





$\frac{4}{15}$
 $\frac{3}{3}$

~~2~~

H. 20069

On cadium



A Mauregata.

Published as the Act directs by J. Almon Piccadilly April 14. 1777.

T R A V E L S

T H R O U G H

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL,

IN 1774;

WITH A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE

SPANISH EXPEDITION

A G A I N S T

A L G I E R S,

IN 1775:

By MAJOR WILLIAM DALRYMPLE.

The Characters of Nature are legible; but it is difficult for those who run,
to read them. BURKE.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite Burlington-House, Piccadilly.

M,DCC,LXXVII.



W. Dalrymple

T R A V E L

W H I T T I E R

SPANISH LITERATURE

1854

WITH A SHORT HISTORY OF THE

SPANISH LITERATURE

A L D I E R S

1854

BY MISS WHITTIER

The Clerk of the Court
of the County of Middlesex

FILED
1854

P R E F A C E.

I SHALL not pretend to give my reasons for offering these travels to the world, or make many apologies for the performance; I shall only observe, that the following sheets are composed from my journal, and the letters I wrote whilst upon my journey, which, in their homely garb, are here presented to the public.

Since I have taken upon me to publish this work, it may be expected I make known, what were my inducements for undertaking such an expedition.

In garrison at Gibraltar, I set out, without any other motive than curiosity, to visit Madrid; when there, I enlarged my views, resolved to extend my original plan, and pursue a tract, little beaten by former travellers. O' Reilly's newly formed military academy, at Avila, became my first object; my next was the university of Salamanca, on my way to Ferrol, the great marine arsenal of the state: I then determined to return by Oporto and Lisbon; and was thus drawn from one object to another, untill I completed my tour, which was made in five months.

The narrative on the journey, I am afraid, will prove dry and tedious, as the road was dull and dreary; but it
2 will

will serve to shew, how very far behind the rest of Europe, is this nation in improvements, and convenience for travelling. Many of my remarks may appear trite: the character of a people is often rendered conspicuous by *minutiæ*. I have dwelt little upon buildings or pictures: descriptions give but faint ideas; *Ciceroni* and catalogues are to be had wherever such objects are to be found. I have endeavoured to dip a little into the state of government; to observe, in particular, on the military establishments; to notice the customs and manners of the people; and to remark upon other transient particulars: how far I may have succeeded, I must leave to my more judicious and candid readers to determine.

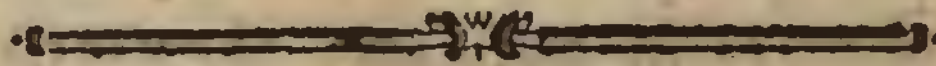
E R R A T A.

Page 4, line 18, read, <i>I was silent.</i>	Page 57, line 9, read <i>O' Reilly.</i>
8, 4, read, <i>had sitten down.</i>	58, 9, read <i>O' Reilly.</i>
12, 26, read, <i>the inn being very.</i>	108, 24, after <i>way to it</i> , instead of ; put .
22, 9, read, <i>Seguidillas.</i>	109, 12, read, <i>Facinto.</i>
34, 2, dele, <i>for an instant.</i>	129, 2, after <i>considerably</i> , instead of : put ;
53, 7, read, <i>shall.</i>	131, 27, dele <i>at</i> , before <i>Redinhe.</i>
54, 30, read, <i>walls.</i>	169, 1, dele <i>if.</i>

T R A V E L S

T H R O U G H

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.



L E T T E R I.

My Dear Sir,

Cordova, June 29th, 1774.

I Take the earliest opportunity to give you an account of my arrival here. Various are the scenes I have passed since I had the pleasure of seeing you ; by recounting them at large, you will find how necessary is perseverance to get through this world of difficulties. I shall transcribe my journal for you, which, though not so agreeable to the reader, is much more easy to the writer ; and I flatter myself, you will readily pardon this incorrect method, when I inform you, I have very little time to spare.

B

Having

Having got the proper passports from the Spanish general at San Roque, I set out on the 20th of June, at two o'clock in the morning, accompanied by the courier, with whom I travelled the first day. At seven o'clock, by the side of the Guadiaro, we refreshed ourselves for a few minutes, and then pursued our journey. The verdant banks of the river, with the Indian corn in the vallies; the little hills, rising here and there, some cultivated with wheat and barley, others covered with trees and shrubs; and the prodigious mountains towering behind, concurred to render our travelling agreeable, until the sun became troublesome, and made all prospects, except the Posada,* unpleasant. At length, after being near eleven hours on horseback, going what is called six leagues, arrived at Gaucin.

We passed two little wooden crosses on the road: these crosses indicate that people have been interred on the spots where they are placed: in general, they are fixed where murdered persons have been buried: when once erected, they are usually perpetuated by the inhabitants; so that the murders may have happened a century back.

On our arrival at the Posada, our conductor took care to inform the Posadera,† that we were English, she, like most other women, happy to communicate her knowledge, spread the information through the village; and, though at so small a distance from Gibraltar, all the inhabitants flocked to see us. The Posada had not the most favourable appearance. It was a long building, with a fire-place at one end, and a stable at the other; there was a small intervening space, which served the traveller to place his baggage, and repose his wearied

* An inn.

† Landlady.

limbs;

limbs; two little rooms apart, one for the use of the family, and the other for such guests as chuse to pay for it; the latter fell to our lot, as no traveller of any consideration had arrived before us; otherwise, we must have taken up our quarters in the other part of the Posada. Our apartment, which had a flagged floor, was furnished with two broken chairs; a small table; and a picture of Our Saviour on the cross; there was a square hole cut out of the wall, that served to let in the light and air; there were two pieces of old deal put together, and intended for a shutter; but did not cover half the space: this sumptuous lodging, together with the use of a few kitchen utensils, and straw for the cattle, were all the comforts we had to expect in the Posada. We had brought a ham along with us, and the village afforded a few eggs, a light white-wine, with barley for our cattle.

Gaucin is situated on the top of a high hill, which we were two hours ascending, on a very rough road, like steps of stairs: The Moors had formerly a fort there, that commanded the entrance to the pass of the Sierra de Ronda.* There is now a church built amidst the ruins of the fort, called Niño de Dios, where miracles are wrought, and recounted by the inhabitants of the village. The fort commands an extensive prospect to the S. and S. E. the mountains on every other side are most sublime.

The evening was so cold, that the women wrapped themselves in their *mantillas*,† and the men in their cloaks, as if it had been the midst of winter. We were obliged to lay straw upon the floor for our beds, and cover ourselves with our

* Mountains of Ronda.

† Mantilla is a woman's cloak.

great coats; for bedding was not to be had. The night was extremely sharp, owing to the north wind, and elevated situation of the place. At five the next morning we pursued our journey, though not without reluctance, I assure you; for had I not been awed by ridicule, I would have certainly returned to the more comfortable scenes of Gibraltar.

June 21. This day went over very high mountains; saw many vines, till about half way to Ronda; some corn here and there, in such lands as had been lately taken in; and a few droves of cattle: when within a league of the city, came to the *debouchure* of the defile, which is extremely narrow; passed several villages; five crosses; and, having travelled eight hours, going what is called five leagues, arrived at Ronda.

The first appearance of the Posada was rather favourable; but when I was shewn my apartment, I found myself almost as badly situated for comfort as at Gaucin: I told the Posadera that it was very bad, and asked for a better; "If you don't like it," says she, "you may seek for a better elsewhere." I silent, and obliged to be contented.

Whilst my servant took care of the cavalry, I went upon the forage to get something to eat; for nothing but straw was to be had at the Posada. After some trouble, I got a fowl: it was immediately prepared; but when just ready to be served, the woman of the house persuaded the servant that I had ordered oil to be put into the sauce; I fortunately came in, and stopped her hand, just as she was lifting up the lamp to pour it in.*

* In this country they use oil, which they do not like if it has not a strong taste, with almost all their cookery.

Ronda is situated on a hill, in a small plain, almost surrounded by stupendous mountains: one side of the city is exceedingly steep. The river Guadiaro, which divides the old from the new town, takes its course through a chasm formed in the hill; and, on the west side, falling a considerable height, makes a most beautiful cascade. The *buertas*, or gardens, are considerable, and abundant in fruits.

This city has been strongly fortified; but the walls are now lying in ruins.

In this, as well as in most other towns of Andalusia, the streets are narrow and irregular: it appears populous, though there is no manufacture in it, and little trade: there is an annual fair kept here in the month of May, which is much frequented: I observed the women in the houses, sitting, like the Moors, on mats upon the floor cross legged.

22d. Rested here till the next day at twelve o'clock, when we pursued our journey: for a couple of miles went through a country tolerably cultivated with vines and olives; but afterwards waste land. At about a league from Ronda, after crossing a rivulet, we lost our way: not a house or a creature near: at length, we espied an old fellow on a *burro*:* I greeted him with *cavallero*; as soon as he had replied, † *Va U. M. con Dios*, to my salute; || I asked him, if we were on the road to Alcala del Valle? he eyed us with concern, and told us, that we must cross the country to the left, till we came to a white house, and then take the left hand road to Alcala:

* A jack ass.

† God go with you.

|| Through all Spain, I am told, it is the custom, when persons meet upon the road, to salute each other. Various are the terms made use of on this occasion.

we followed his advice, with many thanks, arrived at the directed spot, and pursued our journey in the finest afternoon that can be imagined.

It often happens, that those who think themselves most secure, are the nearest destruction. At seven o'clock, I began to suspect we had again lost our road: eight o'clock, a large hill before us: the place of our destination is called Alcala del Valle, and there is no appearance here but mountains: we must certainly be out of the way: I think it were better to halt here all night: accordingly, we posted ourselves under a few trees, at a little distance from the road; disposed of our baggage; tethered our cattle; took out of the *alforjas*,* a small remains of ham, with a little bread; finished a drop of wine that was in the *bota*;† and, after this slender repast, covered ourselves with our cloaks, and laid down to rest: our slumbers were not the most tranquil; not the rustling of a bush, nor the falling of a leaf, but alarmed us: never was female more agreeable to the eyes of the most ardent lover, than Aurora was to us: at the first dawn of day we prepared to depart, and resolved to go back: in an hour, we descried a boy with a herd of goats, who directed us to the very white house whence we had departed, by our old good friend's advice, the day before; with all possible expedition we returned; and being shewn our road, arrived at Alcala without meeting with any more difficulties.

From the time we lost our way, we travelled through a country little improved; scarcely any inhabitants; some corn in spots of land lately taken in; and a great deal of wood,

* Havresack.

† A leathern bottle, or bag.

chiefly

chiefly cork trees; saw some few droves of cattle; some flocks of sheep; and passed three crosses.

The sight of the town, after our misfortunes, gave us great joy; but it was soon damped by the appearance of the Posada: there were only stables for the cattle; a fire-place for the guests; and a very fractious uncivil hostess. We got a few eggs, some bread, cherries, and white wine; all the food we could procure.

There was a travelling pedlar lately come from Seville, who had taken up his residence, with his small wares, in the Posada; we found him the very contrast of the landlady; he was all urbanity and good humour; in him, the advantages of having seen the world were conspicuous. In the evening a carrier with three mules came in and joined us: my friend, the merchant, was more entertaining with a third person; he cracked his jokes with some humour on the Muleteer; and every now and then, told us some facetious story, well larded with proverbs, which were poured forth on every occasion.

When my companions found me preparing to rest, they began to make ready also: they spread their blankets upon the floor, laid themselves down, and covered themselves with others: I thought it more comfortable to sleep in a chair: Thus, after putting a log of wood on the fire, we all went to rest.

At twelve o'clock, we were much alarmed with a violent knocking at the door---*Quein es?* says the landlord---*Isabel de San Juan*, replied a voice: he got up, lighted the lamp, and opened the door, when five or six sturdy fellows, armed with fuzils, and as many women came in: one of the men, seated himself directly opposite to me: awaked out of

my sleep abruptly, I was somewhat alarmed, and asked my man for the pistols; he, not in the least behind hand in fear, replied, he had them in his hand. From the instant the Spaniard had fate down, my servant had prepared for the attack, and was now confirmed it would immediately begin; concluding, from the conversation I had heard, that they were come to murder us; but they soon relieved us from our fears; after eating a little bread, and drinking some *aqua ardente*,* they took their leave; and we found, that it being the eve of Saint John, they were a set of merry girls, with their *cortejos*,† going round the village to congratulate their friends on the approaching festival. On their departure, we turned ourselves to rest again; finished the remainder of the night in peace; and left this inhospitable spot, the 24th, at five o'clock in the morning.

Alcala is a village situated in a beautiful little vale, surrounded with trees, and much corn.

We took somewhat more pains to-day to enquire our road before we left the inn, which would have been of little consequence, had we not fortunately overtaken an old man, who had set out from the village earlier than ourselves; and who directed us the way to a convent, where we got further information. The length of this day's journey, together with my horse tiring, concurred to fatigue me exceedingly. We had no conveniency to carry water, and both men and cattle were expiring for want of something to drink. As we descended into the flat country, we came to a rivulet; and in the moment we expected to be relieved from our distress, we

* Brandy.

† Lovers.

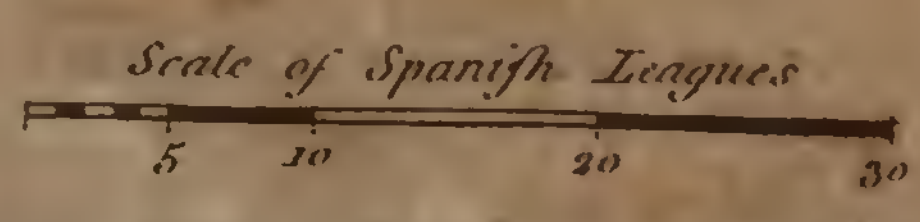
Major Dalrymple's Rout through
 SPAIN and PORTUGAL in 1774
 Engraved for his Travels Published by J. Almon April 15.
 1777.

W E S T E R N
 O C E A N

P A R T

O F

S P A I N



found the water both bitter and falt. Thus deceived, we were obliged to wait with patience till we got to our journey's end. After being on the road, without stopping, for twelve hours, going, what is called, five leagues, arrived at Offuna.

Passed this day two villages; a great deal of wood; waste land; some corn; and many vines. We observed five crosses; and, in this whole day's journey, except in the villages, we saw only three persons.

On our arrival, we found the inhabitants employed in torturing a poor unfortunate bull. The passion of the people in this province for bull-fighting, is surprizing: at this place it was a very irregular thing. A bull was tied by a long rope, and led about the town: the men, many hundreds, hooting and hollowing, with their cloaks on their arms, teasing the poor animal to attack them, and then wounding it with a dart, a fork, or a lance, which enraged him to madness. Though no accident happened on this occasion, this sport often proves fatal to some of the tormentors.

The cleanly aspect of the Posada surprised me exceedingly, and I concluded I should be well served; but, alas! it was the same tale; nothing but water and straw was to be had in the house: we got a few eggs in the town, with which we were obliged to be contented. At night we were provided with clean beds and platforms; more than we had met with hitherto.

Offuna is situated in an extensive plain.

C

There

There are many *hidalgos*,* who live here; and the Duke of Offuna has a palace, but never resides. Here the fountains and public buildings are handsome; the *carniceria*, or shambles, a new stone edifice, is a great curiosity: it is divided into a number of stalls, about six feet high, on which the butchers are mounted, with the meat placed behind them, and the scales before; to prevent imposition, the price of each viand is regulated by the magistrate, and put up in the front of each stall: the venders weigh out their meat with as much exactness as if it were gold; and it becomes necessary, for they dispose of it by pounds and half pounds.

There are some remains of a Moorish castle here, on a rising ground, just above the town.

The superior cultivation about this place, seems to have an effect on the appearance of the houses and people: the town is neater; the habitations better; and the dress of the inhabitants, in general, more decent than I have seen before. The men wear the large white hat. I had hitherto observed only the *montera*.†

The landlord endeavoured, in the bill, to impose upon me for a few reals; but having read the *arancel*, or price of things established by the magistrate, and hung over the door, I disputed the point, threatened to take my passport and com-

* Hidalgo, is a person noble, whose origin and family is known, and as such is exempted from the tribute, duties, &c. which are exacted from, and paid by the peasantry.

