

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT. SPAIN, situated between 9° 30' West, and 3° 20' East longitude, and between 36° and 43° 50' North latitude, is bounded on the North, by the Bay of Biscay and the Pyrenees, which latter separate it from France; on the East, by the Mediterranean; on the South, by the Straits of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean; and on the West, by Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean. Its mean length is 417 miles, and its mean breadth is 338. (149,286 square miles.)

Table with 3 columns: PROVINCES, CHIEF CITIES, and POPULATION. Lists provinces like New Castle, Andalusia, Old Castle, etc., with their respective chief cities and population figures.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCE. The climate of Spain is extremely various, according as the places are in the vicinity of the mountains or of the sea. In Andalusia, Catalonia, and Valencia, the air is generally very hot; in Arragon and New Castle, temperate; and often very cold in Asturias, Biscay, and Old Castle.

NATURAL HISTORY. MOUNTAINS.—Next to the Pyrenees, which extend from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean, and are near two hundred miles in length, the most celebrated mountains are the Cantabrian, in Asturias, which may be regarded as a continuation of the Pyrenees, and reach to the Atlantic Ocean, South of Cape Finisterre;—the Sierra Morena, which divide Andalusia from Estremadura and New Castle; and Montserrat, in Catalonia, one of the most singular mountains in the world.

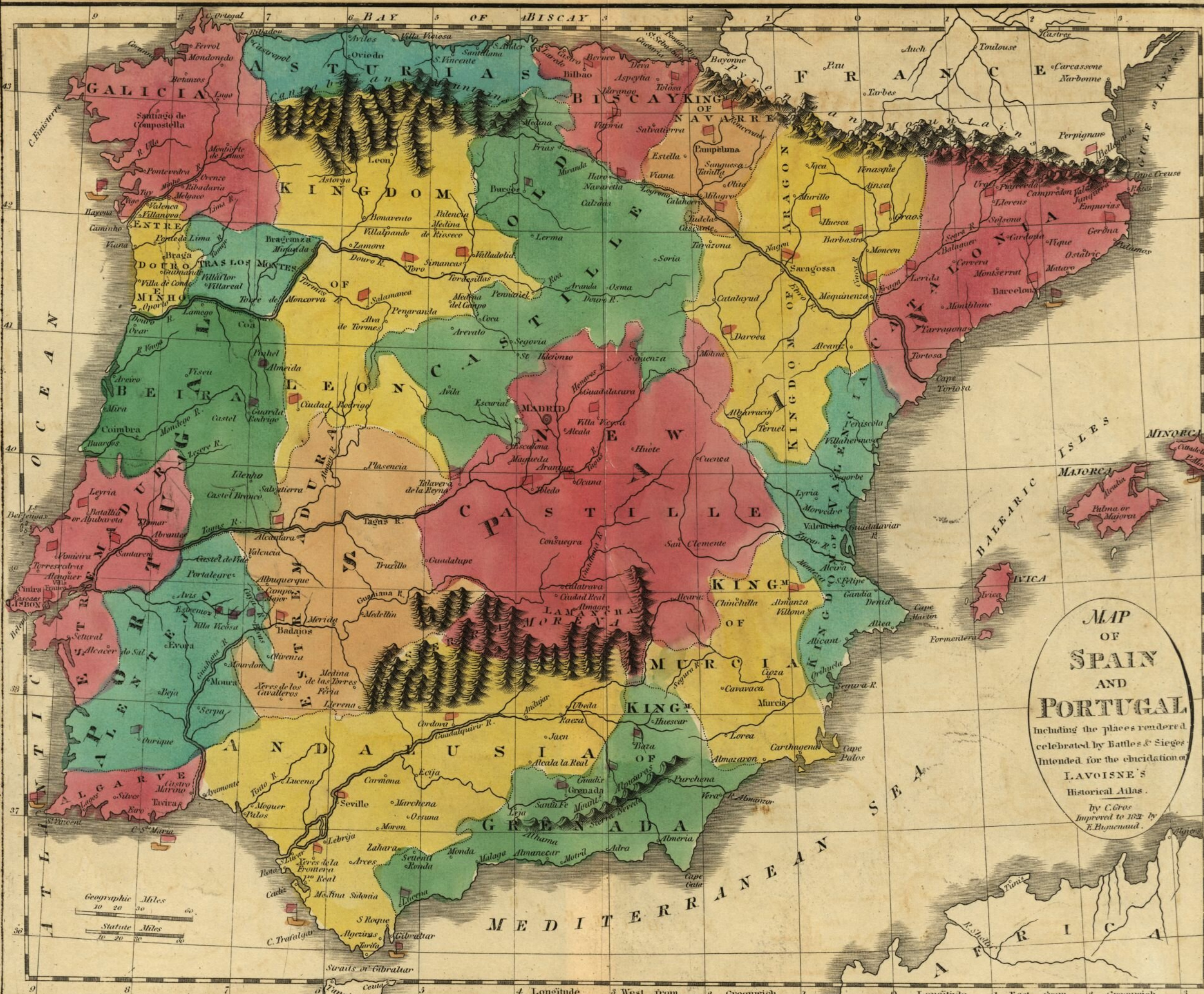
GOVERNMENT. During the greater part of two last centuries, Spain was governed by an absolute hereditary monarch. During the unprincipled usurpation of the country by Bonaparte, the Cortes, the genuine representatives of the nation, were assembled, on the ancient plan. They organized a formidable resistance to the forces of the usurper, and gave the first check to his power, and were the prime agents in the restoration of the Bourbons.

