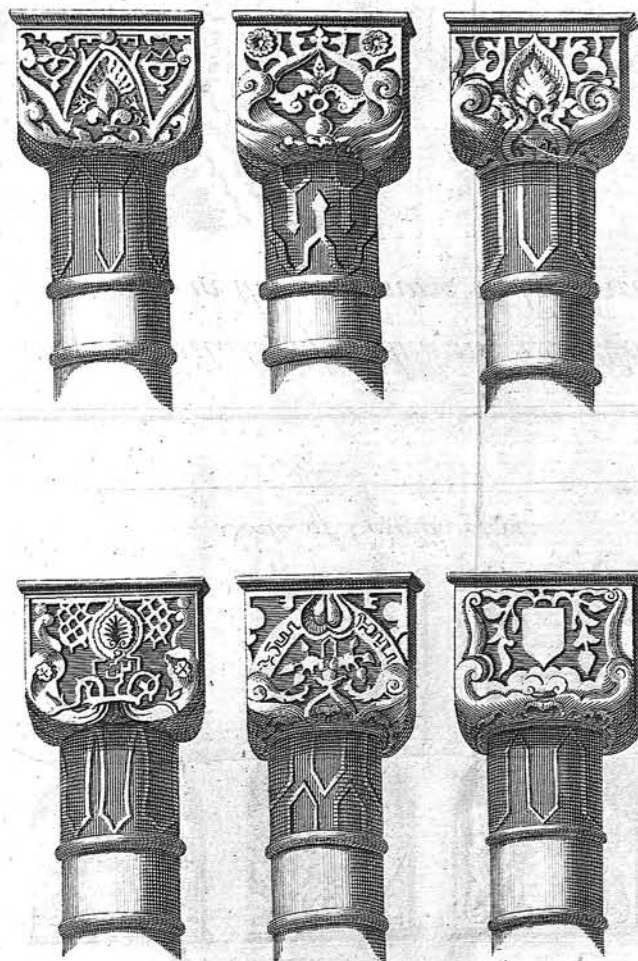
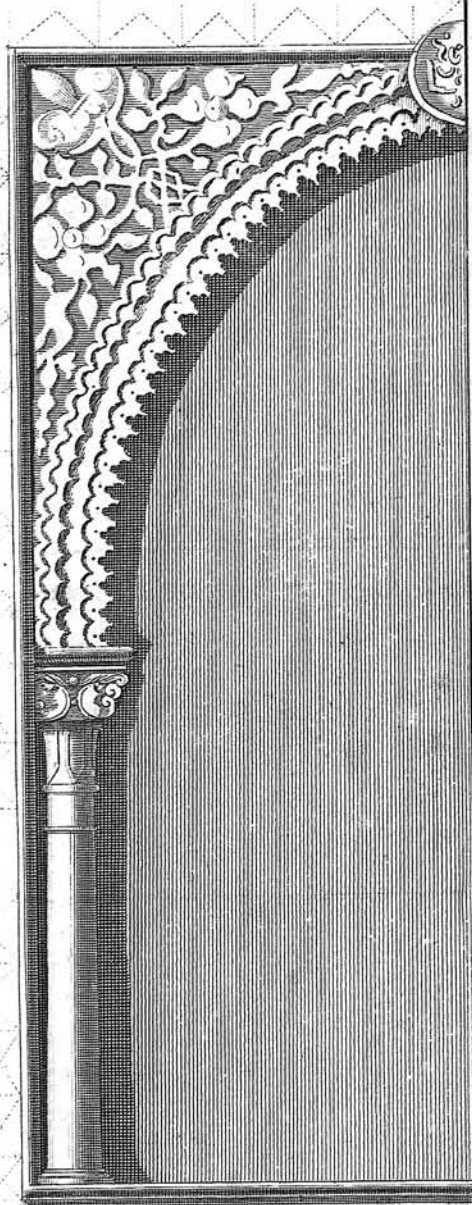
feet broad on the sides, and ten at the end.
Two porticos or cabinets, about fifteen feet
square, project into the court at the two
extre-

extremities. The square is paved with coloured tiles; the colonnade with white marble. The walls are covered five feet up from the ground with blue and yellow tiles, disposed chequerwise. Above and below is a border of small escutcheons, enamelled blue and gold, with an Arabic motto on a bend, signifying, "No conqueror but God." The columns that support the roof and gallery are of white marble, very slender, and fantastically adorned. They are nine feet high, including base and capital, and eight inches and an half diameter. They are very irregularly placed, sometimes singly, at others in groups of three, but more frequently two together. The width of the horse-shoe arches above them is four feet two inches for the large ones, and three for the smaller. The ceiling of the portico is finished in a much finer and more complicated manner, than that of the *communa*, and the stucco laid on the walls with inimitable delicacy;

in the ceiling it is frosted and handled with astonishing art. The capitals are of various designs, though each design is repeated several times in the circumference of the court, but not the least attention has been paid to placing them regularly or opposite to each other. You will form a much clearer idea of their style, as well as disposition, from the drawings, than from the most elaborate description I can pen. Not the smallest representation of animal life can be discovered amidst the varieties of foliages, grotesques, and strange ornaments. About each arch is a large square of arabesques, surrounded with a rim of characters, that are generally quotations from the Koran. Over the pillars is another square of delightful filligree work. Higher up is a wooden rim, or kind of cornice, as much enriched with carving as the stucco that covers the part underneath. Over this projects a roof of red tiles, the only thing that disfigures this beautiful

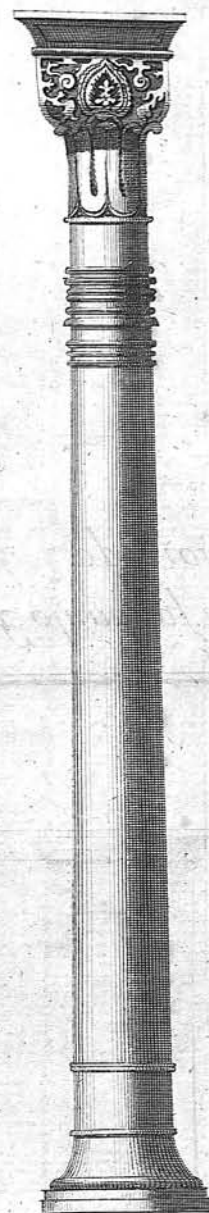
Scale of 2 English Feet.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Scale of Castillian feet.

1 2 3 4



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Scale of Castillian feet.

S. del. 1775.

Cupboard in the Hall of the
Embassadors.

Six Capitals of Columns in the Court
of Lions in the Alambra of Granada.

F. Giomignani sc.
Column of the Court
of Lions.

or kind of cornice, as much enriched with carving as the stucco that covers the part underneath. Over this projects a roof of red tiles, the only thing that disfigures this beautiful

beautiful square. This ugly covering is modern, put on by order of Mr. Wall, the late prime minister, who a few years ago gave the Alhambra a thorough repair. In Moorish times the building was covered with large painted and glazed tiles, of which some few are still to be seen. In the center of the court are twelve ill-made lions muzzled, their fore-parts smooth, their hind-parts rough, which bear upon their backs an enormous basin, out of which a lesser rises. While the pipes were kept in good order, a great volume of water was thrown up, that, falling down into the basins, passed through the beasts, and issued out of their mouths into a large reservoir, where it communicated by channels with the jet d'eau in the apartments. This fountain is of white marble, embellished with many festoons, and Arabic distichs, thus translated;

“ Seeft

“ See’st thou not how the water flows co-
 “ piously like the Nile?”

“ This resembles a sea washing over its
 “ shores, threatening shipwreck to the ma-
 “ riner.”

“ This water runs abundantly, to give
 “ drink to the lions.”

“ Terrible as the lion is our king in the
 “ day of battle.”

“ The Nile gives glory to the king, and
 “ the lofty mountains proclaim it.”

“ This garden is fertile in delights ; God
 “ takes care that no noxious animal shall ap-
 “ proach it.”

“ The fair princess that walks in this gar-
 “ den, covered with pearls, augments its
 “ beauty so much, that thou may’st doubt
 “ whether it be a fountain that flows, or
 “ the tears of her admirers*.”

* This passage is very obscure in the Latin transla-
 tion. I have endeavoured to make something of it, but
 it still remains a forced conceit.

Paf-

Passing along the colonnade, and keeping on the south side, you come to a circular room used by the men as a place for drinking coffee and forbets in. A fountain in the middle refreshed the apartment in summer. The form of this hall, the elegance of its cupola, the cheerful distribution of light from above, and the exquisite manner in which the stucco is designed, painted, and finished, exceed all my powers of description. Every thing in it inspires the most pleasing, voluptuous ideas: yet in this sweet retreat they pretend that Abouabdoulah assembled the Abencerrages, and caused their heads to be struck off into the fountain. Our guide, with a look expressive of implicit faith, pointed out to us the stains of their blood in the white marble slabs; which is nothing more than the reddish marks of iron-water in the quarry, or perhaps the effect of being long exposed to the air. Continuing your walk round, you are next brought