† A kind of cap worn by the peasantry.

plain, when we compounded the affair. In every Posada, there are established rates, which the Posadero is obliged to produce, if required ; though often concealed, to impose upon the unwary traveller. It is the custom, in general, for the guests to provide every thing, except straw for their cattle : the inn-keeper will cause their meat to be dressed, or furnish utensils for that purpose, and for which a stipulated sum is to be paid. In all the inns I have hitherto been, the landlords think that you are obliged to them for even allowing you to spend your money in their houses ; they will scarcely stir to get any thing for you ; yet, if they find you ignorant, they will produce a heavy charge on your departure, and make you believe it is your duty to pay it.

I find the same mode of getting the harvest home prevails through this province : though you cannot be unacquainted with it, in general, some particulars may have escaped your notice ; I shall therefore describe it to you. After cutting down the corn, it is brought in carts, drawn by oxen, yoked by the head, to different spots of ground, each spot being called *la era* : every proprietor brings his corn to one of these places, where it is trod out by mares, six or eight tied together to a longe, a man working them in a circle : the mares, on this occasion, are shod with circular rough shoes : this method breaks the straw to pieces ; but that is no disadvantage, as the cattle are fed with it : the grain is then lodged in bulk, in granaries. The crops are very plentiful this year. I have been told, that the best lands, in a good season, will produce, in wheat, from fifteen to twenty for one.

26th. Left Offuna, and travelled to Ezija, five leagues : The country, an entire flat, was covered; on each side the road, with wheat and barley, as far as the eye could reach : I never saw such an exuberance of grain. We overtook a young fellow, who intreated me to allow him to put his havresack on my horse, to which I consented: he entertained me with the various robberies and murders committed in Andalusia. “ And of what country are you, friend ?” “ *Soi de Castilla,*” replied he, “ they are quite another sort of people in that province. And pray,” says he, “ of what nation are you ?” I thought I was far enough from the district of Gibraltar to pass for an Englishman; hitherto I had called myself an officer of the Irish brigade, “ *Soi Ingles.*” “ I hear,” says he, “ that the English are very good seamen, but bad soldiers.” I immediately spurred my horse, telling him, I would leave his havresack at the Pofada, and on we went; arriving at Ezija in five hours.

Ezija is a city situated on the Xenel, over which there is a stone bridge: It is famous for having the finest breed of horses in Andalusia. Here we got into the great high road to Madrid. I only stopped to dine, and then pursued my journey to the Carlotta, three leagues, which we travelled in three hours, through a country abundant in corn, vines, and olives; passed a great many farm and country houses, and saw four crosses. Here we spent an agreeable evening, the inn very commodious.

The Carlotta is a colony of Germans, established, about eight years ago, of which I shall endeavour to give you a farther account hereafter. The town is small, but prettily designed, and seated in the midst of the colony; there is a

church for the emigrants, and a German Franciscan friar for their pastor.

27th, We set out from the Carlotta. On leaving the settlement went for a few miles through a country little cultivated; afterwards some corn and pasture; saw several droves of horses and other cattle; crossed a rivulet, called Guadalhorce, over which there is a stone bridge. When within a couple of miles of this place, we had, from a height, the most beautiful prospect imaginable of the city, the river Guadalkivir, and the plain through which it takes its course. We were five hours travelling five leagues, when we arrived here, and put up at a Fonda, opposite the cathedral, where we are dirtily lodged, but well served.

Having brought you thus far, I shall now take my leave, until a future occasion, being, with great truth,

Yours, &c.

LETTER

LETTER II.

Cordova, July 2, 1774.

My dear Friend,

I HAVE now to give you the observations I have made on this renowned place, during my short residence here ; with some traits of the customs and manners of this most singular people.

Cordova is a very ancient city, situated in a most beautiful and spacious plain, extending itself, on the right of the Guadalquivir, over which there is a stone bridge of sixteen arches, said to have been built about the year 720. On the north side of the town runs the Sierra Morena, a noted chain of mountains, that stretch themselves from the sea, above 200 miles inland. This place was celebrated in the time of the Romans ; and when the Moorish monarchs ruled this land, was a capital, according to Mariana, of the greatest consideration. The walls of the town are, in many places, very intire, partly Roman, partly Moorish. It is at present a considerable city, but badly built : narrow and irregular streets ; in many of them are to be seen Roman ruins, capitals and shafts of columns, milliaries with inscriptions, &c. The houses are chiefly stone, constructed in the Moorish taste, on each side of a square court-yard. People of condition inhabit the lower rooms in summer, and the upper ones in winter : in the hot season they keep the sun and air out of their apartments in the day-time, which render them cool

cool and agreeable ; though to an Englishman it has a very odd effect, to make a visit in a dark room, where he must be sometime before he can discover the person whom he visits. Some of the *Titulos de Castilla*, an order of nobility, of whom there may be about ten or twelve families, from one to three thousand pounds a year, that constantly reside here, have very good houses, in which there are handsome suites of apartments ; but their furniture is by no means adequate : we find elegant mirrors, rich silk hangings, and matted bottom chairs, in their principal rooms. Most of these families have *tortullas* or assemblies : I was at that of the Condeffa de Villa Novas, who had lately lost a near relation : the company appeared in mourning ; every female, on entering the assembly, after paying her respects to the mistress of the house, went round the whole circle, took each lady by the hand, muttered some compliments, of which they have great abundance, and then sat down. When all the company was assembled, servants came in, dressed also in mourning, with glasses of iced water and sugar biscuits ; afterwards with chocolate, cakes, sweetmeats, and, to conclude, more iced water. These *refrescos* are the chief entertainment of the natives, for the pleasures of the table are scarcely known amongst them : they seldom dine or sup together, except on a marriage, the birth of a first son, or some other festive occasion : the company sat and conversed together, for on these melancholy occasions, there is no card-playing, making little societies of conversation till towards eleven o'clock, when they all retired ; the ladies going through the same ceremony on leaving as coming into the room. The *etiquette* of these assemblies, and indeed of all others through the country, are extremely tiresome ; though they are polite enough to make allowances for strangers.

These

These nobles have very costly equipages, gaudy, and overloaded with ornaments ; but they make their appearance only on *gala* or state days, which are strictly observed here, as at court. Their carriages are drawn by mules, which come from La Mancha.

I was carried about two miles out of town, in the Marquis of Cabrignani's carriage, to the bishop's *alameda*,* which is shewn as a great effort of human skill. The late bishop improved this spot of ground, which may be about a mile in extent, by planting and inclosing it. It might have been made very beautiful, as it is on the banks of the Guadalquivir, where there is a gentle declivity to the river ; but he has shewn his taste, in making long alleys of trees, closed by high hedges ; and shutting out the water entirely, by planting and hedging closer on that side than any where else : at the extremities of the alleys, there is a small house, and near it there are a few ponds, with *jets d'eau*, though the river is within fifty yards of them ; a labyrinth, and some little parterres with myrtle trees cut out in various forms and shapes. On our arrival, we found the Bishop there, to whom I was presented, when he desired I might make the house my own, as both it and the gardens were at my service : and here I must observe to you, that this is a common Spanish compliment ; for if a Spaniard's sword, watch, ring, or any thing else belonging to him be praised, he immediately offers it with warmth, though nothing would disappoint him more than to accept of it.

* *Alameda* is a walk planted with trees : though this place goes by the same name, it is more properly a villa.

Whilst we were walking in the gardens, the Marquis took out of his pocket a little bit of tobacco, rolled it up in a piece of paper, making a *cegar* of it; and gave it to one of his footmen to light: the servant took out his flint, steel and match, which every man carries about him, struck a light, took two or three whiffs, and then returned it to his master: it was afterwards offered to me, and the rest of the company; I declined the favour, but the others smoked about. This is a common practice with every person, in almost every place.

On our return, before we got within the gates, the postilion took off two of the mules, as we could not drive in town with six; no one but the Bishop having that privilege.

The theatre here was but very indifferent, and the actors bad: the piece I saw was wretchedly performed. The ladies go to the boxes in the French dress; but the men oftener appear in the *capa* and *sombrero*,* as they seem to be under a great restraint in the other; and only wear it at *tertullas*, and the like formal occasions. Since the insurrection at Madrid in 1766, government has endeavoured to prevent the men from wearing the flapped hat and cloak; but it will be long before it can be accomplished in the provinces, as it is a convenient dress for gallantry, and people will not readily give up what contributes to their favourite amusement. The women who are in the Spanish dress, are lodged by themselves in a gallery over the boxes, which is called the *cazuela*, where the men, during the representation, are not allowed to go; but they have various signs, by which they communicate with

* Cloak and large hat.

each other at a distance, for intrigue is one of the great pursuits of both sexes. At church, in the streets, and at all public meetings, the fair carry the appearance of saints ; but no sooner has the sun rolled down the beamy light, than all restraint is thrown aside, and every bird seeks its mate : no single woman can appear abroad without her *dueña*, who is an old woman, that generally assists her in carrying on her amours.

We have had two bull-feasts here, but they were very indifferent : the people are so passionately fond of this diversion, that they will even dispose of their wearing apparel to get money to go to it : all the young men of fashion were dressed in the *Maxo* * drefs, which is the *sombrero*, *capa*, and † *redecilla en petit maître*, with long swords under their cloaks. A *gitana*, or gipsy woman, signalized herself by attacking one of the bulls ; but she was thrown by him, and somewhat bruised, when the wole amphitheatre rang with applause : it is ever the custom to applaud the victor : however, to reward her resolution, the Marquis of Cabrignani called out, *Viva la Louisa !* and threw her a handful of hard dollars. All the fellows who are employed in fighting the bulls, attend the levees of the young men of fashion, where the modes of attack and defence are very learnedly discussed.

There are some few gaudy and rich churches here, but without taste. The cathedral is a great curiosity ; it was anciently a mosque, said by Mariana to be built by Abderrahman king of Cordova in 786 ; it is imagined the columns that are in it were originally taken from the temple of Janus,

* In English, pronounce *Mabo*.

† Net for the hair.

and other Roman buildings : Roman sculpture is as visible in their capitals, as Moorish in the superstructure ; they are of Jasper, and various other fine marbles, placed, as I was told, for I was not at the trouble to count them, in forty-six ranks, crossed by twenty-four. The Moors had so much veneration for *Ceca*, which was the name it bore ; whence that speech of Sancho's in Don Quixote, *Dexadnos de andar de Ceca en Meca* ; that they used to come on pilgrimage to it from Barbary, and the other parts of Spain they inhabited, as the Turks now go to Meca. There are twenty canons belonging to this cathedral, who have considerable revenues.

This town is famous for fine horses : the king keeps stables, and breeds for his own use ; there were between thirty and forty colts in his stables, which were to set out for Madrid in a few days. The Barbary breed, which is peculiar to this province is still preserved by societies of gentlemen, called *Maestranza*, formed into communities at Seville, Granada, Ronda, and Valencia ; each society having a different uniform, which is worn on state days, &c.

Every man of fortune has a riding-house, where he amuses himself an hour or two every day ; for the Spaniard delights much in horses.

The *Alcazar*, or Moorish palace, is still extant : it is now made use of for the inquisition.

This town has been famous for its leather, whence the English word *cordwain* from *Cardovan* : there is also a considerable silk manufacture carried on here.

The people complain much of the imposts : they say, by going two or three leagues out of the town, to any of the villages, bread, the chief aliment of the Spaniards, is to be had three or four quarts a pound cheaper. In Castille, and all the provinces that are united to it, there is a heavy tax, called *alcavala*, Mariana says, that the states of Burgos, in the year 1342, granted to Alonzo XII. a twentieth part on the sale of every thing, to enable him to carry on the war against the Moors ; and that this was the first time the term was used in the Spanish language : it is now called a tenth, but the officers charged with the collection compound for less. I sold a horse here for six hundred reals,* and they obliged me to pay but twenty-five reals *alcavala*.

Satisfied with the cursory view I have taken of this city ; and fatiated with the numberless civilities I have met with, I propose setting out to-morrow morning on my way to Madrid, where I shall take the liberty to give you some farther account of my proceedings. I shall now conclude, with assurances of my regard ; being, with great truth, &c.

* A real is the twentieth part of a hard dollar, which may be reckoned worth about 4s. 6d.

LETTER III.

Amigo mio,

Carolina, July 7, 1774.

IN the midst of the Sierra Morena, like another Cardenio, I take the opportunity of a leisure hour to give you a detail of my exploits since I left Cordova, which was on the 3d instant. Travelled two leagues through a flat country, passing abundance of olive trees and corn, and arrived in two hours at a *venta*,* near an old bridge over the Guadalquivir: here we overtook thirty colts, belonging to the king, going to Madrid; each horse had his particular attendant, besides riding-masters, farriers, &c.

The *ventero* † was very prolix in telling every person who came into the *venta* of the wonderful floods caused there by the swelling of the river; and of the amazing strength of the bridge, which, he said, was built either by the Moors, or, as some would have it, by the Romans; and had it not been particularly strong, it never could have resisted such torrents as he had seen: the stones of it were remarkably large, and it appeared to be of Roman architecture.

Left the *venta* at four o'clock: went through a country fertile with corn and olives: passed five crosses this afternoon within the space of a league, and arrived at the *venta del Carpio*: three leagues in three hours.

* *Venta* is an inn, situated generally by itself, on the high-road; it is usually placed in such a manner as to divide the stages between the towns or villages as are at too great a distance from each other.

† Landlord of the *venta*.

The village of Carpio is situated on a rising ground, about two hundred yards from the *venta*; near it are some oil mills, but, being late, I could not see them. We had provided our *alforjas* with provisions, otherwise we should have fared indifferently; for nothing but eggs and salad were to be had. In the evening, several of the youth from the village were assembled before the door of a small house, in which lived the barber who attended the *venta*; amongst them was a young woman, who touched the guitar, and sang *seguidillas** agreeably; seeing me attentive to their music, they offered me a chair, and the nymph who sang asked me if I understood the couplets; if not, she would explain them, which she did without the music. The evening was mild and serene, and thus the company amused themselves till eleven o'clock, when they broke up. I returned the fair Cecilia thanks for her courtesy, and she left me with a smile, and an *Adios, caballero Ingles*, kissing her hand many times. After thus passing two hours most pleasantly, I prepared my bed, which was two benches, for no bedding was to be had, spread my cloak, and retired to rest.

At midnight we were disturbed by the arrival of the king's horses: the conductors, using the privilege of their power, threatened to hamstring all the cattle that stood in their way: notwithstanding there were stables enough to contain above a hundred horses, they turned out every beast that was in them. I was obliged to exert my power, usurping my old character of an officer in the Irish brigade, and menace the conductors for their insolence; when my cavalry were again admitted, and taken much better care of than they would have been otherwise. The rest of the guests, who

* A kind of Spanish poetry, set to music, very animated.

chose to be very submissive, also got admittance ; but one obstinate fellow, who pleaded and urged his right with a manly spirit, was obliged to feed his mules at the door of the *venta*. After this *fracas*, I returned again to rest, and set out at five o'clock.

4th, Travelled through a country rather hilly ; but the hills cultivated to the top with corn and olives, the finest grain, and in the greatest abundance imaginable : saw two or three flocks of sheep in some few spots that were not in corn : passed a village ; and in four hours, travelling three leagues, arrived at Aldea del Rio, which, on our approach, with the country around it, appeared very pleasant. In this town they fabricate a great deal of coarse woollen cloth.

At five o'clock we pursued our journey along the vale, through which the Guadalquivir runs, covered with corn and olives : passed two crosses : crossed the Guadalquivir, over a stone bridge, which has been formerly defended by a tower at the end of it, and arrived at Andujar : near five hours travelling four leagues.

This town is situated on a rising ground, about a quarter of a mile from the bridge : it has been fortified, and commands this passage of the Guadalquivir.