RELIGION. The Roman Catholic religion is the established and exclusive church of Spain. The dignities consist of a Patriarch of the Indies, eight Archbishops, and forty-eight Bishops.

COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES. The Spaniards make gold and silver the chief branches both of their exports and imports. They import these metals from America, and afterwards export them to other nations of Europe. Cadiz is the chief emporium of this commerce.

COLONIES. The possessions of Spain out of Europe were formerly considerable, but excluding those provinces in South America, which have declared themselves independent, and appear likely to remain so, they are, 1. In Africa, Ceuta, and some small districts. 2. In the Atlantic, the Canary Isles. 3. In Asia, the Philippine and Ladrona Isles. 4. In North America, Texas, Mexico, part of California, New Navarre, the Isles of Cuba, Porto Rico, and part of St. Domingo. 5. In South America, Peru.

ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF THE PENINSULA. It is generally believed that the ancient Iberia, called by the Greeks, Hesperia, or Western, was first inhabited by colonies of the Asiatic Iberians, descended from Tubal, son of Japheth, who gave their name to the country. The most probable etymology of the name Hispania, is, that it was given by the Phœnicians, from the word Sphania or Spania, which, in the Phœnician language, means abounding with rabbits, these animals, according to Strabo, being extremely numerous in Spain.



SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT. PORTUGAL situated between 6° 20' and 9° 30' West longitude, and between 37° and 42° 10' North latitude, is bounded, on the North and East, by Spain; and on the South and West, by the Atlantic Ocean. Its length is 350 miles, and its breadth 120 (36,085 square miles.)

Table with 3 columns: PROVINCES, CHIEF CITIES, and POPULATION. Lists provinces like Entre Douro e Minho, Trás os Montes, Beira, etc., with their respective chief cities and population figures.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCE. The climate of Portugal is various in different parts; in the Northern provinces, the air is cold; in the middle and near the sea, temperate; and in the South, hot.

NATURAL HISTORY. MOUNTAINS.—The face of Portugal is mountainous or rather rocky, the mountains being generally barren. The chief are those which divide the Algarve from Alentejo; those of Arraiolos, Arraiolos and Montejunto, in Estremadura; Estrella, in Beira; Ossa, in Alentejo; and Cintra, about five leagues South-West of Lisbon, well known to navigators as the most westerly point of all Europe.

GOVERNMENT. The government of Portugal, like that of Spain, was for a long time a limited monarchy. The power of the crown gradually increased, and at length became absolute and in the last degree oppressive.

RELIGION. The established religion of Portugal is the Roman Catholic. The Portuguese have a patriarch formerly dependent entirely upon the Pope, whose power in Portugal has of late been much curtailed.

UNIVERSITIES. There are only two universities in Portugal; one at Coimbra, founded at Lisbon by King Denis, in 1290, and transferred by him to Coimbra, in 1308. It contains eighteen colleges, in which are 4000 students.

COMMERCE. The Portuguese exchange their wine and fruit, and most of their raw materials for foreign manufactures. The commerce of Portugal, though seemingly extensive, proves of little solid benefit to her; as the European nations trading with her, and particularly England, engross all the productions of her colonies, as well as their own native commodities.

DOMINIONS. The dominions of the King of Portugal and the Brazils, out of Europe, are, 1. In South America, Brazil the present seat of government, which abounds in precious stones, and rich mines of gold and silver.

PLACES REMARKABLE FOR BATTLES AND SIEGES IN SPAIN, INDICATED BY A FLAG.

A large table listing historical battles and sieges in Spain, organized by year (A. D.). Each entry includes the year, location, and a brief description of the event, such as '1100 Barbastro: taken from the Moors by Peter I. King of Arragon.'

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