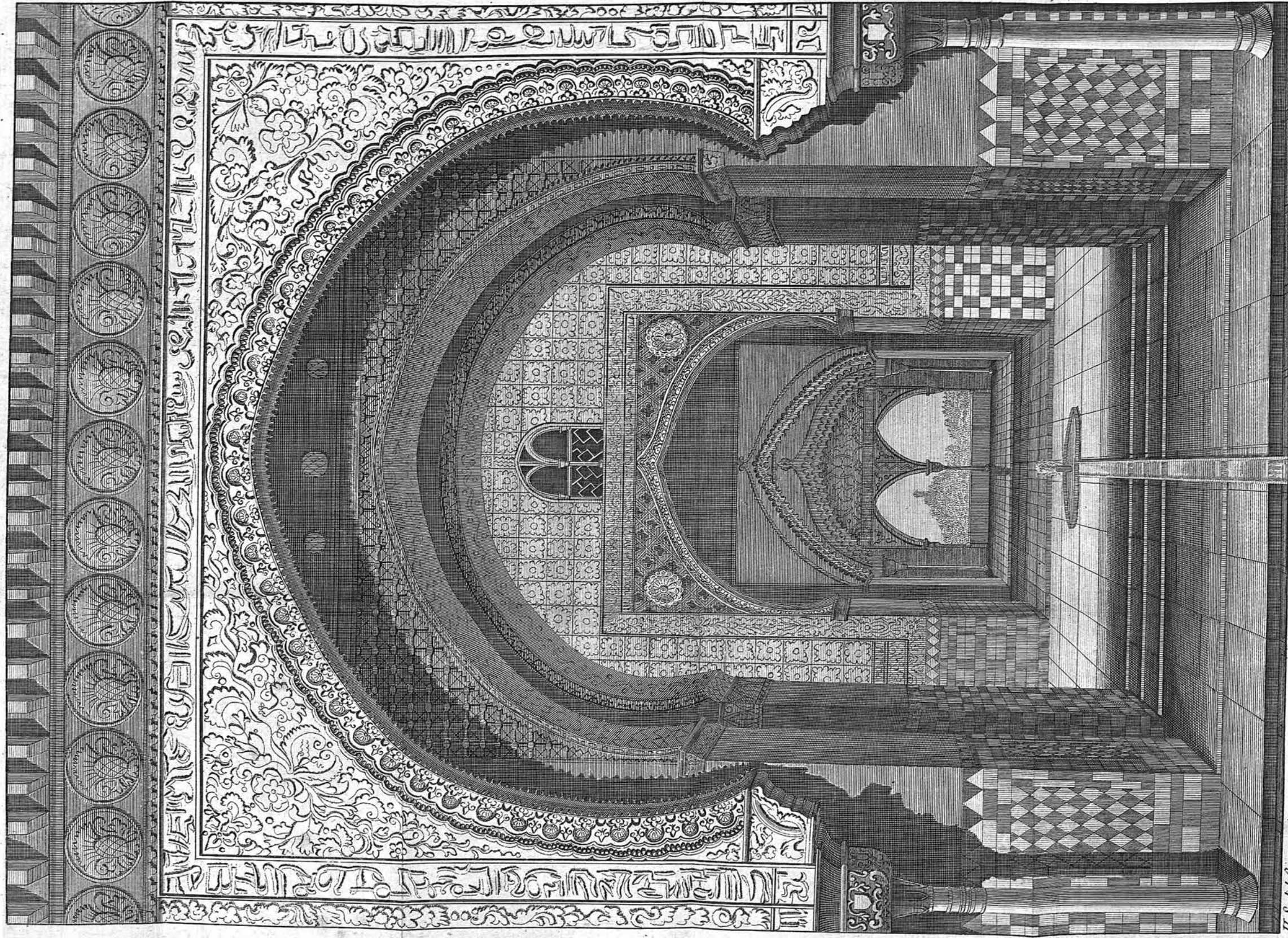
brought to a couple of rooms at the head of the court, which are supposed to have been tribunals, or audience-chambers. In the ceiling are three historical paintings, executed with much strength, but great stiffness in the figures and countenances. One of them seems to be a cavalcade; the other the entrance of some princess; and the third a divan. When these were painted, and what they are meant to represent, I could not make out; but our *Cicerone* naturally adapted them to the history of the Sultana and her four Christian knights. If they are representations of that doubtful story, they must have been painted in the Emperor's time, or a little before, for it cannot be supposed that Abouabdoulah would wish to perpetuate the memory of a transaction in which he bore so very weak and dishonourable a part: And besides, the anathema denounced by the Koran against all representations of living creatures, renders it next

to

to impossible that these pieces should have existed previous to the conquest. The lions of the great fountain may be brought as an argument against my last reason ; and indeed they shew that the Granadine princes, as well as some of the oriental caliphs, who put their own effigy on their coin, ventured now and then to place themselves above the letter of the law. Be this as it will, if these pictures really represent that subject, and their antiquity can be proved to go as far back as the reign of Ferdinand, or at least the beginning of that of Charles, which I take to be no very difficult matter to make out, I should have much greater respect for the authority of Giles Peres than many think him entitled to. It can scarce be supposed that the events of the reign of Abouabdoulah could be so totally forgotten so soon after, that a painter should dare to invent a trial and combat, at which many
still

still living in Granada might have assisted as spectators.

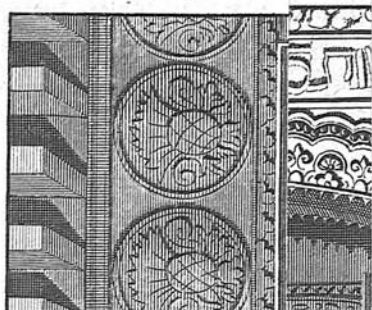
Opposite to the *Sala de los Abencerrages* is the entrance into the *Torre de las dos hermanas*, or the tower of the two sisters, so named from two very beautiful pieces of marble laid as flags in the pavement. This gate exceeds all the rest in profusion of ornaments and in beauty of prospect, which it affords through a range of apartments, where a multitude of arches terminate in a large window open to the country. In a gleam of sunshine, the variety of tints and lights thrown upon this enfilade are uncommonly rich. I employed much time in making an exact drawing of it from the fountain, and hope it will help you to comprehend what I am labouring to explain by my narrative. The first hall is the concert-room, where the women sat; the musicians played above in four balconies. In the middle is a jet d'eau. The marble pavement I take to be



H.S. del. Grav. 1775.

F. Giomagnani sc.

ENTRANCE of the TORRE de las dos HERMANAS in the ALHAMBRA.



two in four balconies. In the middle is a
jet d'eau. The marble pavement I take to
be

be equal to the finest existing, for the size of the flags, and evenness of the colour. The two siflers, which give name to the room, are slabs that measure fifteen feet by seven and a half, without flaw or stain. The walls, up to a certain height, are mosaic, and above are divided into very neat compartments of stucco, all of one design, which is also followed in many of the adjacent halls and galleries. The ceiling is a fretted cove. To preserve this vaulted roof, as well as some of the other principal cupolas, the outward walls of the towers are raised ten feet above the top of the dome, and support another roof over all, by which means no damage can ever be caused by wet weather, or excessive heat and cold. From this hall you pass round the little myrtle-garden of Lindaraxa, into an additional building made to the east end by Charles V. The rooms are small and low: his dear motto, *Plus outre*, appears on every beam. This leads to a little tower, projecting

projecting from the line of the north wall, called *El tocador*, or the dressing room of the Sultana. It is a small square cabinet, in the middle of an open gallery, from which it receives light by a door and three windows. The look-out charming. In one corner is a large marble flag, drilled full of holes, through which the smoke of perfumes ascended from furnaces below; and here, it is presumed, the Moorish queen was wont to sit to fumigate and sweeten her person. The emperor caused this pretty little room to be painted with representations of his wars, and a great variety of grotesques, which appear to be copies, or at least imitations, of those in the loggie of the Vatican. They have been shamefully abused by idle scribblers; what remains shews them to be the work of able artists. From hence you go through a long passage to the hall of ambassadors, which is magnificently decorated with innumerable varieties of mosaics, and
the

the mottos of all the kings of Granada. This long narrow antichamber opens into the *communa* on the left hand, and on the right into the great audience-hall in the tower of *Comares*, a noble apartment, thirty-six feet square, thirty-six high up to the cornice, and eighteen from thence to the centre of the cupola. The walls on three sides are fifteen feet thick, on the other nine; the lower range of windows thirteen feet high. The whole hall is inlaid with mosaics of many colours, disposed in intricate knots, stars, and other figures. In every part are repeated certain Arabic sentences, the principal of which are the following:

“The counsel of God and a speedy increase, and give joy to true believers.”

“Praise to God, and to his vicegerent Nazar, who gave this empire, and to our king Abouabdoulah, to whom be peace, elevation, and glory.”

N. B. Nazar is an appellation of emi-

nence, and supposed to mean the famous Emirmoumelin Jacob Almanzar.

“ There is no God but God.”

“ Valour, success, and duration to our king Abulhaghagh, king of the Moors ; God guide his state and elevate his power !”

“ Praise be to God, for I enliven this dwelling of princes with my beauty, and with my crown. I strike firm root ; I have fountains of purest water, and handsome apartments ; my inhabitants are lords of mighty puissance. May God, who guides his people, protect me, for I attend to the sayings of the holy ! I am thus adorned by the hand and liberality of Abulhaghagh, who is a bright moon that casts forth his light over the face of heaven.”

These inscriptions, and many others dispersed over the palace, prove that there is
very

very little of it remaining that is not the work of Abulhaghagh, or of Abouabdoulah.

Having thus completed the tour of the upper apartments, which are upon a level with the offices of the new palace, you descend to the lower floor, which consisted of bedchambers and summer-rooms: the backstairs and passages, that facilitated the intercourse between them, are without number. The most remarkable room below is the king's bedchamber, which communicated, by means of a gallery, with the upper story. The beds were placed in two alcoves, upon a raised pavement of blue and white tiles; but as it has been repaired by Philip V. who passed some time here, I cannot say how it may have been in former times. A fountain played in the middle, to refresh the apartment in hot weather. Behind the alcoves are small doors that conduct you to the royal baths. These consist in one small closet with marble cisterns for washing children,

dren, two rooms for grown-up persons, and vaults for boilers and furnaces, that supplied the baths with water, and the stoves with vapours. The troughs are formed of large slabs of white marble; the walls are beautified with party-coloured earthen ware; light is admitted by holes in the coved cieling.

Hard by is a whispering gallery, and a kind of labyrinth, said to have been made for the diversion of the women and children.

One of the passages of communication is fenced off with a strong iron grate, and called the prison of the sultana; but it seems more probable that it was put up to prevent any body from climbing up into the women's quarter.

Under the council-room is a long slip, called the king's study; and adjoining to it are several vaults, said to be the place of burial of the royal family. In the year 1574, four sepulchres were opened, but, as they contained

contained nothing but bones and ashes, were immediately closed again.