There were some musicians, with two violins, two guitars, and a bass, who came to the door of the *posada*, and played for a couple of hours, for which we rewarded them with a few quarts.* Here we were supplied with bedding, and got

* A quart is a copper coin, eight and a half making a real vellon.

some excellent red wine. On paying the bill, we were taxed with, what is called, the *estaca*, a duty of three quarts levied on each beast that lies all night at the inn. At this place there is also a fabric of coarse cloth. Here we found the *montera* again in use.

5th, Left Andujar at eight o'clock in the morning. The country much the same; corn and olives for two leagues, when we entered the *Sierra Morena*,* and saw a number of olive trees; afterwards, poor soil, waste land, and cork trees. Passed one of the German settlements; it did not appear to be so far advanced in improvement as the Carlotta. We were five hours travelling four leagues, when we arrived at Baylin, a very indifferent town: near it are lead mines.

Pursued our journey at four, passing a very poor, uncultivated country, for a league, entered upon the new settlements, and carried them along with us for three leagues further to this place: four leagues in four hours: here we found a tolerable *pesada*, kept by a Frenchman.

About eight years ago these settlements were established: emigrants from Alsace, French Flanders, Lorrain, &c. were transported hither to populate, cultivate, and improve this most inhospitable country: for want of previous preparation, for want of proper knowledge of colonization, many of the first settlers perished a little after their arrival; and most of the remainder have been since destroyed by the climate: they were crowded into barracks insufficient against the heavy rains that fall at certain seasons in this part of the kingdom, which produced disorders and killed many; most of those who sur-

* The brown mountain of Don Quixotte.

vived, brought from a colder clime, obliged to work, exposed to the rays of this much hotter sun, in an uncleared country and unwholesome soil; the air fraught with vapours, and the earth with all kinds of minerals; bringing along with them, and following the customs of their own native land, have since expired; besides, many amongst them, unaccustomed to tillage, manufacturers of all kinds, expecting, on their arrival, to find wealth instead of hard labour, perished rather than toil at what they could not understand: however, there has been a second and third emigration, besides a number of Catalans to carry on the project, who have been more successful, especially the latter, as they are a people inured to the climate, and remarkably diligent and laborious: but, to promote husbandry in any great degree, other kinds of industry must be encouraged, and a ready communication made throughout the kingdom, that there may be a mutual exchange with the produce of one part for the commodities of another; whereby, the superabundance of one territory, may supply the deficiency of another: government seems not to have taken such an extensive view of things: had the river Guadalquivir been made navigable from the sea to Andujar, previous to the establishment of these colonies, they would have been in a much more flourishing state than they are at present, or are likely to be.

I have been informed, that, at the period when these settlements were made, ten thousand inhabitants of Galicia, migrating into Portugal, were immediately received and sent off to the Brasils: if this be true, it was a great oversight in government, in not encouraging those people to have formed these colonies.

Each colonist, on his arrival, had his portion of ground allotted him, when he was employed to clear it, and prepare materials for building, &c. being allowed a real a day, with a ration of bread for the first three, and to be exempted from taxes for ten years: when the houses were built, and the colonists put into possession of them, they were supplied with utensils for husbandry, seed for sowing, half a dozen fowls, two cows, &c. and, from time to time, the intendant furnishes them with whatever may be wanting; though they all complain of their rulers, as this, like every other government work, is made a job of.

The town is situated on a rising ground, and handsomely disposed: the road for about half a mile, leading in a straight line to it, is planted with trees, on each side of which is a path for foot passengers, and the ground without the path inclosed, and laid out in gardens; the streets cut each other at right angles, with a market place in the middle of the town; and the church at the extremity of the principal street. To shew the rage of this nation for bull-fighting, they have built a handsome hexagon, which is to serve for a *plaza de toro*. The houses are of stone, covered with lime, whitewashed and tiled: they told me, there might be between three or four hundred in this colony. The soil here is not so favourable for cultivation as at the Carlotta, though the lands are much improved: this year there is a great deal of corn. There are complaints, that the funds appropriated to the service of these settlements are very deficient. There is a silk manufacture here; and some *catalams* of consideration, are about to establish a fabric of coarse woollen cloth, with a view to cloathe all the troops in the province. However this project may have been badly conducted or mismanaged in its infancy, it was
3
certainly

certainly most eligible in government to promote the population and improvement of a waste tract of country for so many miles; by which means a free road of communication has been made between the capital and more remote parts of the kingdom, that before was infested with thieves and robbers; where murder was frequently committed; and where it was impossible to travel in safety, without a considerable posse or safeguard.

In this colony, I observed, a change in the manner of threshing the corn (if I may be allowed the expression) instead of mares treading it out as before, they made use of a *trillo*, that is, three pieces of thick wood joined together by the side of each other, and made full of holes, in which are placed small sharp pointed stones; at one end a mule is put, and a person sitting on the machine to press it on the grain, drives the mule in a circle; this, as in the other manner, breaks the straw into pieces; but that, as I observed before, is of no consequence, as the inhabitants feed their cattle with it thus broken. I have nothing more to say at present, but to let you know, that I am going to rest, in order to pursue my journey early to-morrow morning, and to bid you adieu.

LETTER IV.

My Dear Sir,

Madrid, July 14, 1774.

I AM just now come to town, and lodged at the Fonda of St. Sebastian. As I propose not to stir abroad this day, I shall transcribe to you my journal from the Sierra Morena, through Aranjuez, which I hope will afford you some entertainment.

July 8. Set out from the Carolina early in the morning, and carried the colony along with us for about a league, when we came into a most mountainous and uncultivated country. Passing the Venta de Miranda, we entered, what is called, *el puerto * del rei*: on the summit of one of the mountains we saw a little shed, wherein were placed two images of saints, with inscriptions, which informed us, that the Archbishop of Toledo granted eighty, and the Bishop of Valencia forty days indulgence, to those who said a prayer before each of them. We observed two good Christians taking the advantage of their dispensing power. There the jurisdictions of the prelates, and the boundaries of the provinces were ascertained. About half way through the *puerto*, came to the Venta del Marquis, where an officer of the *aduana* or customs, demanded a toll, each horse paying three quarts, and carriages in proportion; but on telling him I was a *soldado*, he granted me an exemption. Not being able to get any thing to eat at the *venta*, we pursued our journey through the mountains, which having passed, and descending into the plains, saw some olive trees, a little cultiva-

* The passes in mountains are called *puertos*.

tion,

tion, and a great number of sheep-folds. Travelled six leagues in seven hours, and arrived at El Viso, the first town in La Mancha, at the foot of the Sierra Morena.

I was surprized to find the difference a few leagues had made in the appearance of the people: an old man was seated at the door of the *posada*, who was dressed in a dark-coloured cloth waistcoat and breeches; the breeches tied at the knee, and hanging over the tie to the calf of his leg; black stockings and *montera*, with a cloak of the same coloured cloth of his waistcoat; he had a thin face, fallow complexion, long black hair, and a grizzly beard of some three weeks growth; his deportment was grave and solemn, and his countenance pensive and severe; though he was the landlord of the inn, he paid little attention to me, and it was with some trouble I got him to enter into conversation; however, at length, I found him very conversant in the affairs of the village, but his ideas did not carry him many miles beyond it. Most of the men of the town were cloathed in the same manner, with this dark coloured cloth, which is made of the undied wool of black sheep, each family fabricating a sufficient quantity for its own use: the women wore jackets and aprons of the like stuff, with a kind of linsley woolsey petticoat; red stockings; beads and many trinkets about their necks; with their black hair tied behind; the smarter girls wearing silver combs: every one seemed to have a more sedate appearance, and more mysterious air, than I had seen in Andalusia. I have been told before, and I find it true, that to read Don Quixote with satisfaction, a man must visit this province; for the people are almost as romantic now as in his days. Here we were indifferently supplied with provisions: bad bread, and no other meat but goat's flesh: we got a few eggs, and tolerably good wine.

This

This village belongs to the Marquis of Santa Cruz. The *alcalde*, or magistrate of the town, sent me word, if I would regale him, he would shew me the Marquis's palace; I embraced his offer and went to see it. It is a large square edifice, and has been very handsome, but is now going to ruins; it was originally decorated by Italian artists, as the inside is much in the taste of many palaces at Genoa. The exploits of the famous predecessor of this family against the Moors, are painted in fresco; many trophies, taken from them, are still treasured up here.

The houses of this village are low and poorly built, chiefly of clay tiled; but in general were clean. The *possadero* informed me, that numerous flocks of fine wooled sheep came here to feed annually; that Don Luis, the king's brother, and prince Maferano, have tracts of land round the town, which they let to the pastors, who arrive here from the northern parts of the kingdom, with their flocks, about St. Andrew's day; pass the winter, and then set out again on their summer migration the beginning of May, returning to the mountains of Old Castile for that season.

Immediately around the village, a great deal of corn, chiefly barley.

9th. Set out early in the morning from El Vifo: left Santa Cruz de Mudela on the left, whence the Marquis takes his title: the ground lies most agreeably: we carried little hills along with us, on the summits of which there were generally sheep-folds; a good deal of corn in the flat country; the high grounds chiefly in pasture; not a house or a tree to be seen; some little huts scattered here and there, intended for the residence

dence of the different shepherds : saw several droves of mules, for which this country is famous : travelled four leagues in four hours, and arrived at Val de Peñas.

In this town there is the best bread I have ever seen ; and the wine is remarkably good. The people and houses have much the same appearance as at El Viso. The Marquis, who is also proprietor here, has established a fabrick of woollen cloth, but it is of no great consideration.

In this flat country the water is bad, which, together with the great heat, and poverty of the inhabitants, concur to give them a most ghastly appearance. We only stopt to dine, and in the afternoon pursued our journey through a country, so flat, that we had a horizon before us the same as at sea in a calm : passed a great many vines and some olives for above a league from the town : descried the steeple of the church at Manzanares, where we were to lie, above three leagues before we came to it : left a village on the right : saw several flocks of sheep, and a great deal of corn, chiefly barley, till near Manzanares, where we passed some olive trees. In four hours went four leagues, when we finished this day's journey, and found a tolerable *posada*.

On hearing that three companies of the brigade of Carabini-ers were quartered here, I determined to rest myself the next day, and see them. This brigade is composed of twelve troops, of fifty men a troop ; the captains have the rank of colonel, the lieutenants of captain, and the ensigns of lieutenant ; the men are selected from the other corps of cavalry ; the horses used formerly to be recruited in the same manner, but now they remount in Andalusia : I saw but few young
men

men amongst the troopers; the non-commissioned officers had the appearance of butchers and cheese-mongers; the horses, in general, were good, and I saw a few very fine: as this brigade never stirs out of La Mancha, but on particular occasions; and as there is no great spirit of discipline amongst them, it is much rusticated.

This town had nearly the same appearance with the rest we had passed. I had the curiosity to count the little ornaments my landlady wore about her neck, when I found no less than the heads of twenty-six different fairs, stamped on little bits of silver, fastened to beads, which made a most brilliant appearance: here we got incomparably good bread, and the Valdepeñas wine.

10th. Left Manzanares at four o'clock in the afternoon: travelled two leagues, when we stopt and drank at the Venta Queseda; but it by no means answers the description given by that humourous novelist, Cervantes: near the *venta*, the river Guadiana makes its appearance, after running under ground for near seven leagues.

Pursued our journey through a country not so much improved as before, and arrived at Villaharta in four hours, five leagues: a poor village: we were badly lodged, for the regiment of Montesa, cavalry, on its march had taken up the *posadas*.

There is a morass on the north side of the town, which renders it very unhealthy in summer.

11th. Left this abominable hole at four o'clock: crossed the morass on a stone causeway: the wind coming from

the northward, over some mountains that were just before us, made it so extremely cold, that we were obliged to wear our great coats: travelled two leagues, and came to the Puerto Lapiche, mentioned in Don Quixote, as famous for the adventure of the Biscayner: little and indifferent cultivation till we passed the Puerto; afterwards a great deal of barley and some olives: arrived, and dined, at Camuñas, a poor village, every person we saw asked alms: pursued our journey, after dinner, through a country abundant in barley, so flat, that we had a horizon as fair as at sea: did not meet a creature, or see but one house, for five leagues; when we arrived at Temblequer, which is situated in a hollow way.

The town is large; has a kind of manufacture of silk and thread stockings, which were very indifferent, and very dear.

Here the *posada* was bad; but it afforded us an adventure, very similar in its nature, to that of Don Quixote and Martines; our fair one was not quite so ugly as Cervantes's; but she was fully as amorously inclined. We got a quarter with a recess, wherein two beds were placed; as it was extremely hot, and the recess stunk of all kinds of bad smells, I drew the mattrass off the platform, and placed it in the middle of the floor; now it happened that our quarter was a passage room, at one end of which was a little apartment, taken up by a Calazero, going with an empty chaise to Toledo; he retired early to rest, and we were not long after him: at what hour the devil disturbed the repose of the Calazero, I cannot determine; but in the midst of a most profound sleep, I was awaked, and almost crushed to
F death,

death, by an amazing weight falling across me ; so soon as I could speak, I roared out lustily, for an instant, when I was relieved from my burthen, and saluted by a hollow and deep-toned voice, with *Perdon U. M. Cavallero*, which was repeated several times : I was too much flurried to think of Spanish execrations ; but I cursed most heartily in English--- at last, recollecting myself, I asked, *Que quiere U. M. ?* *Nada*, replied the voice, *Voi a mi quarto Señor. Va U. M. al Demonio*, says I, and then turned myself to sleep ; when I was again disturbed by a naked foot, which gave me a slap in the face : *Quien es*, says I, loudly ; a female voice replied, *Hu-sh--* I then, in a lower, and more gentle tone, asked, *Quiere V. M. algo ?* at the same time putting my hand out of bed, to feel whether it were a substance or a shade, that had thus accosted me ; I perceived a glimmering light coming towards me, held out by the witch of Endor, in a yellow petticoat. The girl was fairly caught, and all the powers of eloquence could not prove the contrary. The picture was a good one : the old beldam, with a thin, shrivelled, yellow countenance, and clamorous voice, exposing, by the dim light of a half extinguished lamp, Maritorne's charms, which were concealed by the shift only ; with such a shift, and such charms ! the master sitting up in bed, endeavouring to vindicate his conduct ; and the servant, awaked out of his sleep, with a blue handkerchief tied about his head, in amazement at the scene. It being now three o'clock, it was in vain to rest again, so we fed our cattle, the Calazero his mules, and at four we set out ; the latter foiled in his intrigue, of which I had only the reputation. Thus we left the poor disappointed girl to be severely lectured by the jealous Jezabel her mistress, who was so old, that she had quite forgot the time when

he used to play the same pranks. Sport on, ye amorous Castilians; nor let the ill-judged caution of a gloomy Englishman, deprive you of those transports he cannot enjoy.

12th. Went for about a league and a half through a very flat country, which brought us to a hollow way; along this we travelled, chiefly chalky land: passed a causeway over a morass, when we came to La Guardia, a village curiously situated; it has been originally a fort, on the point of a conical rock, to defend the entrance of this pass; we saw some remains of other forts to the right. Two short leagues from La Guardia, is Dos Borrios, another village, situated at the extremity of this pass, where we left La Mancha; here we got again to the level of the plain; a country covered with barley as before, and some of the finest olive-trees I had seen: saw Occaña at about a league before us, where we arrived at ten o'clock.

There we found a tolerable good *posada*: we only stayed to dine, and again pursued our journey: the country became more irregular: we descended into a hollow way, which we carried with us to Aranjuez. From Occaña to Aranjuez is a royal road, very fine, and well made; stones are erected at every half-league: saw some barley, and very indifferent olive-trees, till within a league of it, when the country became quite uncultivated; nothing but rabbit burrows: after travelling two leagues, finished this day's journey, and found a good *fonda*.

Aranjuez is a *real sitio*,* where the court resides from a little after Easter till the latter end of June. It is situated

* A royal country palace.

in an entire flat: the palace is of brick, with some stone pillasters of the Tuscan order; it was originally intended to have been a square, but only one side of it has been finished: the king is now carrying on the first design.

In the inside of the palace, are many very handsome mirrors, from the king's manufacture at San Ildephonso; a few good portraits, and some beautiful marble slabs; the floor is paved with coarse tiles, and covered with common matting; the wood work of the doors, windows, &c. very clumsily executed: there is a room in it decorated with porcelaine of the king's fabrick at Madrid; it is quite in the Spanish taste, overloaded with ornament. Philip II. turned the channel of the Tagus round the gardens, and caused two cascades to be made, which render them very cool and refreshing; they are composed of a number of alleys of very fine elm trees; the principal alley may be between six and seven hundred yards long, and about twelve feet broad, enclosed on each side by high hedges; every seventy or eighty yards, there are breaks, in forms of squares, hexagons, &c. where *jets d'eau* of different fancies are placed, and from which avenues are made that lead to other walks. There are in some parts of the gardens, parterres, where puerile devices are formed in myrtle borders, such as *fleurs de lis*, initial letters of names, &c. They are just now in the same state as when first made; a true taste for gardening has not reached this country: the coolness of the running river, and the refreshing shade of the umbrageous elms, are the only beauties to recommend them; the eye constantly confined within the narrow bounds of the hedges, gives the idea of restraint; and the sameness produced by the

4

strait

strait lines of the alleys, is disagreeable, and, after a short time, tires.

In the summer, it is a very unwholesome place, the people are all subject to the ague: it was extremely hot the day I was there, and the instant I went into the gardens, their coolness gave so sudden a check to the perspiration, that I scarcely got the better of it all day.

The town is prettily laid out; the houses are particularly built, one story with garrets; they are all painted on the outside: house-rent is so extremely high, that the traveller becomes very heavily taxed; though indifferently served, we were exorbitantly charged.

13th. Left Aranjuez at five o'clock in the evening; passed the bridge over the Tagus, and entered the great royal road, which is an avenue fifty feet broad, planted with four rows of elms; this avenue continues for above a league in a strait line, when we passed a stone bridge, of twenty-four or twenty-five arches, across the Jarama, where we paid a toll of seven and a half quarts each horse: the road was only planted for about half a league further, but was equally good to Baldemoro, three leagues, where we arrived at eight o'clock, and lay all night.

Set out at four o'clock this morning: passed several villages on each side of the road, some corn, a few vines, and arrived here at eight o'clock; four leagues in four hours. As the court is now at this place, I propose to reside here for some time. If you have any commands, I shall be happy to execute them, being, with great truth, &c.

LETTER

LETTER V.

My Dear Friend,

Madrid, July 29, 1774.

FROM a short residence at a metropolis, little material intelligence can be expected ; however, I shall venture, as well as those who have gone before me, to give my remarks and observations on this court and villa ; if they afford you the least entertainment, your satisfaction will more than compensate my labour.

Madrid is situated on several little hills, at the foot of which runs the Manzanares, a poor rivulet, at this time almost dry.

The town is surrounded with a kind of mud wall, with gates at different avenues ; it is inclosed, with a view to prevent the introduction of the various articles of subsistence, &c. without paying the impost.

I rode round the town, at two different times, and thence conclude it to be about seven miles in circumference : it is what the French call *bien percée* : some of the streets, such as the Calle de Atoche, Carrera de San Geronimo, Calle de Alcalá, &c. are spacious and handsome ; particularly the latter, the entrance of which is near two hundred feet broad ; they are kept perfectly clean, are well paved and lighted, lamps being placed at every fifteen or sixteen yards.

The

The police, upon the plan of that of Paris, is well regulated : the town is divided into a number of districts, each district being again subdivided into many inferior ones ; there is a supreme magistrate to each superior district, who decides and punishes all frivolous disputes and smaller crimes.

The new palace must be esteemed a magnificent building, though connoisseurs say it is heavy : It is a large, square stone edifice, situated on a rising ground, at the west end of the town ; in the design there are two wings, but they are not yet begun, nor, most probably, ever will : the approach to it is very indifferent, as it is not seen till close upon it : the entrance and stair-case are handsome : the great saloon of state is a most sumptuous room, about ninety feet by thirty-six ; the ceiling is painted in fresco, with figures as large as life ; the walls hung with crimson velvet, embroidered elegantly with gold, adorned with large mirrors : in the apartments is a collection of paintings by the first masters : the famous Mengs, who has painted many of the ceilings, &c. is now employed by the King, with a great salary : the numerous noble performances here are well worthy the attention of the curious. The chapel is a most complete and elegant piece of workmanship ; in it is some of the finest marble in the country :

The Retiro is at the east end of the town, but is an indifferent palace : there are still some good paintings remaining in it ; but the best have been removed. The gardens are spacious, a great part of which is inclosed, and kept entirely for the king's sport ; there is little worth notice in them, except a fine equestrian statue of Philip IV. and a large piece of water, which being on a height, has been brought there at a considerable expence.

The

The Casa del Campo, across the Manzanares, about a mile out of town, is but a hovel for a prince; and there is nothing striking in the park or inclosure, which is kept for the King's sport.

In the King's armoury are many antient weapons of war, and suits of armour, kept in great order. In his library, every person has free access, may call for what books he pleases, and the most profound silence is kept, to preserve the attention of the readers.

Notwithstanding the amazing fortunes of some of the nobility, there are few houses that have a splendid external appearance. The Duke of Medina Cœli has a most extensive palace; but there is neither magnificence without, or elegance within; the apartments are low, badly decorated, and Gothically furnished; indeed, there are some very handsome mirrors from the King's fabric at San Ildephonso: he has an armoury, in which are many valuable pieces of antient armour, and antique busts: he has also a public library, which is open for a certain number of hours every day.

The houses here are chiefly brick; those of the nobility are plaistered and painted on the outside: the vestiges of jealousy are still to be seen; *rejas*, or large iron grates, are placed at every window. Some of the houses are very lofty, five, six, or seven stories, particularly in the *plaza major*, which is a large square, where the royal bull-feats are held; at other times, the green market, &c. The middling people live on separate floors, as at Edinburgh, which renders the one common entrance to many families very dirty and disagreeable.

greeable : the portals are the receptacles for every kind of filth ; and as the Spaniard has more *mauvaise honte* than Madame de Rambouillet, he performs the like offices of nature concealed behind the gate of the portal, that she openly did in the fields : this is a strong remnant of Moorish manners. When a house is built, the first floor belongs to the King, but for which the owner generally compounds.

The custom-house and post-office are new and handsome buildings.

The churches here, as in every other part of the country, are tawdry, and overloaded with ornament; besides, there are strong remains of Moorish taste throughout; little spires and diminutive domes disfigure all their temples. The Capucins, though a beggarly race, are building a most enormous church, that has, and will, cost an immense sum. The clergy by sap, and the prince by storm, pillage and plunder the whole commonalty. The convent of the Salesas has a neat little chapel; the altars of fine marble, and elegant sculpture. There are about thirty-six convents of men, and as many of women here.

There are two churches in this town, that are asylums for rogues, thieves, and murderers: this was a point the clergy carried, when the same privileges were taken from every other church.

Though the clergy must have considerable power in this, as well as every other country, yet it has been much reduced of late years. The edict to prevent the admission of noviciates into the different convents, without

special permission, has, and will reduce the monastic orders. It is computed, there are now 54,000 friars, 34,000 nuns, and 20,000 secular clergy in the kingdom.

The environs of Madrid are not very agreeable: there are no villas or country houses; no places of recreation around it: the Prado, a public walk, planted with trees, at the east end of the town, is the chief summer evening's amusement; a great deal of company assemble there every afternoon, both in carriages and on foot.

I was several times at court, during its residence here: all the royal family dine publicly in separate rooms; and it is the *etiquette* to visit each apartment whilst they are at dinner; a most tiresome employ for those who are obliged to be there, and it would be thought particular, if the foreign ambassadors were not constantly to attend: Don Luis, the King's brother, who is the lowest in rank is first visited; he is the strangest looking mortal that ever appeared; and his dress is not more peculiar than his person; ever since he was a cardinal, he has detested any thing that comes near his neck, so his taylor has been particularly careful, to bring that part, which should be the collar of his coat, no higher than half way up his breast; this prince is of a most humane disposition, and is universally esteemed. The next in turn, is the Infanta Dona Maria, who seemed to be a very inoffensive little woman. Then to the two Infantes, Don Gabriel and Don Antonio: At the King's library, I saw an edition of Sallust, in Spanish, said to be translated by the former; the type, in imitation of manuscript, and the engravings very fine. Thence to the prince and princess of Asturias, the latter is of the house of Parma, and seems to be

be very affable : the Prince looks like an honest, plain man ; it is said, he has an utter aversion to every person and thing, Italian or French ; but the Princess having contrary sentiments, it is most likely, in the end, she will prevail on him to change his mind : as an instance of his dislike ; the French ambassador exclaimed loudly, that the Prince always conversed with him in Spanish ; it coming to the Prince's knowledge, he asked the Frenchman, in what language the Dauphin spoke to the Spanish ambassador at the court of Versailles ? On being told, in French, he continued, without taking any further notice, to converse with the ambassador, as before, in his own tongue. The last visit is to the King, who has a very odd appearance in person and dress ; he is of diminutive stature, with a complexion of the colour of mahogany ; he has not been measured for a coat these thirty years, so that it fits upon him like a sack ; his waistcoat and breeches are generally leather, with a pair of cloth spatter-dashes on his legs. At dinner, pages bring in the different dishes, and presenting them to one of the lords in waiting, he places them upon the table ; another nobleman stands on the King's side, to hand him his wine and water, which he tastes, and presents on his knee ; the primate is there to say grace ; the inquisitor-general also attends at a distance, on one side, and the captain, who has the guard, on the other ; the ambassadors are in a circle near him, with whom he converses for a short time, when they retire into a room behind his chair ; the rest of the court form in a second circle, without the ambassadors, at the end of the room ; when he rises from table, all who are to be introduced to him are presented ; and the governor of Madrid, having received the parole, he enters the room to the ambassadors : he

goes out a sporting every day of the year, rain or blow, whilst at Madrid, once a day, in the afternoon; but in the country, at the *sitios*, morning and evening: he often drives six or seven leagues out, and back again, as hard as the horses can go; it is a most fatiguing life for his attendants, and it is no uncommon thing to hear of the Guardia de Corps getting dislocated shoulders, broken arms, legs, &c. by falls from their horses: the country all around his palaces is enclosed for his sport.

I have been told, that, a little before I arrived, the King had a scheme to abdicate his throne, and retire to Cazerta near Naples; but demanding a settlement of sixteen millions of crowns, the council of Castille put a negative, as much as they could, upon his resolution; by telling him, that the kingdom could not support the annual drain of such an immense sum of money, in consequence of which, he desisted; but, it is said, he has the idea strongly impressed on his mind.

The grandees had great privileges; but since the accession of Philip V. who brought them to the capital, they have insensibly fallen under the tyranny of an absolute monarch. There are many who are possessed of very considerable fortunes: the predecessor of the present Duke of Medina Cœli had, on the death of his father, an income of 84,000*l.* a year, with six millions of hard dollars in ready money; in the course of twenty five years he spent the cash, and mortgaged as much as he could of the estate: there is a story told of him, that a comedy girl he kept, complaining to him, in the winter, of the cold, he sent her a silver *brasero*,* filled with gold crowns. The present Duke pursues a different system, yet the establish-

* A round vessel of metal, containing fire, usually placed, by the Spaniards, in the middle of their rooms in winter.

ment of his family is very considerable. All these great families have pages, who are gentlemen, for whom they provide, sometimes in the army, &c. The custom of keeping buffoons prevails still in this part of the world: I often saw the Duke of Alba's, covered with ribbons of various orders, a satire on such baubles! He attends his master in the morning, and the instant he awakes, is obliged to relate some facetious story, to put his Grace in good-humour: the Duke requires so much wit from him, that he is eternally upon the scamper in search of it. It is hardly possible to divine how these people can spend such amazing fortunes as some of them possess; but residing with the court, never visiting their estates; and, in general, thinking it beneath them to examine, or even enquire into their affairs, their stewards enrich themselves to their ruin: besides, they are confiscated by horses, mules, servants, and dependants. I was told, that the Duke of Infantado's expence for attendants and pensioners, amounts to 12,000*l.* a year. When once a servant is admitted into a family, it is certain maintenance for him during life, if he commit not some glaring crime; and even his descendants are taken care of. Women are another considerable expence: the conjugal bed is not held very sacred by the men of fashion; and since the Bourbon family has been seated on this throne, jealousy has lost its sting. The ladies are not behind-hand with their husbands: every dame has one *cortejo* at least, and often more; the cadets of the guards are employed in this agreeable office, they are generally necessitous, and are supplied by the fair with means for their extravagance: amongst the people of rank, gratification is their object, and they stop at nothing to accomplish it: gallantry or intrigue are terms too refined for this people; it is the glaring vice of venery, uncontrouled, unrestrained, which brings diseases into a family, that are handed down from generation to generation.

The *Gallico* is very common, and from the want of skill, in pursuing a proper method of cure, it often proves destructive where it once takes root. I was presented to a *titulo*, who was almost rotten with the disorder, having lingered under it for a considerable time; and his wife, a most agreeable woman, was dying by inches; thus we see half the nobility a disordered and degenerated race. The nobility are very expensive in their carriages, though they are yet in a Gothic taste; they are loaded with a profusion of ornament, and dazzle the eye with gilding: on *gala*, or state days, equipages appear, which cost amazing sums.

The people, in general, here, have adopted the French dress; none but the lower sort wear the cloak; the women wear the *mantilla*, or manta, when they walk the street, or go to church. Since the insurrection in 1766, no man can wear a flapped hat in Madrid: to shew the disposition of these people, and as a very particular circumstance, I must inform you, that at the time of that commotion, the mob regularly took their *siesta*, and then returned to their different places of rendezvous; government was also so very sleepy, that it did the same; so that there seemed to be a convention between administration and the people for a few hours every day: the latter, for the last time, I believe, carried their point, for guards are placed now at every corner of the town; patrols of horse and foot go regularly through the streets every night; and the famous O' Reilly is governor of Madrid: the former conduct of this general at New Orleans, is sufficient to shew how proper a person he is, to execute the mandates of a tyrannic prince; when I went to wait upon him, I found his address most arrogant and imperious; the *hauteur* with which he treated the few
officers

officers who visited him, did not correspond with English ideas of subordination. As this gentleman has made a considerable figure in this part of Europe, I shall, in a few words, give you his history.

At the battle of Campo Santo, in Italy, he was wounded, and left in the field; an Austrian soldier was just going to give him the *coup de grace*, before he stripped and plundered him, when he prevented it, by telling the soldier, he did not know his prize, for that he was the son of the Duke of Arcos, a grandee of Spain; this declaration held the plunderer's hand, and he conducted his imaginary treasure to Marshal Brown, to whom the artful captive made himself known; the marshal, pleased with the deceit, ordered physicians to attend him, and sent him back with *eclat* to the Spanish camp: the Duchess of Arcos hearing the story, ever after patronized him, and hurried him on to a company and majority: in the last German war, he went a volunteer to the Austrian army, but speaking too freely, was obliged to quit it; when he joined the French, and served under Broglie: on the breaking out of the Spanish war, he returned to Spain, when he assumed a good deal on his knowledge acquired in the German campaigns; was made a colonel and brigadier: after the peace, was sent to take possession of New Orleans, where his feats of baseness and cruelty are recorded; however, they only served to ingratiate him with the sovereign; for his promotion has been, from that time, most rapid; though amongst the youngest of the major-generals, he was made a lieutenant-general, and inspector-general of the infantry, over the heads of many of the first people in the kingdom. Here we may say, with Polybius, "that in an arbitrary state, the zeal and courage of

" mercenaries are rewarded with new advantages; for a ty-

“rant, in proportion as his successes are increased, has still
 “greater need of such assistance; for by accumulating inju-
 “ries, he adds to the number of those whom he has reason to
 “fear. The very safety, therefore, of every tyrant, depends
 “wholly upon the strength and the attachment of his foreign
 “soldiers.” As he has the ear of the King, he does just what
 he pleases in his line; the number of things he has to give,
 cause many to pay him fulsome adulation; but his imperious
 behaviour must make him hated and despised; and should he
 once lose the smiles of the prince, he would soon be hurried
 from this pinnacle of honour, and precipitated into ruin, with-
 a friend to console him.