I shall finish this description of the Alhambra, by observing how admirably every thing was planned and calculated for rendering this palace the most voluptuous of all retirements ; what plentiful supplies of water were brought to refresh it in the hot months of summer ; what a free circulation of air was contrived, by the judicious disposition of doors and windows ; what shady gardens of aromatic trees ; what noble views over the beautiful hills and fertile plains ! No wonder the Moors regretted Granada ; no wonder they still offer up prayers to God every Friday for the recovery of this city, which they esteem a terrestrial paradise.

LETTER XXIV.

Granada, December 30, 1775.

AFTER the Alhambra, I am afraid the rest of the city will go down but poorly.

The Alameda, along the banks of the Xenil, is as pleasant a walk as any in Spain, but the river has seldom water enough to enliven the prospect with a reflected landscape. The hill rises boldly, to back the avenue, with orange-groves, cypress-alleys, and clusters of houses, grouped upon the waving line of its sides and summit. This, and another drive beyond the river, are the chief places of resort for people on foot or in coaches; and the beauty of Granada is nowhere more striking than from these points of view. The more distant parts of the
hill

hill are rather bare, and hollowed out into caverns, inhabited by a tawny, ill-favoured tribe, who have either excavated the mountain, or found it ready scooped out to their hands by the ancient possessors of the country. In winter, these grottos are so warm, that they sleep in them without clothes or covering to the bed ; and in summer they are so cool, as to be dangerous for such persons as come suddenly out of the heat of the external atmosphere.

The environs of the town are charming even now. Every body tells us, that, in summer, Granada is a delicious abode, never too cold nor too hot, refreshed by numberless streams, and perfumed by all the sweets wafted by the breeze from the gardens that lie scattered over the declivities of the neighbouring hills. Nothing can be more agreeable, in the mild sunshiny afternoons which we enjoy here, though at Christmas, than the walks along the heights

of the Alhambra. There is always a great concourse of people sitting on the grass, basking in the sun, and diverting themselves, as if it were a fair. Venders of cakes, toys, and liquors, call their wares through the crowd. The women come to shew themselves in their holiday finery, dressed out in black silk petticoats and veils. In that habit every woman has something uncommonly alluring. Here indeed the sex is really handsome in any dress; their complexions are fairer, their skins clearer, and their cheeks glow with a brighter tinge than any faces we have met with in our journey down the coast. The distance of Granada from the sea-ports has probably preserved it from that general infection of the odious disease, which rages with such virulence in all the trading towns. The surprising purity of its air must also greatly contribute towards the freshness of their looks. In many houses, a current of water passes in

an

an uncovered channel through bedchambers where people sleep, winter and summer, without its having the least bad effect upon their health. Fruit and butchers meat remain in the Alhambra an unusual length of time without taint or putrefaction.

The walls and gates of the town, very few parts excepted, are demolished or built up, and the city is open on all sides. Most of the streets are narrow and dirty. To the lanes and alleys the common people retire to perform the most filthy of nature's functions: but they do it with much decency, having by long practice acquired great expertness in casting their cloak like a net, so as to fall exactly round at a proper distance from the body. Though it is common enough to find them squatted down in the streets, you never see any body make water publicly, for when pressed, they always retire behind a door, into an entry, or to some secret corner.

The

The Rambla is a very broad, long street, leading to the great walk: a lofty church, and some public buildings, give this street an air of grandeur not common in a Spanish city. Most of the small houses are Moorish built, or coarse imitations of that manner, the modern masons decorating their walls with uncouth copies of Saracenic mosaics. I believe there is scarce a house in Granada that has not over its door, in large red characters, the words, *Ave Maria purissima sin pecado concebida*; this is the *cri de guerre* of the Franciscan friars, who are the heads of the party that maintain the conception of the Virgin Mary to have been performed without her participating of the stain of original sin. This is a favourite tenet in Spain, strengthened and confirmed by the institution of the new order of knighthood of Carlos Tercero, by the vows of the ancient military orders, and by the oath administered to all candidates

dates for degrees. At their reception they swear to defend, by word and deed, the doctrine of the immaculate conception. The Dominicans are the grand antagonists of the Conceptionists.

The market-place is spacious, but its buildings are horridly ugly. They are Moorish, and from top to bottom seem to be nothing but rows of large windows, divided by narrow brick pilasters. The shambles are a building apart, and clean enough. All meat bought in them must be weighed before a sitting committee of magistrates, before the buyer is suffered to carry home his purchase. One of our servants was yesterday hurried to jail, through ignorance of this regulation. An alguazil, coming up behind him, seized on his catering basket: this abrupt mode of proceeding was repulsed by a violent blow on the chaps with a shoulder of mutton, which brought the Spaniard to the ground. Our hero was marching off triumphant,

when

when the pride of victory getting the better of his prudence, he suffered himself to be surpris'd by a detachment of alguazils, who lodged him in prison, till our banker waited upon the magistrates, and procured his discharge.

The outsides of the churches are painted in a theatrical taste, and their insides set off with a profusion of marbles, brought from the neighbouring mountains: the dark green, from the Sierra Nevada, is the most valuable. Tables of an extraordinary size have been lately cut of that marble, for the infant Don Lewis; but as the roads have been since quite destroyed by the torrents, the future carriage of such large blocks from the mountain will be attended with great expence and trouble. There are also many handsome brown marbles and alabasters, diversified with an infinite number of shades and tints. One whole street of artificers is employed in making little boxes, bracelets, neck-

neck-laces, and other knick-knacks, of such materials, which they retail cheap enough. It is usual in gentlemen's houses to frame fine specimens of marble, and hang them up in the apartments by way of ornament.

The cathedral, which, in point of architecture, stands very high in the opinion of the Granadines, is an assemblage of three churches. The first is a clumsy parish-church; the second, a large chapel, erected by Ferdinand V. at that unfortunate æra of the arts, when all the lightness and beautiful caprice of the Saracenic taste was laid aside, to make room for an unwieldy, preposterous mode of building, and a few years before the magnificence, elegance, and purity of Grecian architecture came again to be understood, relished, and copied. Both within and without, this chapel is incumbered with the weight of its own ill-proportioned ornaments. Ferdinand and Isabella repose before the altar, under a large marble monument full of figures and

grotesques, in a pretty good style; which proves what a surprising revolution the arts had undergone since the time of building the chapel. The two catholic monarchs lie by the side of each other; and adjoining, on a similar tomb, are stretched out the effigies of Philip the Fair, of Austria, their son-in-law, and of Joan their daughter, his wife. Over the great door is the emblem of the united monarchies, a bundle of arrows tied together, and clutched in the talons of a single-headed eagle.

From the chapel you pass into the main church, begun in the reign of Charles V. but not yet quite finished. It has the advantage of receiving abundance of light in every part; but the architect, who has essayed every order of architecture both on the outside and inside of the church, has combined and disposed them in so heavy and confused a manner, that they produce none of that grand effect which results from the well-

well-proportioned parts of one *whole*, when placed in perfect harmony with each other; such as fills the eye with one great object, and affords the senses a repose and satisfaction, undisturbed by the irregular predominance of any of the component members. Here they have carried the extravagance of fancy to such a pitch, that at one altar they have turned a set of twisted columns of beautiful marble topsy-turvy, and placed the smaller end on the base: the uncouthness of the appearance corresponds with the absurdity of the idea. The high altar is insulated, after the Roman fashion, under a very lofty dome, which would be entitled to the admiration of connoisseurs, had they taken less pains to load the arches, and the angles of the cupola, with statues, pictures, and festoons. The area round its basis, with the fine iron railing, and marble pavement, makes a great shew. I observed no very good paintings over any of the altars; but
read

read an order, hung up in one of the iles, which thunders out the pain of the greater excommunication against all such as walk here for their pleasure, or converse with women in any of the chapels. Lest this anathema should not restrain the idle and the amorous, the spiritual court has added to it a fine of four ducats for each offence.

The church of St. John of God is richly ornamented, and so are many others in Granada ; but I saw none that did much credit to their architects, few of whom seem to have comprehended or admired the principles upon which Verruguete proceeded in building the new palace in the Alhambra.

The amphitheatre for bull-feasts is built with stone, and passes for one of the best in Spain.

The court of chancery sits in a new building, of a disagreeable style, heavy and disjointed. There are some medallions, and
pillars

pillars of fine marble, in the main front. This court of judicature (of which species there is but another in the kingdom, established at Valladolid) comprehends within its jurisdiction more than half Spain, extending to the very neighbourhood of Madrid. Appeals lie to it from all the audiences and lower courts, and from it to the council of Castille only. Before the condemnation has been ratified here, no inferior judge is authorized to execute the sentence of death upon a criminal, under the pain of forfeiting five hundred maravedis, a sum so trifling, according to the present value of money, that it is not likely to deter a resolute officer of justice from punishing an offender without delay.

This tribunal draws a swarm of lawyers to the place, who absorb its riches, and are the only people that live with any degree of luxury or affluence. They soon consume the little wealth a farmer or tradesman may

have scraped together, by involving him in some law-suit or other, out of which he cannot extricate himself, as long as he has a farthing left to pay his attorney with. This, and many other kinds of oppression, have reduced Granada to a state of great poverty and despondency. Commerce is very feebly carried on, without encouragement or protection; the crops of the fertile Vega diminish annually; population gradually decreases. The city does not contain more than fifty thousand inhabitants, of which number about eighteen thousand only are useful working hands; the surplus is made up of lawyers, clergymen, children, and beggars. There are not less than a thousand sturdy, able-bodied rascals, that live by alms and conventual donations. We this morning saw a whole regiment of them drawing off in great order from the gate of the Carthusians, where they had been to receive a luncheon of bread and a platter of porridge a-piece.

Many

Many of them afterwards adjourned to a shop, where several persons were playing publicly at dice.

The play-house differs in some respects from those we have seen in other parts of the kingdom: the men occupy all the ground-floor, and the women sit very high up, in a crazy kind of gallery. The fire of the flints and steels was so quick among the men, who were all preparing to smoke, or smoking, that it looked like soldiers going through their exercise. They gave us one day a strange farce, which it was impossible to make any thing of; it was all metamorphosis, a continual change of clothes and character; at last out came a Capuchin friar, mounted on an ass, who, after many grimaces and buffooneries, coupled the other actors in the bands of holy wedlock.