The civil and criminal jurisdiction extends itself for five leagues round the town, with an appeal to the royal council of Castile; but the distribution of justice here, is very dilatory, and subject to great venality.

This state is governed by the Marquis of Grimaldi, a refugee Genoese, who, by his intrigues at the court of Versailles, routed the Conde de Aranda, and got the whole power into his own hands: through this medium, France rules the councils of this kingdom. Many of the principal departments, and first employments, are filled by foreigners, French, Italians, and Irish, whom the Spaniards detest, and very justly, for they have no interest, but to feed the follies, and indulge the vices and extravagancies of the prince; to enrich and provide for their itinerant and necessitous compatriots; and aggrandize themselves to the oppression of the natives: but *dans les pays des aveugles, les borgnes sont rois.*

This

This town swarms with French and Italian manufacturers and shop-keepers. If one hears of an artist, one is sure to find him a foreigner; for the arts have made but little progress among the natives. There is a manufacture of tapestry, that was established here by Ferdinand VI. where there are about twenty looms going. There is also a porcelaine manufactory, but no one is admitted to see it. These fabbricks have been imitatively established, through a puerile vanity; whilst those of more real utility are never thought of: they are kept up at a considerable expence by royal munificence; for their produce cannot be purchased but by the opulent; indeed, they serve to draw some of the wealth from the clutches of the prince, which is distributed among those, who would otherwise, most probably, be in want of employment.

Religious bigotry and superstition still prevail here. The Prince of Asturias' son being extremely ill, and given over by the physicians, the bones of a saint were sent for from Alcála, and brought in procession to the palace, to work his cure; but unfortunately, the saint was not in humour to perform the miracle, and the poor infant died. Not a woman gets into a coach to go a hundred yards, nor a postillion on his horse, without crossing themselves; even the tops of tavern bills, and the directions of letters, are marked with crosses. There are eternal processions in the streets, which the people are very fond of, and the clergy take care to encourage.

There is a society of people in this town, some of whom go about the streets in the evening, knock with their sticks upon the pavement, to inform those who have any sick in their houses, to bring them forth, when they are conveyed to an hospital; and if any poor or distressed persons are lying in the

H

streets,

streets, they are also taken care of. The hospitals are, in general, very clean, and well attended; and this must ever be the case where the attendance is given from a religious motive.

There were two bull-feasts during my stay here; the amphitheatre may contain, as near as I could compute, about 10,000 people: at one of them, there was a man and five horses killed. The rage for this amusement is very great; though, I am told, the keen edge is much worn off here. The first attack of the bull is fine, and the resistance of the man on horseback, gives most manly ideas; but the conclusion, or butchering part, is very disagreeable.

I was several times at the theatres, which have nothing remarkable in their construction. Refined comedy has no place upon this stage; neither is the tragic muse supported by the performers; distress and joy, in long and tedious speeches, are alike repeated, with a composed countenance, and a dull monotony, that lulls the audience to sleep. Buffoonery, indeed, has its full force; it is equally mixed with the serious and comic. The *gracioso* and *graciosa* are constantly introduced, to draw the attention of the audience, by endeavouring to make them laugh with grimace, jokes, and quaint expressions. The farces, that are represented between the acts of the principal piece, are sometimes humourous, though often low; they are generally scenes of gallantry at an inn, on the public walks, at an ice-house, &c. and as the great pursuit of these people is intrigue, the artful schemes of both sexes to accomplish their ends, are ludicrously introduced. The fashionable vice of *cortejos*, to married women, is constantly lashed. The *tonadillas*, or musical dialogues, of a composition peculiar to
this

this country, fung between the acts, are lively and agreeable. The *fandango*, also introduced after the farces, is a lascivious dance, brought from the West Indies, of which the natives are as fond as the English used to be of the hornpipe: I imagine this dance originally came from the coast of Guinea: I have observed at Tetuan, the Emperor of Morocco's black soldiers dance, with castnets in their hands, in a manner very similar. There is a kind of comic opera, represented in summer, called the *Zarzuela*; I was at one of them; a translation of the French *Roi & le Fermier*, from the English *Miller of Mansfield*; the voices and music, in general, were but indifferent. I have been told that there are above 10,000 plays in the Spanish language; the person who informed me said, he had seen a list of 8,000, amongst which, Lopez de Vega, and Calderon, are most respectable figures; and I make no doubt, but in a more refined age, the beauties in the compositions of the former, the celebrated cotemporary and correspondent of Shakespeare, will be cleared from the pile of rubbish that now conceals them, and by another Montague, held forth to immortalize his name.

On the 26th, the court set out for San Ildephonso: the troops were under arms, lining the road from the palace, as far as they could reach; exclusive of the horse and foot guards, there were three regiments of infantry, and one of cavalry. The coaches were attended by the *guardia de corps*, and drove as hard as they could go. The court resides from the middle of January, till a little before the holy week, at the Pardo; then at Madrid till after Easter, assisting at the religious ceremonies of the holy week; at Aranjuez till the middle of June; again at Madrid, for three weeks or a month; at San Ildephonso till October; at the Escorial till December; once more at Madrid till January, and so on annually.

There is a weekly Gazette published here, in which the news of other countries is well related ; but for the transactions of this kingdom, except it be the church and army promotions, and the movement of the court, it is silent.

I was told, that there are 300,000 inhabitants in this town ; but I should imagine this number much exaggerated.

It is computed, that in the time of Augustus, there were fifty millions of inhabitants in this peninsula ; in the reign of Fernando el Catholico, nineteen millions, and at present, not more than between nine and ten.

I am afraid I shall be detained here, as I have made myself exceedingly ill, by drinking an extra quantity of iced water, which beverage at this season, and in this climate, is remarkably agreeable ; however, if possible, I shall set out to-morrow morning, on my way to that extraordinary pile of building, the Escorial ; so conclude with assurances that I am, &c. &c.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

My Dear Sir,

Avila, August 4, 1774.

AS you are so exceedingly anxious to have the plan of the new-formed academy at this place, I shall endeavour to give you an account of it, together with the general state of the military establishment, discipline of the army, &c. As I took the Escorial *en route*, it will probably afford you some entertainment to have my cursory remarks on that surprising edifice. I shall therefore give you my journal from Madrid, which I left the 30th, at five o'clock in the morning. The royal road, which is planted for about two leagues, continues all the way to the Escorial; but we struck out of it, to go to Colmenarejo, a poor village, where we stopped, and dined at a wretched *posada*.

Pursued our journey in the evening, and arrived at the Escorial: not quite seven leagues from Madrid.

Great part of the country, through which we passed, inclosed for the King's sport; the rest indifferently cultivated, and thinly inhabited.

The convent of the Escorial is situated on the mountains called Guadarrama, which being very rocky and uncultivated, renders its site more wild than agreeable. We passed the poor little village of the Escorial, and then ascended the hill to the convent. From the situation of this building, its
appear-

appearance, at a distance, lessened my ideas of it ; but when I came near, I was surpris'd to find it such a stupendous work : where it is placed, there is no more plain than barely sufficient to contain the edifice ; so that the principal front, which is to the west, and faces the hill, is much confined : excepting the portal, where there are columns of the Doric order, it is simple and free from ornament : there are some spires on the top of it, at each angle, that, according to my opinion, do not suit with the dignity of such a structure : the stones, of which it is built, are of a size wonderfully large.

Philip II. founded this edifice, from an injunction laid on him by his father Charles V. to raise a mausoleum for his bones, and those of his wife, the Empress Isabella, mother to Philip ; and from a religious motive, on his victory at the battle of St. Quintin in 1557 ; which being fought on St. Laurence's day, was the cause of his dedicating it to that saint. It is remarkable, that this prince having begun so immense a work, when turned of thirty-three years of age, should live to see it finished, reside and end his days in it, nine years after it was compleated, which was in 1589. The prospect from it is very extensive, though not pleasant : there is no wood of any consideration, or water, in view, nor any thing to bound it agreeably : there is not any garden in the least suitable to such a building ; there is a terrass on the south side, with a fish-pond, and some small parterres of flowers ; on the north, at a little distance, are houses for those who attend the court when it resides here ; and on the east, a declivity from the plain on which it stands : the church and cloister are the most magnificent ; the royal apartments are nothing extraordinary ; the walks of them are covered with the tapestry of the Madrid manufacture. In the con-
vent

vent, which is inhabited by the Jeronymites, are some of the finest paintings in Europe ; a collection from the best masters : it is also rich in treasure ; images of gold and silver ; lamps, &c. *Pons's Viage de España*, a late publication at Madrid, gives a most particular account of the pictures, &c. and a minute description of the convent. The Pantheon, as it is called, under the great altar of the church, begun in 1617, and finished in 1654, is a most beautiful work : it is composed of jasper, and other fine marble, adorned with gilt brass, &c. around it, in recesses, are placed sepulchral urns, in some of which the bodies of the deceased kings and queens of Spain are repositied : it was so very cold, that I was obliged to hurry out of it as soon as possible. The principal library is a very fine room, in which is a numerous collection of books, and some good portraits, particularly one of Philip II. The ceiling and walls are painted in fresco : in the upper library, is a very valuable collection of Hebrew, Greek, Roman and Arabic manuscripts, many of which I was shewn. The King has been at a considerable expence to get catalogues made of them, which will prove of great use to the learned : they are not yet compleated.

To see the works of magnificence arise, the liberal donations of an industrious, free, and flourishing people, affect the generous breast ; but when the extorsive power of tyranny, racks a whole nation, to gratify the folly or vanity of one man alone ; such piles of splendour bear heavy on the mind, and load it with indignation against the Hydra !

August 1st. Left the Escorial in the evening, and passing the mountains, came to La Cerezada, a poor village, where we observed the women with long *queues* : thence through a
moun-

mountainous country, little inhabited or cultivated ; travelled five leagues in four hours, and arrived at Navas del Marques, an indifferent village, belonging to the Duke de San Estevan, who has an old castle there, lying in ruins. The people told me, they carried on a manufacture of woollen cloth, but it could not be very considerable.

The *posada* was most wretched ; however, it served to shelter us from a very violent shower of hail : passed the night there, and set out the next morning at four o'clock : the weather cold ; Reaumur's thermometer at nine o'clock, was at 11° which, whilst I was at Madrid, was generally in the course of the day, from 15 to 20 : passed the village of Naval Peral, and travelling four leagues and a half in six hours, arrived at Avila, which we saw three hours before we came to it.

Went through a great deal of wild country, with very high mountains to the southward : saw but little corn till near the town ; some droves of white cattle, and very few people.

Avila is situated on a rising ground, inclosed by an antient wall with towers, forming a kind of oblong square ; I was about three quarters of an hour walking round the outside of the walls, which are kept intire : it is a very antient city, and formerly had many privileges.

The streets are narrow, and the houses indifferent ; there are many old palaces going to ruins, the woeful memorials of antient splendour : there is only one *titulo de castilla* now residing, the rest of the nobility are drawn to the court.

The

The cathedral church is very old, many monuments in it of the year 1100 and 1200.

Here I observed a change in the dress of the women; they wear a handkerchief round the head, a scarlet short cloak to cover the neck, and the *montera*.

I found the mornings and evenings cold; one morning, at six o'clock, the thermometer was at 7° , at noon generally from 13 to 15.

The military academy established here by O' Riely is in its infancy; two or three officers from every regiment of infantry, with some from the regiments of cavalry, and three or four engineers, are now assembled; on seeing an English officer amongst them, they were much surprized: the colonel of the regiment of Navarre, who commanded, and to whom I paid my respects, examined my passport scrupulously. I had taken the precaution, whilst at Madrid, to apply to Lord Grantham, who procured me a pass from the Marquis of Grimaldi, the minister, which I found very necessary here, and on many other occasions. The officers affected to be very mysterious; they told me, that they were enjoined, in the strictest manner, not to communicate what the King's intentions were for this assembly; and they were so very cautious, that they would not even shew me the room intended for their study; but there was no occasion for so much enigma, as they had little to conceal, and, of course, the veil was easily penetrated. I found, that military books had been bought up in all languages, for the use of this tactical school; mathematical and language masters were to be established; the regiment of Navarre was quartered there, to assist the students in the practical part of

the science; and it was to encamp the latter end of the month, when they were to be exercised in the art of castrametation, field fortification, &c.

The officers in this kingdom, from a long peace, have been totally out of the line of experience in their profession; besides, there is a native indolence in the inhabitants of this country, that nothing can overcome, but a spur, by some incentive means, to action, and the superior abilities of a leader. O' Riely, having made a reform in the inferior branches of the military system, thought it eligible, I imagine, that the officers might, at least, have the means of acquiring knowledge; and, most probably, on that principle, planned this establishment: he has selected officers for his first academicians, hoping thereby, I suppose, to spread a spirit of emulation through the service; how far he may succeed, time alone will discover: the present members of his academy, I believe, will not become great proficient; for the most part of them are men from thirty to forty years of age, and it must not only be unpleasant, but even arduous, for them to learn languages or raise perpendiculars.

The progress of knowledge, in this country, must be very slow; there are many restrictions to retard its course: in the land of Liberty, the way to science is smooth and unrestrained; but here, 'tis rugged and confined; the horrid implements of arbitrary power, and absurd religion interpose at each step; and those who dare encounter such difficulties and dangers, will most likely sink under them: a man with the abilities of Cæsar, durst not openly avow them, they would only retard his advancement; the way to preferment, here, is by approving of the present measures, though never
so

fo absurd; and adulating some superior, who probably is a despicable character; such inglorious terms, such base means, to honour, are not to be submitted to by any one, in whom spirit and capacity unite.

The infantry of Spain is composed of

1	regiment of Spanish guards, of	-	6	battalions.
1	regiment of Walon guards, of	-	6	battalions.
<hr/>				
2	regiments.		12	battalions.

Making a body of about 8,400 men.

31	regiments of national infantry, of 2 battalions each,	62
1	fixed regiment at Ceuta	2
1	fixed regiment at Oran	2
3	Irish regiments	6
3	Walon regiments	6
2	Italian regiments	4
1	foreign volunteers	2
4	Swiss regiments	8
<hr/>		
46	regiments.	battalions 92

Each regiment is composed of two battalions, each battalion having one company of grenadiers, consisting of

	Capt.	Lieut.	SubLieut.	1st Serj.	2d Serj.	Drummer	1st Corp ^l .	2d Corp ^l .	Private	
	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	54	in all 66
and of eight battalion companies each consisting of	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	64	in all 80
<hr/>										
										640
<hr/>										
										706
<hr/>										
										2
<hr/>										

Brought over 1412

The first battalion of every regiment has for
field officers, staff, &c.

	Colonel	Lieu.Col.	Major	Adjutant	Ensigns	Chaplain	Surgeon	Corp ^l . of Pioneers	Pioneers	Armourer	Fifers	
	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	6	1	2	in all 17
2d battalion	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	6	1	2	in all 16
												33
												Total of one regiment 1445
												Number of regiments 46

Total of infantry,* exclusive of guards - - 66470

The cavalry of Spain is composed of three troops of *guardias de corps*, one Spanish, one Italian, and one Flemish, each troop consisting of 200 men, who are all men of family; in the Flemish troop, gentlemen of every nation serve.

The Duke of Arcos, a grandee of Spain, and Captain General, is Captain of the Spanish troop; Prince Mafferano, another Captain General, is Captain of the Italian troop; and Lieutenant General Conde de Bournonville, is Captain of the Flemish troop.

Of a brigade of carabineers, consisting of four squadrons of three troops each squadron, making a body of 600 men.

Of 14 regiments of horse, of 4 squadrons each, making 56 squadrons. Each squadron is composed of three troops; each troop consisting of

* Each regiment of infantry has a drum-major, omitted in the above detail.

1 captain

1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 2 serjeants 4 corporals, 4 carabineers, 1 trumpeter, 30 troopers mounted, and 10 troopers on foot - - - - -	in all	54
		<u>3</u>
	Total squadron	162
		<u>4</u>
		648

The first and second squadrons are commanded by the Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel, who have both troops; the third and fourth, by Commandants, who have the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, have also troops, and command in the regiment, according to seniority, next to the Lieutenant Colonel. There is a staff, &c. to each regiment, consisting of

1 major, 2 adjutants, 4 standard-bearers, 1 chaplain, 1 surgeon, 1 master farrier, 1 kettle-drummer. In all	11
	<u>659</u>
	14
	<u>9226</u>

Of 8 regiments of dragoons, of 4 squadrons each, making 32 squadrons. Each squadron of dragoons is composed of three troops, each troop consisting of

1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 2 serjeants, 1 drummer, 4 corporals, 4 grenadiers, 30 men mounted, and 10 men on foot - - - - -	In all	54
		Brought

Brought over	54
	3
Total squadron	162
	4
	<u>648</u>

The squadrons are commanded, &c. as in the horse.

Each regiment has a staff, &c. consisting of

1 major, 2 adjutants, 4 colour-bearers, 1 chaplain, 1 surgeon, 1 drum-major, 4 hautbois mounted, 1 ma- ster farrier.	In all	15
	Total regiment	<u>663</u>
		8
Total dragoons		<u>5304</u>

The men of the carabineers are recruited by draughts from the regiments of horse.

The regiments of horse and dragoons are recruited by volunteers, who serve five, six, or eight years; and they are remounted in Andalusia.

The household troops, with the carabineers, are excluded from the general military regulations, and are governed by particular ordinances.

Exclusive of the above troops, there are provincial regiments of militia, making a body of about 30,000 men.*

* There has been an augmentation in the infantry, since the above account; the companies were, I believe, augmented to seventy-five men each, prior to the Algerine expedition.

The national infantry of the line is recruited by, what is called, the *quinta*, an antient law but newly modelled. The kingdom is divided into different districts, and all the unmarried men, of certain classes, between the ages of seventeen and thirty-six, are selected: in the edict of 1770, the particular employments of people, who are to be exempted from serving, are specified; and in 1773, in consequence of some disturbances in Catalonia, a fresh edict was issued, with further exemptions and amendments: the proportion of men, from each district, to compleat the army, being allotted, the whole ballot who are to serve: notwithstanding, by the king's edicts, every precaution has been taken, to prevent fraud, partialiy, or corruption, yet they all take place; for in every district, the magistrates having, with their power, a superior interest at court, which precludes controul, they become as arbitrary in their little spheres, as the monarch in the greater; and as in this state, venality reigns in every department, gold of course, preponderates every other consideration: that the time of service, of the *quintas* in 1770, might not expire at the same period, it was decreed, that, those from the age of seventeen to twenty-four, were to serve eight years; from twenty-four to thirty, seven years; and from thirty to thirty-six, six years; but that on all future occasions, the time of service is to be eight years.

Many inveigh against this general mode of recruiting; they say, it gives a check to industry, by obliging the laborious peasant to serve against his inclinations; that it is a detriment to agriculture, as it reduces the number of labourers; and that it is the means of transplanting the vices of the army into those parts, where industry and simple manners mutually conspired to render the inhabitants happy. I shall not pretend to

enter into the merits or demerits of such opinions ; I shall only observe, that, by this method, as tradesmen and manufacturers are in part exempted, the infantry is composed, chiefly of husbandmen, men of probity and property ; and not like the armies of other countries, filled with drunken mechanics and dissolute vagrants.

The Spanish guards are recruited by volunteers. The *Walons*, like the other foreign regiments, are composed of deserters ; they are almost as good troops as the regiments of guards in other countries : there seemed to be a little attention paid to the external cleanliness of the *Walons* ; but they were dirty and filthy in their barracks ; whereas, the Spanish guards were cleaner in their quarters, and dirtier abroad : I have seen a sentry at the king's gate, with a shirt that had been worn a week at least, and the rest of his dress in proportion.

The captains of the guards have the rank of colonel ; the lieutenants of lieutenant colonel ; and the sub-lieutenants of captain ; but this rank is not of the least disadvantage to the line ; for as no perquisite is attached to a regiment, the officers continue to serve in their corps till age or infirmities oblige them to retire, when they have a very honourable and adequate retreat.

And here I must stop a moment to observe how very mortifying a circumstance it is amongst us, that the warriors of St. James's, should spring, from the downy duty of a king's guard, into command, over the head of the hardy veteran ; thereby reaping, without toil, those advantages that should accrue to his more useful, dangerous and laborious service.

The governments, both in this country and America, are very considerable; but especially abroad; and what is still more advantageous, there is a gradation of governments, that are calculated for the different ranks. The *corrigimientos* in America, often given to those of the rank of captain, enable them, in three or four years, to return to their native country, and spend their latter days in ease and comfort. And here I must again take notice, how very distressing a circumstance it is, in our service, for the man who serves to be obliged to buy commissions of advancement; yet, as the military constitution stands at present, many difficulties are to be encountered, to adopt any other plan; for when the time of active life is no more, and men are worn out, or otherwise rendered incapable, as there are but few military retreats, and those seldom disposed of to the necessitous officer; the privilege of selling his commission, the only reward for his former toils, is a most pleasant circumstance, as he thereby secures to himself a small but independent income for the remainder of his days.

The Swiss regiments are very good troops; but the Walons, Irish, Italians, and Volunteers are composed of deserters and vagabonds from every country in Europe, a most wretched crew.

The pay of the soldiers of the line, is nine shillings a month, and twenty-four ounces of bread a day; they are tolerably well clothed for the country in which they live, having a full uniform every thirty months, and a small one, consisting of waistcoat, breeches, &c. every eighteen months: one half of each regiment is allowed to be absent for four months every year, in the time of harvest; each man getting, with his furlough, two months provisions and pay in advance; and on his

return, the remainder that is due : I am told, that desertion is scarcely known amongst their national troops. At the expiration of their time of service, they are discharged, with the value in money of two months bread, and pay for the like time, with twenty-seven shillings gratification ; if they continue, through choice, to serve longer than their term, they are rewarded with gratuities ; and at different periods of service, have particular advantages, with an increase of pay.

Regulations for duty, discipline, and subordination, have been established by authority, and delivered to the whole army for its conduct. I shall not take upon me to discuss whether their ordinances, or modes of discipline, may be the most eligible that might be ; but thus much is certain, that there is a system established, with which every one is obliged to conform : caprice has not its reign amongst the commanders of corps, or more subaltern officers ; instead of a whole army of whimsical characters, in this, there can be but one for each department ; the Inspector General. Subordination is carried so far in this army, that it is ordered, if any officer be in private company, he is to offer his seat to a superior officer, whenever he appears. The son of a grandee, colonel of a regiment, having neglected to pay this deference to O' Reily, a dispute ensued, when the King decided in favour of his Inspector General.

The regiment of Navarre, quartered here, is called a pattern regiment. I shall give you a slight sketch of the appearance of the men in their quarters, and under arms. They came not out of their barracks in the morning till their hair was queued, and their locks put on and powdered ; they wore, in common, their waistcoat with sleeves, and a kind of foraging cap ; their

barracks were very clean, which, as cleanliness is not the characteristic of the nation, though the climate requires it, appeared the more extraordinary; each man had a bed to himself,* which was rolled up, and gave an air of decency to the room; they were very subordinate, for they saluted not only the officers, but the non-commissioned officers, as they passed them in the street. Under arms there appeared exactness in some points and negligence in others: the buttons were bright, but the coat was dirty; the hair was powdered, but the shirt was not very clean; uniformity appeared in every part of their dress; but then there was a want of neatness; their arms seemed to be in tolerably good order; and they were very attentive, steady and obedient; concomitant qualities with those of a good soldier. There was not above half the regiment present, the rest had received their annual furlough; those that remained were young and well-looking; there did not appear twenty men above thirty years of age: their performance might not have pleased some of our holiday warriors, but I believe it sufficient to render them as *essentially* good soldiers, as many that make a more brilliant appearance: a handful of such troops as these, who have a character of their own to support, under the guidance of an able chief, are respectable to their country, and would be formidable against their enemy.

I am afraid my sentiments upon the military, contained in this letter, are very different from what you have ever met with before; however, I flatter myself, nay I am convinced, whenever we meet, and have an opportunity to converse a little more upon the subject, your opinion will coincide with mine. I shall set out to-morrow, on my way to Salamanca, so take my leave with assurances, &c. &c.

K 2

* This was established in the present reign, on the report of Amar, the king's physician, of the bad consequences attendant on men sleeping together, thereby communicating disorders one to another.

LETTER VII.

Amigo mio,

Salamanca, Aug. 9, 1774.

HAVING taken up my residence for a few days in this antient university, I shall pursue my journal from Avila hither, and endeavour to give you a slight sketch of Spanish academic education, which will enable you, in some measure, to judge of the refined state of literature in this kingdom.

5th. Left Avila, and went through a country very stony, and poorly cultivated for between two and three leagues, when we saw a good deal of corn: passed one village, and sometimes more, every league. The people, in general, had an indigent appearance, were prodigiously sun-burnt, with a dried-up, and shriveled countenance: travelled five short leagues, and halted at a *taverno*,* in the poor village of St. Thomas: we had well provided our *alforjas*, otherwise we should have fared but indifferently; nothing but a little wine, and, with great difficulty, four eggs, were to be had in all the hamlet: there was more cleanliness in the hut, and more civility in the people, without a desire to impose, than I had met with before.

We were accosted at the door by a lad of about nineteen, who said he was a poor scholar; his appearance, indeed,

* A house licenced to sell wine.

favoured much of poverty, for his covering was a ragged black waistcoat and breeches, concealed by a more tattered cloak : by way of recommending himself, and proving his learning, he pulled out of his filthy pocket, a torn and greasy Horace, presenting it to me. and repeating off hand one of the odes : he told me, he had been basely treated at Madrid, by a person with whom he lived, and who pretended friendship for him ; that he had left him, and was thus far on his return to the place where he had studied, Salamanca, the seat of the muses, with whom, he said, he was sure to find joy and happiness in every hour : he rattled on with a profusion of bombast, and seemed as if he wished to attach himself to me : but though he produced a regular passport from Madrid, I took him for a *grand tour* man, and begged to be excused : to get rid of him, I offered him a few quarts, which he rejected ; however, I prevailed on him to accept of a glass of wine, that I left him drinking, and pursuing my journey through a considerable wood, came into a very flat country, covered with corn : saw several villages, the houses chiefly of clay, with red tiles : travelled five leagues, and arrived at Peñaranda, where we met with a tolerable *posada*, but nothing to eat except eggs.

6th. We set out at five o'clock in the morning, carrying a flat country, abundant in corn, &c. along with us for about half a league, when we entered a wood of cork trees, which continuing for near a league, came to an open and flat country, about Ventosa ; afterwards, with corn, and some flocks of sheep, to Huerta, a neat village, situated on the Tormes, four leagues : here we found a very decent *posada*, and a most civil landlady, who, with great willingness, procured us every thing we required. I have noticed, that
the

the people of this country are more obliging, and less imposing, than the inhabitants of Andalusia: got some fresh trout for dinner; after which we pursued our journey.

Descried Salamanca so soon as we left the village: journeyed by the side of the river Tormes, passing Aldea Lengua, and arrived here in four hours, four leagues: saw several flocks of sheep this afternoon, with which this country supplies the Madrid market; some vines; and a great deal of corn, particularly near the town, where the people were employed in cutting it down.

Salamanca is a large city, in the kingdom of Leon, situated on the Tormes, over which there is a stone bridge; this river empties itself into the Duero, on the frontiers of Portugal.

This town is famous for its university, which was founded by Don Alonzo, count of Castille, in Plasencia, in the year 1209, and thence translated to this city, in the year 1239, by Don Fernando el Santo.

This is the first university in the kingdom; but it has not a most flourishing aspect; most of the colleges appear as if they had been lately wasted and ruined by a ravaging army; in some, I found only the head of the house, with one or two students; and in many, not above six or seven.

The colleges of Santa Cruz, at Valladolid; San Idelphonso, at Alcala; with Oviedo, Cuenca, Viejo, and Obispo here, having had some disputes amongst themselves about their internal government; the King interfered, and issued an edict,

edict, that students should not be admitted into any of them, till their fundamental institutions were examined, and new regulations made: this produced warm, and repeated, remonstrances to the court, on the part of the colleges; when, at length, about a twelvemonth ago, the heads of houses were admitted to an audience with his Majesty, at Aranjuez; where, representing their case rather too freely, they were ordered into banishment, and a fresh edict was issued, confirming the former. These colleges were appropriated chiefly to the study of the law, and were usually filled by people of fortune, who, born to independance, and possessed of liberal minds; who finding by their studies, that the usurpation of the Sovereign is contrary to the antient constitution of the kingdom; when they came to act, would not at all times say Amen to the Prince's creed; the minister, therefore, to crush such independent spirits, has fallen upon this method, by tyrannic mandates, to discourage, or rather prevent, the progress of learning, thereby to eradicate every germe of liberty; so that, in the course of time, it will be forgotten, that there ever was a standard of justice, but the will of the Prince; and none but the ignorant and servile will be found to act under him, when he will govern his slaves without controul.

Such is the state of corruption in this country, that, should any gentleman propose to have a school on his estate, for the instruction of his tenants' children, it could not be established without paying for the privilege; though it were to be founded and supported at his own expence.

Amongst the monastic orders, there are schools where education is carried no farther than to write, read, and to
say

say mass; though not to understand Latin. The pupils are instructed to study the lives of the saints, and such other trumpery; and thus, though a most ignorant and illiterate set, they become the heavenly pastors of mankind.

The nobility educate their sons at home, under the tuition of some pedantic or artful priest, who, wishing rather to please than instruct, employs his pupil's time in agreeable trifles.

The women have no other education but what they receive from their parents. Whilst the nobility have the honour of their families so much at heart, and the clergy retain their power, public education cannot take place in this country; for every marriage, after thirteen years of age, becoming valid, both boys and girls are kept close under their parents' eyes, for fear they should degrade themselves by an improper alliance; and private education of men, without the attention of sagacious parents, does not fit them to act in life conspicuously. But of what advantage is learning here? It can only tend to amusement; it can never shine forth to the advantage of any one in a subordinate sphere: titles and honours are sufficient to render the nobles conspicuous; and as for the inferior classes, they have no hopes or expectations, from having more knowledge than their superiors: public employments are acquired, either by the sinister means of artful knaves, or by the caprice of the great. Don Jorge Juan, an officer of the navy, and most able mathematician, had his heart broken by the minister; because his superior abilities led him to point out absurdities which were approved of by the other; he therefore took every opportunity to create a disgust in the King against him. Not long ago, an officer
came

came from America, with plans of fortification against the incursions of the natives, strongly recommended to the minister for his capacity, and the utility of his scheme; after having presented them, he was no further noticed; but, conscious of his own abilities, and not brooking the slight he met with, he became importunate, when he was dismissed with this remarkable expression, *Quiere U. M. componer el mundo?* Do you wish to reform the world? The only satisfaction for his merit and expence.

Jog on in the path of ignorance, ye unfortunate Castilians; the road to learning leads only to the knowledge of those misfortunes, for which you dare not even think of a remedy!

The course of philosophy taught in this university, is that of Gaudin, a French Dominican Friar; and they have three professors of the faculty: they have a chair of moral philosophy, and are now establishing a chair of experimental philosophy.

In divinity, they study Melchor Cano's Sum of Controversy the first year, and for the four following years, they study St. Thomas's Course of Divinity, commonly called, *Summa Divi Thomæ Aquinatis*; for this purpose there are eight professors to give lectures, morning and evening: there is a professor to explain the Scripture, and another of moral divinity.

There are several professors of the canon law, who explain *Corpus Juris Canonici, Clementinas, Decretales, &c.*

There are likewise many eminent professors of the civil law : they explain the laws of *Justinianus* and the laws of the nation : the chairs are called *Instituta codicis, Digesti veteris, Voluminis institutionum imperialium, &c.*

There are professors of medicine, that have chairs called *Prognosticorum, Methodi, Simplicium, Anatomiae, Chirurgiae, &c.*

There are professors of Greek, Hebrew, Latin, rhetoric, algebra and music.