L E T T E R XXV.

Granada, January 1, 1776.

YESTERDAY morning we took a stroll behind the Alhambra, passing below the *Puerta de los sieteuelos*, which was formerly the great entrance. This gate has been long blocked up, and the seven stories of vaults, from which it derived its name, filled with rubbish. A little farther on, the wall turns to the north-east, where the towers are very high. Part of the hill, which is a strong-cemented gravel, has been cut through, to make a dry ditch before them. A single arch crosses it, and conveys into the palace a copious supply of water. The path down this solitary, gloomy hollow, is rugged, and broken by the waste waters. About the middle is a very low postern, through which the court passed, when it chose to retire to
the

the spring palace, which stands on a hill to the right.

Nearer the Dauro, the water has burst all its conduits, and broken the gravel-bank into a tremendous precipice. Here we descended into the charming vale of Dauro, where we remarked the remnants of a Moorish bridge and tower, that appear to have supported a gallery of communication between the Alhambra and Albaycin. The view from the little green bank near the river, though a confined one, is unspeakably beautiful; at the bottom, where the cathedral and other steeples rise in a group, in the narrow reach, the little stream winds its way into the heart of the city. To the south, the fine verdant slopes are crowned with the turrets of the Alhambra, the hanging woods and gardens of the Generaliph, and the banks of the Sierra del Sol; on the north, are the Albaycin, innumerable gardens and orchards, and

caverns full of inhabitants. We found our mules waiting for us here, and proceeded up the river, a very pleasant ride, between villas and convents, romantically situated, mills and water-falls, gardens and plantations of fruit-trees, and thickets of filberts. We turned off to the southward, by the ruins of a small aqueduct, and came back over the mountain, on the top of which is a long ridge of stones, said to be the remains of the ancient Illiberia. It has more the appearance of a park-wall, or line of circumvallation. On the point that overlooks the Alhambra, stood formerly the fort of the Sun, or Saint Helena, under which run three canals, cut in the rock, one above the other, which serve to convey water to the city from the mountains, springs, and the river. Some large reservoirs, of Moorish, or perhaps more ancient origin, still subsist below in perfect preservation. The water of the largest is very limpid, and it

was

was never known to be dry. Historians relate a very singular proof of the abundance of its springs and supplies, though none can be discerned to boil up in the basin. When D. John of Austria marched a body of troops of five thousand men into the Alpuxaras mountains, against the Moriscos, at the hottest season of the year, he halted at this reservoir, to allow them time to quench their burning thirst. They drank and wasted as much of its water as they chose, yet there could not be perceived the least diminution in the original quantity contained in the pond. We stopped at the Generaliph, which was the residence of the sultan in April and May: it now belongs to the Conde de Campotejar, a Genoese nobleman, of the name of Grimaldi, descended in the female line from the royal family of Granada. The remains of the building are scarce worth looking at; for the noblest halls, and best finished work,

are almost entirely demolished. The things yet existing that claim attention, are the following: a double hedge of royal myrtle, above fifteen feet high; a row of cypresses of prodigious height and bulk—the servant pointed out a little recess behind them, where the sultana was accused of having committed adultery with Abencerrage; great abundance of water running through all the little courts, but the grand jetd’eaus are no longer kept in repair.

This day, being the anniversary of the surrender of Granada to Ferdinand and Isabella, was observed as a great festival, and day of rejoicing. Two or three feeble cracks from the cannon of the palace announced the feast to the populace, who flocked to the hill to pay their annual visit to the Moorish palace, which is this day open to all comers that can pay an acknowledgment to the governor’s servant. He accounts to his master for these perquisites,

which in some years amount to five hundred pezzettas. The present alcalde, or governor, resides in a small corner of the palace, where the emperor had made his chapel, and from a little window superintends the business, counting the heads that pass the threshold, and calculating the sum they may have taxed themselves at. He lives quite retired in his castle, and employs his many leisure hours, not in profound speculations or learned researches, but in emptying as many bottles of wine as the only arm he has left (for he has lost one) has steadiness to pour into his glass.

We entered the Alhambra with the crowd, and took a last farewell of that charming spot, where we have passed many delicious hours every day during our stay in Granada.

LET-

L E T T E R XXVI.

Antequera, January 8, 1776.

TH E second day of this new year, we fet out from Granada, by the way of the Vega, in which we saw neither vines nor mulberry-trees, but all arable lands, which, near the city, let at about a *doblon* the fanega for the upper grounds, and in the low, well-watered parts, at a *doblon de à ocho*: some spots, that are proper for growing water-melons, run up to near six *doblons* a year. The fanega contains 31,700 square feet. Copiousness of water fertilizes these plains; but in rainy weather the roads are not passable. We came for dinner to the Soto de Roma, where we had already paid a visit. This was originally a hunting seat for Charles V. since occasionally inhabited by his successors, and now granted for life to lieutenant-general Richard Wall, late
prime

prime minister of Spain. It was quite in ruins when he came to live here: he has rebuilt part of it, cleaned it, and fitted up the house with elegant English furniture, in the style of one of our villas. The waters of four rivers meet here, and cause frequent inundations in winter. In summer the air is very unwholesome, as the woods and ditches at that season abound with reptiles and vermin of all sorts. The forest round it contains about four thousand acres, and was reserved to the crown by Ferdinand the Catholic, when he divided the conquered country among his followers. Elm, poplar, and some oak, are the kind of trees that grow here in any quantity: they are cut down for repairs of the estate, and for the service of the royal arsenals. Mr. Wall has drained most of the woods, opened pleasant drives throughout, filled up the naked spots with plantations of useful timber trees, and thinned the old quarters with great judgment.

judgment. This is almost the only place in Spain where pheasants thrive and multiply *. In the beginning of spring, at the end of autumn, and during the winter months, this is a very agreeable rural habitation. Mr. Wall resides at the Soto from October to May; he then goes to Aranjuez, to attend the court for a month; after which he comes for the summer to the city of Granada. The king has given up to him all the revenues arising from these demesnes, and they are laid out in improving and beautifying the place, which Mr. Wall seems to understand perfectly well. He has every thing within himself: his own flocks, herds, and poultry supply his table with meat provisions; the woods furnish it with game, the rivers with fish, and the kitchen-garden with every kind of vegetable. He is now in his eighty-third year, a man of a spare, neat make, active, and fond of

* This bird was introduced into Spain by the emperor Charles V.

exercise,

exercife, of a fair complexion and engaging countenance. He rifes betimes, walks feveral hours a day, fuperintends his workmen, and, though he fees but little company, takes the greateft care to have every thing that is excellent in its kind ferved up at his table, where his behaviour is as eafy and cheerful as if he were only thirty years of age; not the fmalleft grain of minifterial referve or affectation: he is free and communicative in his converfation, which he renders infinitely agreeable by feafoning it with a variety of lively anecdotes of events and perfons, which fo long a life of public employment has furnifhed him with in great abundance. He is fond of talking, but acquits himfelf fo well of the task, that the moft loquacious muft listen with patience and pleafure to his difcourfe, always heightened with mirth and good-humour. Courts and minifters he treats with the ridicule they, for the moft part, deferve. A man who has paffed fo
many

many years behind the curtain, must often reflect with contempt on the futile, absurd springs, that set in motion the grand political machine. It was with the greatest regret that we took leave of this most amiable statesman *, and pursued our journey to Loja, a large town on the Xenil, where we got in just in time to escape a most terrible storm of thunder and lightning, followed by a very heavy shower.

The next morning we saw all the mountains covered with snow. This storm soaked so deep into the fat, greasy soil, that it was not without very extraordinary efforts that our mules dragged us up the steep hills. The country between Loxa and this place is very hilly, except an extensive plain in this neighbourhood. We passed through some very fine woods of evergreen oak.

Antequera is a large straggling town, at

* Mr. Wall died in the beginning of 1778.

the extremity of the plain, situated on several hillocks in a nook of the mountains.

On the 5th instant we hired a guide, and set out on horseback for Malaga, by the mountain road, which is a ride of about seven leagues, whereas it requires a couple of days to go round in a carriage. At a short league from Antequera we came to the foot of the Escaruela, an almost perpendicular rocky mountain, which we ascended by a very dangerous winding path. A fellow employed to keep the mule-track in repair, lives in a hut half way up, and sells brandy to travellers, who very often stand in great need of a cordial in this cold region of the air. Having gained the summit, we traversed a plain encircled by shaggy rocks, and then rode for some hours up and down a chain of high wild mountains. We then descended gradually to lower hills in cultivation. The vines are planted in rows, without props: the intervals are ploughed
with

with oxen once a year, and the shoots pruned, which is almost all the dressing they require. These are the outskirts of the high-country vineyards, which produce the wine we drink in England by the name of Mountain.

We next got down to still lower land, where we found the almond-trees white with blossoms, and the hedges full of periwinkle, myrtle, marigold, oleander, cistus, honeysuckles, and many other flowers, in full blow. We dined upon some cold meat, at the door of a venta, in the shade, for the sun was too powerful to sit in. An itinerant beggar made no difficulty, though it was Friday, of partaking of what we could spare from our repast; and in return for our kindness, rolled up a little minced tobacco in a piece of white paper, put it in his mouth, to try if the roll was properly constructed, and then presented it, ready lighted,

to

to my friend S. T. as the most polite acknowledgment he could make.

After dinner, we jogged on over hills and dales, along very narrow paths, to the playa or plain of Malaga, at which city we arrived about four o'clock; and here met our miquelet, whom we had dispatched from Granada across the mountains with a letter. He had passed a severe night in the Sierra during the great storm, and was very near being imprisoned on his arrival, for being the bearer of a letter, which no body is allowed to carry in Spain, without leave from the post-office.