At present, mathematical science is at a low state.

Every student of divinity, is obliged to read Hebrew, and every student of the law, Greek, a twelvemonth before he attends the lectures. This should be the regular course, but the discipline of this university is very relaxed ; nay, it were of little use that it should be otherwise ; for amongst the learned faculties, the lawyers need only study corruption and the edicts of their king ; for here, the will of the prince has attained the place of law ; the clergy hypocrisy, and how to retain their power. Indeed it would be advantageous, that the study of physic had made a greater progress ; for if one may judge by the wretched state of those people, who are afflicted with one disorder, in particular, that is very prevalent in this country, and who linger out a miserable life, expiring under it at last, for want of proper aid (not to mention the absurd manner with which almost every other complaint is treated) we may venture to pronounce the professors an ignorant body.

The royal academy dictionary, grammar and orthography, are masterly performances; but literature, in general, is at a stand. In the preface to the academy dictionary, it is said, the language is so copious, that there are found in it, amongst many others of great ingenuity, five novels, of sufficient merit, composed with such art, that all the words contained in each of them are collected so as to leave out one of the vowels.

This town, like most of other Spanish towns, has a gloomy appearance; narrow and irregular streets, with very antique houses. The Plaza Mayor is a handsome square, though built much in the Moorish taste.

The college, that did belong to the Jesuits, is a most extensive building; it is so large, that 6000 French were lodged in it on their march to Portugal the last war; at present, the Irish students, translated from the colleges of Seville and St. Jago, possess a part of it; there are about twenty-seven of them, poorly endowed, and little noticed: a miserable company! They were extremely civil to me, and I most sincerely commiserated their unhappy situation.

The cathedral is a magnificent old building: there are twenty-six canons belonging to it, who, like the rest of the clergy, are well provided for.

The chapel in the college of Oviedo, is neat and elegant.

I was introduced into the convent of Espiritu Santo: the nuns are women of family, and none but those who can
L 2 prove

prove their nobility are admitted; they are subject to no other visitation, than what is appointed by the king; and, on that occasion, he should appoint a knight of the order of St. Jago; they receive company in their apartments, and are allowed to keep as many servants as they please, but men must not be known to sleep in the convent all night; they go out once a year only, and then it is in procession.

I found two squadrons of the regiment of Bourbon, cavalry, quartered here: the commandant, with whom I dined, was extremely civil: the troopers had a most Bourgeois appearance.

One day, walking along the street, I met with an old *cathedratico*, or professor, who contended for the wall with me; I gave it up to him immediately, when he passed on triumphantly: on mentioning this circumstance, I found, that disputes had been so frequent here, between the students and military, on the like occasion, that the king was obliged to issue an edict, wherein he approves of the politeness of those who give the wall; this has had the desired effect with some; but the old and restive, like my friend Jolux, preferring their own to the king's approbation, chuse to preserve what they think their due: I imagine he took me not for a stranger, otherwise he would have been more polite: such little punctilios are held very sacred amongst the people of this country: whether walking with a superior or inferior the right hand was always given to me; but the superior ever claims it when with his compatriots.

The thermometer rose as high here as at Madrid, it was generally from 15 to 20 in the course of the day. I was told there are 15000 families in this town.

The articles of subsistence I found extremely cheap; barley sold for eight real a *fanegue*, which is in proportion to the bushel, as 8 is to 13; wheat at eighteen reals; chickens at thirteen quarts * a couple, &c.

From what I have recounted, you will be enabled, to form some ideas of the state of science amongst this people: let them enjoy their apathy: do you live happily, and triumph in the felicity of being formed a native of that country, where literature is encouraged and improved by liberty-----
“ It is liberty that is formed to nurse the sentiments of great
“ geniuses; to inspire them with hope; to push forward
“ the propensity of contest one with another, and the ge-
“ nerous emulation of being the first in rank.” I set out to-morrow on my way to Zamora, where you shall hear further from me, being with great regard, &c.

* Nearly four-pence.

LETTER

LETTER VIII.

My Dear Sir,

Zamora, Aug. 11, 1774.

FROM the ancient seat of the kings of Leon, when possessed of very little territory, I take the opportunity of giving you my further proceedings from Salamanca, with a short description of this venerable city.

10th, Left Salamanca, and travelled through a flat country, abundant in corn, passing many villages; when we arrived at Cubo, four leagues; the country indifferently cultivated, and the villages had a poor aspect; here we saw many herds of goats: if there be a better spot than ordinary, one is sure to find it inhabited by friars: passed a convent situated in a beautiful vale, through which ran a most refreshing stream: went on to Corrales, a miserable hamlet, though much corn and many vines around it: found a wretched hut by way of *posada*; we rested ourselves for a few hours, and then pursued our journey, passing a great many vines, till we got to Mirales, two leagues, and then corn and vines, till we came to the Duero, which we crossed over a stone bridge of eleven Gothic arches, and put up at the *posada de los Momos*: ten leagues in eleven hours.

This is a very ancient city: it was called Senticca by the Romans, but was destroyed in the course of the constant wars that were carried on in this country after the incursions of the Goths: in the latter end of the ninth century, it was rebuilt
by

by Don Alonzo III. and changed its name to Zamora, on account, according to Mariana, of the number of bluish kind of stones found there, which bore that appellation in the Moorish language: its situation on the Duero, being placed on a height above the river, renders it strong: the old walls are kept complete.

I observed, on walking round the town, the figure of a woman cut in stone, with the following inscription placed over one of the gates.

DONA VRACA

[The Figure.]

AFVERA AFVERA
RODRIGO ELSOR

I find in Mariana, that Don Fernando, king of Leon, &c. on his death, in the year 1066, left his kingdoms amongst his children, and that Doña Uraca, his daughter, received Zamora for her inheritance, to which, sometime afterwards, her brother, Don Sancho king of Castille, laid claim and besieged; when he was drawn into a snare, and killed under the walls by one of the citizens, who went out of the town with that intent; his vassals, much enraged at the loss of their prince, resolved to take revenge on the inhabitants for this stroke of perfidy; amongst them Don Diego Ordoñez, a young man of family, was most conspicuous; armed and on horseback, he presented himself before the walls, charged the citizens with baseness, and disloyalty, and threatened vengeance on every living creature within the city: now it was the custom in Castille, that if any one should accuse a people of treason, &c. he was obliged to prove it, by subduing, in single combat, five persons one after the other:

other : there was, in Zamora, a man of great repute, called Arias Gonzalo, who though of a very advanced age, offered, for the honour of his compatriots, to go with his three sons, and encounter this hardy knight : accordingly, his sons, Pedro, Diego, and Rodrigo went out of the city to the combat, when each of them fell under the sword of Ordoñez, who signalized himself, with great skill and bravery ; but Rodrigo, in the instant he received the stroke of death, having previously raised his sword, wounded his adversary's horse, and cut the reins of the bridle ; the horse, frightened by the wound, and finding himself at liberty, ran directly out of the course, without it being in the power of his rider to stop him. In these combats it was held, that he who fled was vanquished : to determine the cause, the judges were appealed to : the people of Zamora pleaded the established custom : the champion urged, that he was carried off contrary to his inclination : the judges were silent, which was interpreted as deciding in favour of the Zamorians ; and thus ended the contest. I therefore conclude, that on this event the statue was erected, and the inscription placed. How far my conjecture may be just, I shall leave to the more curious to determine. The oddity of the inscription led me to take a copy of it, and the peculiarity of the story induced me to relate it to you.

The town is gloomy ; narrow streets, with a great many large old houses : it is now a place of arms, as a frontier to Portugal.

There were two squadrons of dragoons, with three battalions of infantry, quartered here. I saw the dragoons on horseback ; a great many very indifferent horses amongst them, and badly dressed ; the men were very slovenly, and had no management of their horses. The regiment of Cantabria, a good
body

body of men ; the barracks very clean, and the soldiers orderly.

Provisions were very cheap here.

I set out to-morrow, on my way to Astorga, where, if I have time, you may expect to hear from me. I shall now conclude with a Spanish compliment : “ May you live many years,” and that you may enjoy them, is the sincerest wish of

My Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER IX.

Amigo mio,

Astorga, Aug, 15, 1774.

HAVING met with something here worthy your notice, listen, I beseech you with attention; but that pleasure may not rise too suddenly upon you, I shall trouble you, in the beginning, with the dull narrative of my journal, from Zamora hither.

12th. Left Zamora, travelling through a very open and flat country, with some corn here and there, passed several villages, and arrived at Driego del Camino; a poor hamlet, with a most miserable hovel by way of *posada*, not a seat in the house but the floor; with a great deal of trouble we got a pipkin to heat our victuals, with which we had fortunately provided ourselves, for nothing but four wine and very bad bread, was to be got here: meeting with so little comfort, we stayed but a short time to rest ourselves, and then pursued our journey in a very hot afternoon.

In travelling through this flat country, ever since we left Avila, we have found the heat very intense.

Little corn this afternoon, excepting about the villages; passed the river Esla, within half a league of Benavente, where we arrived, being eleven hours going ten leagues.

This was but a dreary day's journey, as we saw very few people till we came to the river, when we overtook a great
num-

number of Galliegos, or men of Gallicia, returning to their own country from the harvest.

In this town are the remains of an old castle of the Marquis of Benavente, to whom the town also belongs.

All the fine old palaces of the nobility, in different parts of the kingdom, are lying in ruins, whilst their owners, residing slaves at a capital, adding to the brilliancy of a court, render themselves dependent on the prince, by squandering their wealth, which should be spent on their estates, to encourage the industry of their vassals.

This town being in the high road to Gallicia, the Galliegos, many hundreds, on their way home, lay here all night; they all slept in the church-yard, exposed to the open air, which is very common amongst the people in the hotter parts of the kingdom. There are no dews of any great consequence in the summer months; and it is much more pleasant than being cooped up in a stinking room. I have often seen the carriers, muleteers, &c. in Andalusia and La Mancha, sleep in the yard of the *posada*, in preference to the house.

Halted here a day, to rest my cattle.

14th. Pursued my journey: passed several villages, where we saw great abundance of turkies: got into a low country, well watered with little streams: noticed a great deal of flax, and many trees, chiefly poplars: carried a mountainous country along with us, on the left hand: observed several old towers; suppose they have been originally posts to defend different passes into the kingdom of Gallicia: crossed the river Orbigo, and arrived at Bañeza; six leagues.

Found a great many Galliegos here, on their way home : there appeared much bustle in the town, like business ; and the *posada* was a good one. On enquiry, I found there were 150 looms constantly at work, making coarse linen cloth. Here we stayed to dine, and then journeyed on, through a pleasant flat, well watered, inclosed and planted ; cultivated with corn and flax, for about a league, when we came into a stony and unimproved country : drew nearer the mountains, and passed, at a little distance, on the left hand, a considerable old fortress, called Los Palacios de Valduerno : we overtook a lad, with whom we entered into conversation ; he shewed us a hill, where, he told us, the hermitage of Nuestra Señora del Castro stands, to whom the people of this country, it seems, pay great devotion : this Señora resides about two leagues from Astorga, and, on particular occasions, he informed us, such as the want of rain, &c. there were processions to her habitation, to intreat the Lady's mediation, and that she was seldom sued in vain : he said, he had been told, that when she gave her petitioners audience, and assented to their request, she changed colour ; but as he had not seen it, he could not believe the report ; he readily gave credit to what he saw, and no more ; he seemed to be a good-humoured fellow, with very few religious prejudices, so we jogged on very pleasantly together, through a country rather hilly and little cultivated, till we came near to this place, where we arrived, being eleven hours travelling ten leagues.

This town is situated on a rising ground ; it was originally a place of strength ; it is now inclosed by its antient walls, which may take up, in their whole extent, about a mile and a half, forming an oblong square.

The

The old palace, or rather castle, of the Marquis of Astorga, is lying in ruins.

This being the eve of the Assumption, I was told there was, what is called, a *Funcion*, at the cathedral; thither I repaired, where I found the steeple and outside of it lighted with many hundreds of various coloured lamps, such as at the Pantheon, &c. which had a very good effect. There were bonfires all about; a band of music, which was very indifferent; and a prodigious number of people assembled from all the country around. I observed, amongst the peasantry, that the women formed themselves into different sets, and had a peculiar dance: they were paired with each other, from twenty to thirty couple in each set, and stood up in the same manner that we do for country dances, every woman with castnets in her hand; there was an old woman at the head of each set, who began a song, striking and beating time with her hand upon a kind of musical instrument, like a tabor, only it is square, and has the addition of little bells hung to each side of it; each girl immediately taking up the air with her castnets, danced to the tune, which began slowly, and then quickened gradually to a certain pitch, when it was, at once, brought back to its primitive time; the old woman's voice, the instrument and castnets were in perfect concord, and the girls kept an exact time to them with their feet; they only footed to each other, turning round, and using lascivious motions at certain parts of the tune; during the dance, the men stood behind making love to them: this amusement continued the best part of the night; but being fatigued, I left them at twelve, and retired to rest.

In

In the morning, I observed a number of women in a peculiar kind of dress; on enquiry, I found that they were called Mauregatas. Their habit is very particular; they wear large ear-rings and a kind of white hat, which, at a little distance, both as to size and shape, resemble what is worn, in like manner, by the Moorish women; their hair is divided in the front and falls down on each side of their face; they have a number of little pictures of saints, &c. set in silver, and other trinkets pendant to large beads of coral, tied round their neck and spreading all over their breasts; their shift is stitched at the breast, and buttoned at the collar; they wear a brown wollen cloth bodice and petticoat; the sleeves of the bodice very large and open behind. The Mauregatos or men, wear very large breeches, which tie at the knee, and the loose part hangs over the tie as far as the calf of the leg; the rest of their dress is a short kind of coat, with a belt round their middle.

I enquired of every decent looking person I met, to endeavour to get some account of these people, but I was not very successful; all I could learn was, that there are a great many villages of them about this town; that they have bound themselves by compact to certain regulations, from which they never deviate; that they intermarry amongst each other; and if any of them should change their dress, or violate their established customs, they are driven from the society; as their garb is different from the inhabitants of every other part of the kingdom, so are their customs, manners, &c. when a young woman is affianced, she is not allowed to speak to any man, but he who is intended for her husband till the marriage is celebrated, on the penalty of paying a certain fine, which is a quantity

4

of

of wine; the young fellows follow and torment her on this occasion, to induce her to speak; after marriage the females never comb their hair, which is a most filthy custom: the women work in the fields at all the labours of agriculture, whilst the men are employed as carriers from this country across the mountains into Gallicia, keeping many hundreds of horses for that purpose; for here the carriage road from Madrid ceases. These people are in affluent circumstances, being very industrious, yet they think it necessary to live in indigence: they are supposed to be the Yanguesian Carriers mentioned in Don Quixotte.

Flores, in his *España Sagrada*, writing of the country about Astorga, says, “ that it is what is called the territory
 “ of the Mauregatos, a people given to commerce, in which
 “ they are noted for their integrity; that the women retain
 “ a dress so antient that its origin is not known, being the
 “ most uncommon in all Spain; and that the particular
 “ genius, customs, manners, &c. of those people, would
 “ require a volume, at least, to describe them.”

I find, by Mariana, that Don Alonzo, king of Leon, Oviedo, &c. who reigned about the middle of the eighth century, had, by a woman of obscure birth, a bastard son, called Mauregato; some years after the death of Alonzo, his grandson Don Alonzo II. in the year 783, being placed on the throne, Mauregato, although illegitimate, pretended to be aggrieved in not succeeding to the crown, in preference to his nephew, as all his brothers had been successively kings; he was supported in his claim, by a few of those turbulent spirits, who fond of novelty, are ever ready for sedition; by the persuasion of these people, as he could not find sufficient

sufficient support from the Christians, he had recourse to the Moors, engaging for their assistance, to supply them annually with fifty virgins of noble birth, and fifty of low extraction; by means of which reward, and the orders of Abderrahman their king, many of those people flocked to his standard; Don Alonzo, not being sufficiently powerful to resist the force that was brought against him, retired into Cantabria or Biscay: thus Mauregato was seated on the throne of Leon, where he reigned five years and six months, and died in the year 781. During his reign he granted lands to encourage the Moors to settle in his kingdom.