Malaga stands in the very corner of the plain, which is quite bare of wood, except the little that grows about the country houses; the naked craggy mountains hang over the shore, and scarce leave room for the city. A Moorish castle, on the sharp point of a rock, commands every part of it. This situation renders Malaga most insufferably

hot for eight months in the year. I was assured it was hardly possible to breathe in it in summer. The port and road seem safe enough, but will be much improved, when the new mole is carried out its full intended length into the sea. The solid manner in which it is built, by rolling large masses of rock into the water, to form a foundation for the wall of the pier, insures an almost eternal duration to the work; but at the same time makes it difficult to compute the number of years it will require to complete the undertaking. The sea has lost ground here, on account of the sand hurried down from the mountains by a neighbouring river, and accumulated annually along the shore. The Darfena, or docks where the Moors kept their galleys, are still remaining on the wharf, and now serve as warehouses. The streets are narrow: some squares are of a good size; but I do not recollect any very remarkable building,

except

except the cathedral, which is indeed a stupendous pile, begun by Philip II. while married to Mary queen of England. Their united arms are still to be seen over the door. Two gentlemen, who said they had measured both churches, assured me this cathedral was as large as that of St. Paul's in London; but I am not convinced of the exactness of their measurement. The church of Malaga may be as wide, but I cannot think it near so long. No doubt a Protestant church appears larger within than a Roman Catholic one of the same dimensions, as the latter is incumbered with pictures, tapestry, altars, &c. The outside of this edifice is crowded with columns and embellishments. The two belfreys are already of a prodigious height, and an order or two more are yet to be added. Its interior appearance is majestic, though the architecture is very heavy.

The bishop's palace, in the same square,

loaded with frivolous ornaments, is a large building, but looks insignificant so near the other. Its prelate enjoys an income of £. 16,000 sterling.

General O'Connor, an old Irish officer, is governor of this province, and resides at Malaga. Brute beasts are his delight, and all his apartments are stuffed with bears, dogs, cats, and monkees, to the great terror and annoyance of his visitors.

There are about fourteen foreign houses settled in trade at Malaga, who export five thousand butts of wine a year, of which the price runs from ten to thirty pounds a butt. Till within the last fifteen years, the quantity sent off was ten thousand butts; but as no difference is made in England, in the duties, between old and new wine, the exporter grew careless in the quality of the wine sent, and the demand for it fell one half. The grapes, of which the choicest raisins are made (a capital

tal branch of commerce here), are half cut off the stem, and left four days to dry and candy in the sun. If pressed, they would make a rich white wine. The raisins dried upon the coast of Valencia are of an inferior quality, being dipped in a lye of lees of wine and ashes.

Yesterday I took a long walk into the Vega, and after enjoying the sight and perfumes of the orange-groves near every villa, was very much surpris'd to perceive in a farmer's yard a large bush of yellow roses in full beauty. This exceeded all idea I before had of the warmth of the climate, and earliness of its spring. In the evening we went to a very bad Italian opera. In the middle of a song all the actors and audience dropped upon their knees at the sound of a sacring bell, which let them know that the host was passing by. In a few minutes the singer resumed his amorous ditty.

We returned this afternoon from Malaga by the same road. The great variety of flowers blown since we had passed, made the mountain ride very agreeable, till we were overtaken by a storm of wind and rain that has not yet abated any of its violence.

Between Malaga and Gibraltar are twelve sugar mills, which have been wrought time out of mind. The tradition is, that the sugar-cane was first brought into Spain by the Arabs.

Being now upon the point of taking leave of this eastern coast of Spain, which we have seldom lost sight of for these three months, it might be proper to introduce some general remarks upon the inhabitants and country; but I really have not presumption enough to attempt it, as I am conscious that the disposition of a people, their habitual character, customs, and manners, are not to be learned without a long stay

stay among them, and without becoming, in some sort, a messmate and familiar acquaintance of theirs. With all due respect for the Spanish nation, I don't wish to sacrifice the time such a study would require, as I apprehend I should not be very amply rewarded for my pains. The peasantry seem very poor, and frugal in their diet: bread steeped in oil, and occasionally seasoned with vinegar, is the common food of the country-people from Barcelona to Malaga; a bunch of grapes or a slice of melon serves as a desert.

L E T T E R XXVII.

Puetro Santa Maria, January 13, 1776.

ON the 9th instant, on leaving Antequera, we were stopped by a river much swelled by the late rain, and lost a great



many hours in seeking a road to the distant bridge. This was a real disaster to us, as, by retarding us half a day, it broke the chain of our stages, and laid us under the disagreeable necessity of stopping each ensuing night at a very bad inn, the good ones being placed at our dining distances. From Antequera to Pedrera the country is champaign and pleasant; some large lakes appearing between us and the mountains, and now and then some forest-land and olive-plantations, serving to enliven the prospect.

About Offuna, a large stinking town, we observed a great many crosses set up along the road-side, to mark the places, as we were informed, where murders had been committed: but I very much doubt that piece of intelligence. Before we came into Spain, we had been so much alarmed by all we had heard of the number of banditti in the kingdom, and the danger of passing from one province to another, that we
could

could not take too many precautions, and accordingly made ample provisions of arms and ammunition; but having feldom heard any mention of robbers fince we came into the country, our apprehenfions have infenfibly worn off, and we walk unarmed along the roads, about the villages, and in the bye-paths, without the leaft fear, or indeed reafon to fear. In Catalonia and Valencia, where a regular police is eftablifhed for apprehending thieves and preventing robberies, travellers go without arms; further fouth, I have obferved that no horfeman, muleteer, or afs-driver, is without his gun or fabre flung at the pommel of his faddle. Whether this implies any real danger, or only an ancient cuftom, I cannot pretend to determine. Whatever risks a fingle paffenger may be fupposed to run in a crofs road, and unfrequented wafte, I am very certain that a caravan like ours need be under no apprehenfions of attack.

At

At Offuna we found we were come to the country of large white hats, few of the men wearing any other. The environs of the town are handsome; gentle eminences covered with young corn, and large olive-yards on the declivities.

On the 11th, a beautiful park-like country, where the swells are covered with forests of pines and cork-trees, or rows of olive-trees. The intermediate vallies in pasture, full of herds of brood mares feeding at large. That afternoon we came to a flat heath of rushes and palmetos, where we saw great flights of vultures, storks, and plover. We passed the night in a most infamous *posada* at Molares; the place so wretched as to afford no wine. No innkeeper is allowed to sell liquor, and the wine-houses are generally near the inn; but in this miserable hamlet there was no such thing.

On the 12th, boundless heaths and arable grounds; on the former innumerable herds

of cattle ; on the latter we saw no less than twenty-four ploughs at work in the same field, each drawn by a pair of oxen. We had now fairly entered the rich plains of Andalusia, where we found the roads cruelly spoiled by the wet weather, and our wheels almost buried in the stiff clay. At Alcanterilla is a bridge of two arches, over a deep runner, guarded by an old Moorish tower at each end. The lower part of the bridge is Roman, as it is very easy to discern by the regular rustic cut of the stones, and the words AVGVST...PONTEM, the remains of an inscription, between the arches. A little beyond a place called Cabecas we met the first travelling coach we had seen on the road since we left Barcelona.

Farm-houses are dispersed about this country, as they are with us in England. The harvest is gotten in by the Galliegos, that travel from Galicia to assist those provinces, where

where the inhabitants are too lazy or too few in number to gather the riches which Nature, almost unsolicited, throws before them with profusion. The excessive badness of the highway obliged us to drive through the lands, which in their year of fallow run up into the thickest and strongest crops of French honey-suckle I ever beheld. Were this province properly peopled, there would be no bounds to its produce, for the soil is inexhaustible, so eminently rich, that through all this luxuriance of vegetation the wheels penetrated many inches into the loam. To balance these advantages, it must be confessed that the crops in Andalusia are very precarious, for if a sudden glare of sunshine succeeds too rapidly to a morning fog, the whole country is blighted.

We passed by the lake of Lebrixa, a handsome piece of water, surrounded by sloping grounds, and regular plantations of olive-trees.

Xeres is a large town, with winding streets, and horrible kennels of black stagnated water; as the wheel broke the crust upon them, there arose an almost suffocating stench. The hills about the town are pretty, and the views towards Cadiz very pleasing. Some poets have placed the Elysian fields in this neighbourhood, and pretended that the Guadalete was Lethe or the river of oblivion. If so, they had never seen the place, or it has undergone strange alterations since their days; for this paradise is now an immense marshy flat, through which a narrow river, much resembling those in the Lincolnshire fens, winds its course to the sea: not a stick of wood to be seen near it. We are to pass this Lethe to-morrow, and, lest the influence should operate upon me, I think it advisable to end my letter with assuring you, while I yet remember the ties and friendship of this upper world, that I am your's affectionately.

Cadiz,

Cadiz, January 14.

Our carriages were sent off this morning, seven leagues round, by the bridge of Suago, which joins the island of Leon to the main land of Spain; and we hired a bark, and fell down the Guadalete. Port St. Mary's is a long town, pleasantly situated on the river side. The bar at the mouth of the river is often very dangerous; our master made a collection among us for the souls of such as have perished there. The view of the bay, shipping, and city stretching into the ocean, is one of the most beautiful in the world. The passage, which is about nine miles broad, took us two hours, as the wind failed us, but it may be done in less than half the time.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

Cadiz, January 30, 1776.

I SCARCE hope to see a fair day again, for we have had nothing but rain since our arrival. The sea has been very boisterous, and several ships have been cast away along the coast. Yesterday two men coming to town with provisions were swept off the isthmus by a sudden swell of the waves, and never heard of more.

Cadiz occupies the whole surface of the western extremity of the isle of Leon, which is composed of two large circular parts, joined together by a very narrow bank of sand, forming all together the figure of a chain-shot. At the south-east end, the ancient bridge of Suaço, thrown over a deep channel or river, affords a communication between the island and the continent; a
strong

strong line of works defends the city from all approaches along the isthmus; and, to render them still more difficult, all the gardens and little villas on the beach were in 1762 cleared away, and a dreary, sandy glacis left in their room, so that now there is scarce a tree on the whole island. They expected an attack from the English during the last war; but it would be madness in an enemy to attempt it on this side; and a by-stander is apt to think an immense sum of money has been lavished on these fortifications without any apparent necessity; the Spaniards are however warranted in their caution by the authority of history, from which we learn, that the earl of Essex stormed Cadiz in 1596, by an assault on the land-quarter.

Except the *Calle Ancha*, all the streets are narrow, ill-paved, and insufferably stinking. They are all drawn in straight lines, and most of them intersect each other at
right

right angles. The swarms of rats that in the nights run about the streets are innumerable ; whole droves of them pass and repass continually, and these their midnight revels are extremely troublesome to such as walk late. The houses are lofty, with each a vestibule, which being left open till night, serve passengers to retire to : this custom, which prevails throughout Spain, renders these places exceedingly offensive. In the middle of the house is a court like a deep well, under which is generally a cistern, the breeding-place of gnats and mosquitos ; the ground-floors are ware-houses, the first stories counting-house or kitchen, and the principal apartment up two pair of stairs. The roofs are flat, covered with an impenetrable cement, and few are without a *mirador* or turret for the purpose of commanding a view of the sea. Round the parapet-wall at top are placed rows of square pillars, meant either for ornament, according to some

traditional mode of decoration, or to fix awnings to, that such as fit there for the benefit of the sea-breeze may be sheltered from the rays of the sun; but the most common use made of them, is to fasten ropes for drying linen upon. High above all these pinnacles, which give Cadiz a most singular appearance, stands the tower of signals: here flags are hung out on the first sight of a sail, marking the size of the ship, the nation it belongs to, and, if a Spanish Indiaman, the port of the Indies it comes from. The ships are acquainted with the proper signals to be made, and these are repeated by the watchmen of the tower: as painted lists are in every house, persons concerned in commerce soon learn the marks.

The city is divided into twenty-four quarters, under the inspection of as many commissioners of police, and its population is reckoned at one hundred and forty thousand
inhab-

inhabitants, of which twelve thousand are French, and at least as many more Italians.

The square of St. Antonio is large, and tolerably handsome, and there are a few smaller openings of no great note. The public walk, or Alameda, is pleasant in the evening: it is fenced off the coach-road by a marble rail. The sea air prevents the trees from thriving, and destroys all hopes of future shade.

From the Alameda, continuing your walk westwards, you come to the Campofanto, a large esplanade, the only airing-place for coaches; it turns round most part of the west and south sides of the island, but the buildings are straggling and ugly; the only edifice of any show is the new orphan-house; opposite to it is the fortress of St. Sebastian, built on a neck of land running out into the sea. The round tower at the extremity is supposed to have saved the city in the great earthquake of 1755, from be-

ing swept away by the fury of the waves. The building proved sufficiently solid to withstand the shock, and break the immense volume of water that threatened destruction to the whole island. In the narrow part of the isthmus the surge beat over with amazing impetuosity, and bore down all before it; among the rest, the grandson of the famous tragic-poet Racine, who strove in vain to escape, by urging his horse to the utmost of his speed.

On Saint Sebastian's feast, a kind of wake or fair is held in the fort; an astonishing number of people then passing and repassing, on a string of wooden bridges laid from rock to rock, makes a very lively moving picture.

From hence to the wooden circus, where they exhibit the bull-feasts, you keep turning to the left close above the sea, which on all this side dashes over large ledges of rock; the shore seems here absolutely inaccessible.

This

This part of the walk is dirty, and infected with all manner of nasty smells, for here the whole filth of the town is brought, to be tumbled through a hole in the wall, into the sea. It might puzzle an observer, what cause to ascribe this piece of management to, whether to the great distance from garden or tillage grounds, which renders the carriage of the dung too expensive ; or to the laziness of the citizens, who are glad to rid themselves, with the least possible trouble, of the obligation laid upon them of removing that dirt, which they had rather were left to rot under their noses. As water-carriage must be cheap, I am inclined to attribute this waste to the latter cause.

On this shore stands the cathedral, a work of great expence, but carried on with so little vigour, that it is difficult to guess at the term of years it will require to bring it to perfection ; I think fifty have already

elapsed since the first stone was laid, and the roof is not yet half finished. * The vaults are executed with great solidity. The arches, that spring from the clustered pilasters to support the roof of the church, are very bold ; the minute sculpture bestowed upon them seems superfluous, as all the effect will be lost from their great height, and from the shade that will be thrown upon them by the filling up of the interstices. From the sea, the present top of the church resembles the carcase of some huge monster cast upon its side, rearing its gigantic blanched ribs high above the buildings of the city. The outward casings are to be of white marble, the bars of the windows of bronze ; but I fear the work will be coarsely done, if one may draw an inference from the sample of a small

* The funds for this building arise from a duty, laid upon all goods imported from the Spanish dominions in America.

chapel, where the squares are so loosely jointed and ill fitted, that in a few years the facing will be quite spoilt. It is unfair to prejudge a piece of architecture in such an imperfect state, but I apprehend the style of this will be crowded and heavy.

Next, crossing before the land-gate and barracks, a superb edifice for strength, convenience, and cleanliness, you come down to the ramparts that defend the city on the side of the bay. If the prospect to the ocean is solemn, that towards the main land is animated in the highest degree; the men of war ride in the eastern bosom of the bay; lower down the merchantmen are spread far and near; and close to the town an incredible number of barks, of various shapes and sizes, cover the surface of the water, some moored and some in motion, carrying goods to and fro. The opposite shore of Spain is studded with white houses, and enlivened by the towns of Saint Mary's, Port-

real, and others, behind which, eastward, on a ridge of hills, stands Medina Sidonia, and further back rise the mountains of Granada. Westward, Rota closes the horizon, near which was anciently the island and city of Tartessus, now covered by the sea, but at low-water some part of the ruins are still to be discerned.

In a large bastion, jutting out into the bay, they have built the custom-house, the first story of which is level with the walk upon the walls. When it was resolved to erect a building so necessary to this great emporium of trade, the marquis di Squilace gave orders that no expence should be spared, and the most intelligent architects employed, in order to erect a monument, which by its taste and magnificence might excite the admiration of posterity; the result of these precautions proved a piece of vile architecture, composed of the worst of materials.

Don't

Don't expect from me a long, scientific detail of the operations of commerce in this port; so much has been written on the subject by persons versed in these matters, that, as it would be impertinent to repeat their observations *verbatim*, so it would be ridiculous in me, who am not initiated in the mysteries of trade, nor long resident in the place, to attempt to add any thing to their accounts; all I have to observe amounts to this, that of late years the Spaniards have entered with more spirit into the concerns of the *flota** than they did formerly; and that there have been some egregious breaches of that so-much celebrated punctilio of honour, which, added to the immense profits expected from the

* The *flota* is a fleet of large ships (fourteen this year) which carry out the goods of Europe to the ports of America, and bring back the produce of Mexico, Peru, and other kingdoms of the new world.

risk,

risk, induces foreigners to trust their property upon this venture, with no other security than the bare word of a Spanish supercargo. Not long ago, one of these, upon his landing at Vera Cruz, made a declaration before the governor, that the cargo entered and shipped in his name was not his own, but belonged to a French house. Matters turned out rather contrary to his expectations; for the governor threw him into gaol, where he still remains; but I believe the French owners give up their merchandize for lost.

The stir here is prodigious during the last months of the stay of the flota. The packers possess the art of pressing goods in great perfection; but, as they pay the freight according to the cubic palms of each bale, they are apt to squeeze down the cloths and linens so very close and hard, as sometimes to render them unfit for use. The exportation of French luxuries in dress is enormous;

Lyons

Lyons furnishes most of them; England sends out bale goods; Brittany and the north, linens.

As the king exacts four per cent. on all gold and silver coin exported, and punishes very severely all delinquents taken in the fact, the smugglers have long followed a very simple but sure method of defrauding him of his duty:—A man well known in the town comes to any merchant that he thinks may want to make a remittance of dollars, and proposes to send the sum wanted on board such a ship, at two and a half per cent. the smuggler to advance the money, and to be repaid upon producing the captain of the ship's receipt. As the officer at the gates is commonly one of the confederates, this practice has been long carried on with tolerable security; but, since the late coinage, the profits upon running money are scarce equivalent to the risks of having the ship confiscated, and all concerned in the

transaction sent for life to the African prefidios.

Great interest is made to protract the departure of the flota beyond the day fixed for its sailing, that all the goods expected may have time to arrive; and in this case, as in most others, money properly distributed seldom fails of producing the desired effect.

Every commercial nation has a consul resident at Cadiz; those of England and France are the only ones not allowed to have any concern in trade.

This small, populous, and well-inclosed city has the misfortune of being under worse regulations of police than any place in Europe. All this winter street-robberies and house-breakings have been frequent, and no effectual steps taken to prevent the disorder. I have heard that the Conde de Xerena Bucarelli, the governor, has made a vow to shed no blood during his regency; this cruel clemency has given such spirit to
the

the operations of the robbers, that they have had the audaciouſneſs to paſte up an advertiſement in the ſtreets, cautioning all people whatever to avoid reſiſtance, and to ſubmit quietly to be riſſed, that their plunderers may not be reduced to the diſagreeable neceſſity of employing the poniard. A very little diligence, with the aſſiſtance of ſo ſtrong a garrifon, would reſtore the public ſafety in a ſhort time ; but as a burgher always accompanies the patrol, the military cannot act but under his direction ; and he will never hurt or moleſt any of his countrymen or neighbours, for the ſake of preſerving the lives and property of ſtrangers : indeed, if a native be apprehended for the moſt enormous offence againſt the laws of his country, it is next to impoſſible to procure a ſentence againſt him ; for, as long as he has a groat in the world to ſpend in priſon, or a friend to ſolicit in his favour, the *alcalde* or judge will never bring him to trial ;

and

and when at last his purse is drained, and his crimes proved against him, it is ten to one they can get no body to make a gallows to hang him upon. A soldier is soon dispatched, if he falls under the same predicament. Burglaries have been committed, and large sums of money carried out of counting-houses, the thieves taken and lodged in gaol, yet the owners have not been able to recover any part of the cash; which the gentlemen of the robe and the culprit have spent in carousing together. Nay, one villain in an attempt to carry part of his prize out of the gates, in order to take shipping for the Indies, being stoppt, and the money seized as contraband, the person who had been robbed could not prevail upon the governor to restore his property to him, notwithstanding the clearest proofs of the robbery. Take notice, that in cases of confiscation, one half of the seizure goes to the informer, the other to the governor.

However,

However, this most glaring piece of injustice could not be tamely submitted to, and the cause was laid before the council of Castille, where it is still depending. In less considerable losses, the best way is to sit down contented with your misfortune, and take better care for the future, as it would cost you double the sum lost, were you to pursue any of the methods pointed out by the law for redress.

The way of life here is not very brilliant. The different nations keep much among themselves. The French houses follow rather a gayer plan than the others. Our countrymen settled here, live in a very hospitable, social style, and are always happy to contribute every thing in their power towards rendering the place agreeable to such travellers as visit their city. Indeed this is a tribute of praise our gratitude will ever prompt us to pay to the British merchants established beyond seas, having in many parts

parts of Europe had occasion to experience their friendly disposition.

At this time of the year neither the meat nor the fish is excellent. The bottom of the bay being muddy, and the fishermen not venturing from the coast, the quality of the fish brought to market is not so firm and good as might be expected; at some seasons the oysters taken here are rank poison; the water of the island is bad, and what most families drink comes from Port Saint Mary.

The usual afternoon amusements in winter are, a faunter on the Alameda, and the theatres. The Spanish play, which exhibits but a poor set of actors, begins about four; the Italian opera, not much better provided, about seven; and the French house opens rather earlier, and ends sooner, by which means the company may partake of great part of each of the entertainments in the same evening. The last-mentioned theatre is upon a very grand footing,

footing, supported by the voluntary subscriptions of the French merchants settled here. As the out-goings exceed the profits, they begin to be sick of so heavy a load, and it is likely their stage will be given up, upon the expiration of the term for which the factory entered into engagements with the actors.

L E T T E R XXIX.

Gibraltar, March 9, 1776.

THE end of the carnival at Cadiz differed very little from the beginning; no public balls or masquerades being allowed; the only marks of the festivity of shrove-tide, were the pailfuls of water which the women in the balconies poured upon the men in flouched hats and cloaks that passed within their reach. There were,

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A A

however,

however, many assemblies and balls of a lower class, where the fandango was danced *a la ley*, that is, in all the perfection it is capable of. Among the gipsies there is another dance, called the *Manguindoy*, so lascivious and indecent, that it is prohibited under severe penalties; the tune is quite simple, little more than a constant return of the same set of notes; this, as well as the fandango, is said to have been imported from the Havannah, being both of negro breed. I have been told, that upon the coast of Africa they exhibit a variety of strange dances, pretty similar to these. Whatever may have been the birth-place of the fandango, it is now so thoroughly naturalized in Spain, that every Spaniard may be said to be born with it in his head and heels: I have seen a child of three years of age dance it to the mother's singing, with steps and turns scarce to be credited in an infant of that age. Towards
the

the close of the great balls given heretofore in the theatre, when all the company appeared drooping with fatigue and overpowered with sleep, it was a constant trick of the fiddlers to strike up the fandango. In an instant, as if roused from the slumbers of enchantment by the magic touch of a fairy's wand, every body started up, and the whole house resounded with the uproar of clapping of hands, footing, jumping, and snapping of fingers.

As I have mentioned the gitanos, or gipsies, who swarm in this province more than in any other part of the realm, I think it a proper place to note down some particulars relative to this singular sept, who have kept themselves separate from the rest of mankind ever since their first appearance recorded in history. Their origin remains a problem, not to be satisfactorily solved, and I doubt whether the gitanos themselves have any secret tradition that might lead to a

discovery of what they really were in the beginning, or from what country they came. The received opinion sets them down for Egyptians, and makes them out to be the descendants of those vagabond votaries of Isis, who appear to have exercised in ancient Rome pretty much the same profession as that followed by the present gipsies, viz. fortune-telling, strolling up and down, and pilfering. Few of them employ themselves in works of husbandry or handicraft; indeed the Spaniards would not work with them. Except a small number that follow the trade of blacksmiths or vintners, most of the men are makers of little iron rings, and other trifles, rather to prevent their being laid hold of as vagrants, than really as a means of subsistence. Several of them travel about as carriers and pedlars, but none enlist as soldiers or sailors, or bind themselves as servants. Though they conform to the Roman-catholic mode of worship,

ship, they are looked upon in the light of unbelievers ; but I never could meet with any body that pretended to say what their private faith and religion might be : all the gipsies I have conversed with, assured me of their sound catholicism ; and I have seen the medal of Nuestra Señora del Carmen sewed on the sleeves of several of their women. They seldom venture upon any crimes that might endanger their lives ; petty larceny is the utmost extent of their roguery. Their men are tall, well built, and swarthy, with a bad scowling eye, and a kind of favourite lock of hair left to grow down before their ears, which rather increases the gloominess of their features : their women are nimble, and supple-jointed ; when young, they are generally handsome, with very fine black eyes ; when old, they become the worst-favoured hags in nature. Their ears and necks are loaded with trin-

kets and baubles, and most of them wear a large patch on each temple. Both sexes are remarkably expert at dancing, and sing the wild seguidillas with a peculiar turn of humour or tenderness, according to the subject. The present king had thoughts of banishing the whole race out of his dominions ; but I believe the project is dropt, as the gipsies are rather an useless than a mischievous people. Their abode in the country, or their expulsion, seems a matter of little consequence, for the loss would not be severely felt, except in the apparent diminution of population ; as they are of little or no service in the state, neither cultivating its lands, forwarding its manufactures and commerce, conveying its productions to foreign parts, or fighting its battles. Perhaps they render themselves necessary to the amusement of the common people, out of whose simplicity they work themselves a maintenance.

The

The weather being tolerably settled, we set out on horseback for Gibraltar, about a fortnight ago, taking with us our beds and provisions, a precaution of great consequence in this journey. We left Cadiz in the afternoon, travelling along the sandy isthmus to the Isla, a town of a single street, that leads down to the bridge and redoubt of Suaço, where we got once more upon the main land. Soon after we struck off the great Xeres road, into a flat marshy country intersected by numberless drains and ponds for making salt, of which we saw many large heaps. This commodity is made with so little trouble, and sold to so small an advantage, that the makers don't think it worth their while to set up sheds, or build magazines, but prefer running the risk of losing half of it by the wet. Passing through a great mill, across many bridges and creeks, and through a very fine wood of pines, we arrived by moonlight at Chiclana, the Clap-

ham or Hampstead of the merchants of Cadiz. It is a large well-built town upon a navigable river, that winds through the low lands into the bay. After Easter, all is mirth and jollity here, for it is then crowded with families that retire hither to divert themselves, and to rub off the dull rust of Lent. The houses are exact copies of those of Cadiz, and the streets very near as offensive to the smell ; but the environs are charming, and beautifully rural.

The next morning we were out very early, expecting a long laborious ride. After a troublesome ascent up some grea y hills, we passed through a noble pine-wood into an immense expanse of heath-land speckled with an incredible variety of flowers, most of them unknown to me in their natural uncultivated state. I here saw a great many of the small red and yellow tulip, which, I am told, is the only species indigenous in Europe, and many beautiful
kinds

kinds of the orchis, some representing bees and flies so naturally as to deceive at first sight.

On our right we left Conil, once famous for its tunny-fishery, which of late has dwindled away to nothing. We had afterwards an hilly corn country to pass, where the peasants, at work weeding the fields, amused themselves with giving us a volley of abuse, which to us was utterly unintelligible, but was no doubt very witty, as every speech the orator of the crew made, raised loud peals of laughter in his companions. Their mirth was a little disturbed by a piece of humour of our Catalans, who, setting their sharp three-cornered hats up perpendicular on their heads, in imitation of horns, and sticking out their fingers, began to whistle with might and main. The Andalusians did not seem to relish the joke, and, after some silence, set a scolding at us in a
very

very angry tone of voice, which lasted as long as we were within hearing.

From these bare heights, we descended into a narrow vale, which almost encompasses the mountain that the town of Vegel stands upon. Seven picturesque aqueducts, or rather divisions of one, convey a fine supply of water from the hills to seven mills belonging to the Duke of Medina Sidonia. Each mill is placed at a considerable distance below the other; the seventh stands quite in the level at the bottom. Nothing can be prettier than these terraces, and little falls of water. Round each dwelling is a sweet orange-grove. The hedges along the steep sides of the road are thick set with *laurustinus*, now in flower, and many other handsome plants. The lowest part of the valley is a delightful spot, full of orchards and gardens, refreshed by innumerable streams of clear water running through the meadows into a deep river, which falls into the sea a few miles below.

We

We intended to have dined at the foot of the mountain of Vegel, but the hovel, called an inn, was so intolerably nasty, and the appearance of the sky seemed so much to threaten us with a dark, rainy evening, that we determined to pass by, and content ourselves with eating a morsel on horseback, as we jogged on. We crossed the river on an ancient Roman bridge, plain and solid, and then mounted a very steep sandy bank, on the top of which I found a ledge of mouldering rocks, full of *ostracites* and *pectinites*, some in a hard natural state, others so soft as to crumble to dust under the finger. The road lay afterwards through a forest of cork trees, and the latter part of the day along a wet open pasture country. After being thirteen hours on horseback, with a drizzling rain upon us half the time, we were glad to stop at *Los Cortijos* about eight at night. Here had formerly been a venta, but all we could find was the cabin of a retailer of tobacco.

bacco. This miserable dwelling consisted of one room, not well enough thatched to prevent the rain from beating through, and yet too close to let out the smoke of a few sticks burning in the middle of the house. The landlord, his wife, and children, occupied one end of the habitation, and abandoned the remainder to us, who were seven in number, squeezed into the space of a few feet square. The smoke grew so powerful, and the company so straitened for room, that after supper I retired across a kind of yard, to a manger in the stable, where I lay down, wrapped up in my cloak, upon the straw, and got a very comfortable nap till day-break, when we proceeded on our journey.

We travelled through a large tract of wet pastures, full of herds of cattle, with here and there a wretched hut for the herdsmen. After a long dreary ride over the hills that encircle these plains, we entered the wood-lands,

lands, where we found the roads so wet and stony, that our baggage-mules were more than once laid fast. This forest extends many miles, during which we saw but one house; and that being white, and placed at the head of a lawn, environed with hanging woods, made a most romantic appearance. The prospects in these wildernesses are delightful, and we should have found the ride through them charming, had our attention been less engaged by the continual apprehensions we were under of our horses falling into the deep broken roads. High mountains, and bold rocky cliffs hang on every side over the groves; the timber trees are oak and cork, the underwood, shrubs of numberless kinds, growing with the greatest vigour and luxuriance; such as the laurustinus, arbutus, brooms, citifus, forb, mastic-tree, privet, phyllirea, cistus, oleander, pomegranate, bay, laurel, myrtle, butcher's broom, wild pear, heath at least fifteen feet

feet high, &c. but the most remarkable is the rhododendron ponticum, with large purple flowers; it grows by the edge of the torrents that tumble down through the woods, and is a plant of singular beauty.

Upon leaving the thickets, we had a fine view of the rock of Gibraltar and the coast of Africa, a very grand marine scene. We then came to a rich vale of corn-land, and a pretty meandering river, which we crossed twice near *Los Barrios*, a small hamlet. From thence we found all the country marshy by the side of the bay of Gibraltar, or bare and hilly near San Roque, a large village on the top of a hill, overlooking the whole bay. Here the Spanish governor of the lines resides.

The next day we waited upon Don Joachim de Mendoza, the governor, who gave us the necessary passports. By his persuasion, we deposited what cash we had in the hands of his secretary, as it is forbidden to

take above a crown a-piece out of the Spanish territory : this proved a very superfluous caution, for we passed unsearched through the lines, and might have carried out of the Spanish bounds as much gold as we pleased. The lines are a fortification, that runs across the isthmus which separates Gibraltar from the continent. A regiment of infantry, several batteries, and a fort at each end, defend this barrier of the Spanish monarchy. It is about half an hour's ride from the land-gate of the English garrison.

The most extraordinary fortrefs and mountain, from which I date my letter, have been so often described by particular histories, prints, and drawings, that I shall not take up your leisure with needless repetitions. The views published by Major Macé are exact, and convey a very good idea of the four different faces of the mountain. Since the time of their publication, General Boyd has completed the roads up
the

the hill in every necessary direction: a carriage may now go up to the signal-house, which before seemed a place where none but goats could climb up to.

The hospitality of the governor, officers, and inhabitants; the bustle, military music, and parade; the fine appearance of the troops; the variety of tongues spoken and of dresses worn here, are themes I could enlarge upon for whole pages. After so long a journey through the still wastes and silent stupid towns of Spain, where every thing bears the marks of languor and indolence; we were at first quite flurried and confounded with the hurry in the garrison, the perpetual noise of cannon, and the reports of the soldiers going through their firing exercise. In the first nights we were startled with the frequent passing of the parole, which runs like a train of fire round the line of fortifications. It seemed strange to hear our native language spoken
in

in the streets, to read it under the signs, and to meet so many English faces. I should have forgotten how far I was from home, had I not been reminded of the latitude by the brilliant clearness of the deep blue sky, and the sight of the African mountains, whose snowy tops, and even the objects at their feet, are very distinctly seen by the naked eye. You may discern all the buildings in Ceuta, and even in Tangier the houses may be distinguished in a clear day. We indulged the honest pride of Englishmen, in admiring the tall, handsome figures, and spirited, martial presence of the soldiers, and in drawing very comfortable parallels between them and the dirty melancholy dwarfs we had seen mounting guard in the Spanish garrisons.

○ We are now waiting for a fair wind to carry us over to Tetuan or to Tangiers. The boat-loads of fresh oranges brought over almost every morning from the coast

of Barbary, and tumbled out into the streets, increase the eagerness we have long felt for that expedition: but the wind is very cruel, and I begin to have my fears about the possibility of it. The Barbary oranges are exquisite, but as the summer advances, are apt to grow too luscious, though they preserve their juiciness.

Gibraltar, March 11.

We are wind-bound, but remain in hourly expectation of sailing to Africa. Our *settee*, or bark, and baggage, are ready, and we ourselves on the watch for an easterly breeze. Yesterday the wind came about to the east, and in a trice the bay was covered with Dutch men of war, and all sorts of merchantmen, crowding sail to get through the Gut before the wind should change: above fifty sail came from the Mediterranean, round Europa Point; but
in

in less than an hour the wind shifted to its old corner again, and every one of them was driven back into the bay, or behind the rock, where they may beat about for weeks against wind and current. Never was there known so long a continuance of westerly winds at this time of the year.

Gibraltar, March 13.

Last night all the Jews were in masquerade, dancing and merry-making; a fine contrast with the gloominess of Lent, a few miles to the north of us. This place may literally be styled the Paradise of that dispersed nation; for here they seem to be at home, carry on a great retail trade, and supply the garrison with many common articles of consumption. They are Barbary Jews, a comely race of men, and much better featured than their Portuguese or

German brethren. Their dress differs from that of the common Moors in nothing but the cap, which the latter wear red, the Jews black, though here they venture frequently to put on red ones.

All religions seem welcome to this town, and meet without animosity, as on some neutral ground. The Spanish church is served by a jolly priest, who, besides very ample emoluments and casualties, receives from the English government a stipend of fifty pounds: with this income he gives balls and entertainments to his parishioners, and lives in a very jovial manner. He seems perfectly well pleased with his Protestant neighbours, and quite reconciled to seeing the Cordelier convent converted into the residence of an English governor.

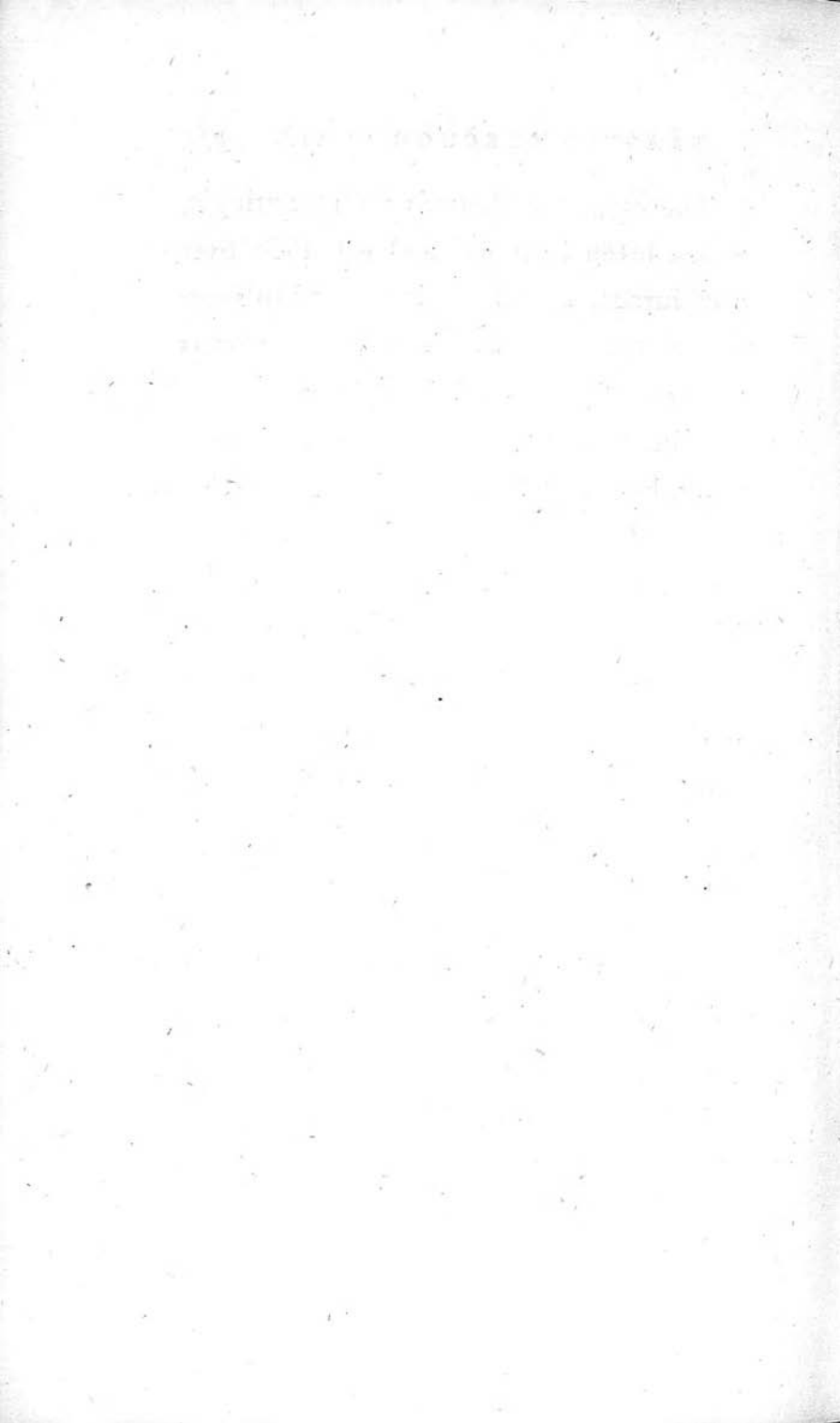
The Barbary beef, furnished on contract by the Moors, is excellent, and the fish taken in the bay, is the best I have tasted since I left Bourdeaux.

The

The mountain abounds with partridges, which breed in peace, and pass their lives undisturbed, as nobody is allowed to shoot within the garrison. The young officers take the diversion of fox-hunting on the Spanish hills, where there is abundance of foxes, but little running: the great number of holes among the rocks prevents the game from being kept going, after the first burst.

That beautiful bird, the whoopoop, or March cock, is common on the mountain; and high up are herds of large monkeys, but I never was lucky enough to get a sight of them.

On the east side, in the most broken part of the precipices, is a *stratum* of bones of all sizes, belonging to various animals and fowls, enshased in an incrustation of a reddish calcareous rock.



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