I shall not take upon me to affirm, that the present inhabitants of this district, are the descendants of those who followed the fortune of Mauregato, who might have received this territory as a reward for their services to him; retaining in the midst of another people, the dress, which amongst the women is very like the Moorish, customs, manners, &c. I shall only offer it as a conjecture, till a more satisfactory account be given of them, which would be worthy the labours of the curious.

I observed two storks standing on their nests the night of my arrival, but the next day they had taken their flight.

I found a great change here in the language, I could scarcely understand the lower sort of people their dialect was so corrupt.

I make no doubt but the account I have given you of this singular people, will afford you some satisfaction; there is no traveller, I have met with, who has noticed them before

with a speculative eye, which makes my observations the more curious.

I have, from report, a most dismal journey in view ; but I am determined to persevere : the pleasure in recounting one's dangers, more than compensates for the toil in passing them. Good night, and believe me to be, &c.

LETTER X.

My Dear Sir,

La Coruña, Sept. 7, 1774.

I Arrived here some time since, exceedingly fatigued with a dreary journey, a lame horse, and a sick servant. These disasters have detained me longer than I intended; but as some good may be always derived from evil, they have given me an opportunity of making my observations at large, upon the principal marine department of this kingdom, at Ferrol; a slight sketch of which, with the detail of my travels from Astorga, will become the subject of this letter.

August 16th, in the afternoon, left Astorga, in company with a muleteer, who was going into Galicia with tobacco; but finding his mules moved slowly, I went on before him: passed several Mauregato villages, which, as well as the inhabitants, had a very poor and dirty appearance. The houses were of stone, and thatched. I observed, in this district, that the people threshed out the corn with a flail, as in England; and I noticed also, that it was stacked here. In one of the villages, I observed a number of women, decked out with all their ornaments, sitting under a tree; whilst the young fellows were dancing before them to the pleasant and melodious notes of a bagpipe, accompanied by castnets, which they held in their hands, and little bells that were fastened to their legs; their hats were covered with variegated silk, and their cloaths strung with different coloured ribbons: no more the *capa* and *sombrero*: no longer the guittar and *seguidilla*: there remained

not the least trace of the Andalusian, La Manchian, or Castilian Spaniard, except the language, and that much vitiated: I was induced to stop and observe them, when they gathered around me, and frightened my horse, with their barbarous music, which obliged me to retire.

Travelled on, in a very bad road, with little or no cultivation, except about the towns, and put up at a Mauregato village called Fuen Cevadon, which gives the name to this pass into Galicia. The house that was called the *posada*, was most miserable; however, we prepared to pass the night in it; got some hay for our cattle, the first we had met with, and put the supper on the fire, when our friend the muleteer arrived, and told us, that we had halted too soon: with all haste we prepared to accompany him; the only misfortune was to leave the supper behind: the people finding they were to get little by us, though we had all our eyes about us, took an opportunity to pilfer some few things. We went on, passing one more of the villages of these people, ascending the mountain, and entering the pass, where we found it so extremely cold, that I was obliged to get off my horse, and walk on the summit; taking notice of a prodigious pile of loose stones, with a wooden cross on the top of them, my fellow traveller told me, that each Gallego, returning to his own country, makes it a rule to throw a stone on this pile; thus, by accumulation, it had formed a considerable mount. The mountains, on each side of us, were most stupendous, with snow on the tops of some of them. By the light of the moon, we observed a poor Gallego lying asleep, on one side of the road, and almost stiff with cold; my companion, with great humanity, obliged him to get up, though very much against his inclination, and put him upon one of his mules, telling me, that every year some of these people perish in this pass.

Passed the mountain, and at one o'clock arrived at Azevo, about seven leagues : a poor village ; we put up at the *taverno*, the most wretched hole I ever met with : the horrid dirty state of the hut, with the beastly appearance of the landlady, is not to be described : the cow-house, for there were no stables, was so deep with muck, that our cattle were badly lodged ; and the house, exclusive of its filthy aspect, was so small that there was scarcely space for ourselves and luggage ; but, bad as it was, we were very glad to be admitted. I got a bundle of straw for my own bed ; my servant prepared himself some hay, which, being damp, gave him such a cold, that he has not recovered it yet : thus we reposed ourselves, until the morn, with which came sorrow : after shaking ourselves from our nests, we discovered that we were well stored with the most horrid kind of vermin, and I found that I had lost a book, which was of some consequence to me. I immediately resolved to return in search of it : I discharged the bill, which was not very exorbitant ; to be sure, we were neither elegantly served, or sumptuously lodged. I paid, for as much hay as the cattle could eat, some trouts for supper, wine, lodging, &c. about thirteen pence ; and having given my landlady a few quarts more than her demand, we parted in great friendship.

17th, Repassed the mountain, offering rewards at every village to recover my book, and arrived at Astorga in seven hours.

I was told, that my only chance of getting it, was by putting up advertisements at the doors of the churches, and waiting for the first holiday, when the people might come in from the country. As this would have detained me longer than I inclined, I set out without my errand.

Passed

Passed the mountain once more ; drank with my landlady at Azevo, and pursued my journey, descending the mountain, till we came to Molina Seca, where we crossed a rivulet : saw many vines, some hay, and arrived at Pon Ferrada : four leagues; from Azevo, in four hours.

This place has been of considerable strength ; it is situated on the confluence of two rivers, and commands the entrance of the pass of Fuen Cevadon, on the Gallician side : there are still the remains of a large castle.

I found a great number of the Gallegos here on their return : I entered into conversation with one of them, who told me, that there were not less than 60,000, a number scarcely credible, had it not been confirmed to me by other authority, went annually from Galicia to the harvest, spreading even into Andalusia ; that they set out about the beginning of May, and return the latter end of August and September ; that he had passed for twenty-four years successively into Castille ; that he took home with him this year twenty hard dollars ; but that the generality seldom carried more than ten or twelve. I noticed, that the people of all the villages they passed, laid themselves out, by exposing gaudy trifles for sale, to draw some of their money from them ; but what is got by toil, is spent with reluctance ; yet they could not, at all times, resist temptation. Let us not say, that the Spaniards are an indolent race, when we see such numbers wandering so far from home, enduring excessive fatigue, and labouring like slaves to obtain so poor a pittance. Notwithstanding the inhabitants of Castille are dependent on these people for their annual labour, yet they treat them as vagrants, and hold them in the utmost contempt.

20th. Left Pon Ferrada; and travelled through a plain, covered with pebble stones, which extended for above a league: saw some corn here and there; afterwards a wood of oak trees: passed the village of Campo de Narraya, when we came into a hilly country: the lands inclosed; many vines; some corn and grafs: the road very bad: the houses in the villages were thatched: the people had fore eyes, I suppose from the filth and the smoake of their huts: the women wore handkerchiefs about their heads as in Ireland; the men hats or monteras: passed Cacabalos, when the country became pleasant till we arrived at Villa Franca: four leagues in four hours.

This town is situated in a little vale, with some high mountains on the Gallicia side; at the foot of which, between them and the town, runs the river Valcarfe. There is an old castle here belonging to the marquis of Villa Franca, which commands the pass between the mountains into Gallicia. There is some wine made here: I observed the sex were fair and handsome.

21st. Set out early in the morning, and travelled on a new road for about two miles, which is intended to be carried to the sea. And here I must observe, that except at the Carolina in the Sierra Morena, and for a few leagues about Madrid, I have never seen any made roads. There are no heavy carriages in the country I have passed, otherwise it would be impossible, particularly in winter, for them to travel. Left the Camino Real, and came into an abominable road, but extremely pleasant on the banks of a most refreshing stream, the mountains rising on each side of us: passed a great many villages, wherein I noticed, that

that the houses were very substantially built of stone and strongly thatched, which becomes necessary, as the rain, I suppose, in winter must pour down in great torrents: saw abundance of hogs, and a great many chestnut trees: observed an old castle on the left hand, which commands *en ensilade*, the river for a considerable way: came to Herre-rias; five leagues: began to ascend the mountain, the road like steps of stairs: passed the Puerto and village of Cebro-ro on the summit of the mountain, where it was very bleak and cold: here we entered Galicia: went through two more villages, and arrived at Fonfria, being ten hours travelling nine leagues.

This is a poor and bleak village: the *posada* is called a *meson real*, and to shew that it belongs to the king, large iron chains are placed at the door; it is very bad; no accommodation but one most wretched room; we were obliged to change the diet for our cattle; no barley to be had, and we scarcely got rye enough to feed them: we found the thermometer at six o'clock in the morning at 10°. there was so thick a fog that we could hardly see each other. From the time we left Astorga, I had observed a change in the climate.

22d. Left this place, and descending the mountain, passed a great many villages on each side; saw a good deal of rye not yet ripe; met a numerous body of pilgrims from St. Jago, and arrived at Gallegos: five leagues in five hours. Here we halted at another *meson real* to dine, and then pursued our journey.

In the provinces of Andalusia, La Mancha, and the part of Castille I passed, there appeared a more general system of agriculture than I found here. In the former, the territories of individuals being very extensive, are usually cultivated by their stewards, employing hands for that purpose; or if any part of them be let, the farmer is so much racked, that he cannot afford to improve his farm; he is obliged to draw from it the most valuable produce, to subsist himself and family, and satisfy the exorbitant demands of the owner; who enervated at a capital, having no connection or interest with his tenants, cares not how much they are oppressed, provided he can grind them to the utmost farthing to support his luxury or effeminacy. The convents and large towns having also very considerable lands pursue the like methods: but in this country, the property being more divided, and the possessor cultivating his own little spot; finds it necessary and advantageous to preserve as well as meliorate his lands; besides, a person who gets a little before hand with the world, is often whimsical, and induced to practise various schemes for improvement; so that here the disposition of the individual often appeared, and each farm we passed afforded a new scene: the lands were inclosed and planted: saw much grass, Indian corn, rye, chestnut trees, pigs in abundance, and some cattle, which were rather small: observed a change of dress amongst the women; a most extraordinary kind of cap, which reached half way down the back; and the language so much corrupted, that I could scarcely understand a word of it: arrived at Lugo; four leagues in six hours.

This is a large and antient city, situated on a rising ground, surrounded, at a little distance, for the most part with a river

ver

ver and hollow way. The walls are in many places entire, near two miles round: the town seemed to be much depopulated: here we found it very sharp and cold: the thermometer, at noon, was 12° . It is an episcopate, but the revenue is small. The cathedral is an old Gothic building, to which they are adding a new front; the ornaments in the frizes are very ill chosen, in true Spanish taste, angels with wings, &c.

24th. Left Lugo, and passing an aqueduct, which conveys water to the town, found the country tolerably cultivated, afterwards waste land in general to Baamonte: five leagues in five hours: rested at a miserable hut for a short time, and then pursued our journey through a mountainous country: saw a little corn, a few goats and some sheep: travelled four leagues in five hours, and arrived at the Castillano, where we were indifferently accommodated; but the people were very civil, and gave us all the assistance in their power.

25th. Set out early, and went through a country little cultivated: saw many vines and Indian corn when we came near Betanzos, where we arrived in four hours and a half, three leagues: it was market-day, and many people were assembled from the country. The women had much better countenances than in the other parts of the kingdom; fresh complexions, with fine black eyes and hair; they wore not shoes or stockings: a most excellent meat market; good beef and sweet mutton: dined, and then pursued our journey, crossing, on a bridge, an arm of the sea that comes up to the town, entered on a royal road lately made: saw a great deal of Indian corn, and many vines: observed the oxen for draught yoked by the neck: passed several villages,

and arrived here: three leagues in four hours and a half. We were stopt at the Barrier by the officer of the guard, who ordered us with a sentry to the Commandant; on passing to his quarters, we were detained by the officers of the customs, who searched my baggage most minutely: on our arrival at the Commandant's, as he was not at home, we were dismissed by his secretary, on shewing my pass: put up at a very bad *posada*; but changed it the next morning for private lodgings.

26th. Went with the English consul, and paid my respects to the Commandant, who was very inquisitive to know my motives for visiting this remote part, and examined my pass most particularly.

This place is a sea-port, situated on the western ocean, and is what we call, improperly, the Groine: it is divided into the Old and New Town; the former is the citadel, in which the captain general, intendant, and other public officers reside; in the latter, which is populous, the merchants, tradesmen, shop-keepers, &c.

At this place is held the tribunal of justice (called *Audiencia*) for this province, with an appeal to the council of Castille.

There are a great many foreigners resident here, particularly French, who, as the intendant is their compatriot, are encouraged and protected.

I have been assured, that this province contains two millions of inhabitants; a proportion very unequal to the rest of the kingdom.

Exclusive

Exclusive of the number of Gallegos who emigrate annually from Galicia into Castille, there are thirty thousand that go every year into Portugal to the harvest and vintage.

I went to see the practice of a battalion of artillery * quartered here; the scheme of which was a good one, but it was executed in a most indolent manner, and the men were dirty and slovenly. The two regiments of foot, Leon and Asturias, were fine fellows, and had a very military appearance.

A packet boat sails hence, every month, to the Havannah; and another, every two months, for Buenos Ayres.

The importation of sugar from the Havannah, since the peace, has been increasing annually. The intendant, told me, that 120,000 quintals had been imported last year. The trade from England to these parts, for tanned leather, coarse cloth, &c. is much dwindled. The Newfoundland fish trade is considerable. The Americans import here Indian corn, rice, &c. for which they receive specie in return.

Government, it is said, wishes to transfer a portion of the trade of Cadiz to this country; and, for that reason, caused the West India packets to sail from this part of the kingdom; but the advantageous situation of the former, for the commerce of the West Indies and South America, is such, that it will be difficult to change the channel.

* The artillery of this kingdom consists of one regiment of four battalions and three invalid companies.

Fort St. Anthony, a little island in the bay, is a state prison for superior criminals.

The light-house here, is an antient and stupendous tower, said to have been built in the time of the Romans.

31st, Left my horses, and embarked in a passage-boat for Ferrol : there were in company, a priest, a doctor, a cadet, a soldier, a drummer, a Maxo, and two females. The doctor and the priest took care to secure to themselves the snuggest places in the bark. The first salutations being passed, most of the company, after having endeavoured to discover the professions and business of each other, became free and jocular ; but setting out with a contrary wind, and a great swell rolling in from the westward, we had not got a mile before every one, the doctor and drummer excepted, became very sick. It were needless to describe the scene that ensued ; if you have been in a ferry-boat, you must have experienced it ; if not, you need not long rack your imagination to discover it. Now in the bay of Betanzos, which we were to pass, there stands a rock, about a mile from the shore, that we could not weather ; the boatmen resolved to go between it and the land : the company, hearing their determination, it being esteemed a dangerous passage, began to exclaim against the measure ; the priest intreated they would return ; but finding that he sued in vain, took out his breviary, and began to mutter the service of the day, with the utmost energy and expedition ; the women applied to their rosaries, and uttered *aves* and *pater-nosters* with all diligence ; the cadet, though he did not carry the appearance of affluence, offered to pay the whole freight, if they would go back ; but finding his generosity did not avail, he threatened to throw the patron overboard ; the doctor interfered, and endeavoured

endeavoured to moderate the passions of the hero, but seemed inclinable to return ; the Maxo had been so sick, that it was immaterial to him whether he lived or died ; the military slept in the bottom of the boat ; the man at the helm often appealed to me, assuring me, there was no danger, as he knew the channel, and had often passed it ; and he was determined, at all events, to pursue his voyage : just as we came abreast the rock, which had a most unpleasant aspect, from the waves dashing against it, the wind ceased, and laid us at the mercy of the swell, which rolled in directly upon it : the whole company was in a consternation ! The women cried and prayed alternately ; the priest shut his eyes, but still kept his lips going ; the boatmen thrashed the sides of the bark with ropes, calling upon St. Anthony to send them wind ; who not heeding their requests, the reverend father proposed that every body in the boat should go to prayers : I immediately complied with the humour of the times, lest they should have taken me for a heretick, and thrown me overboard ; but our petitions did not avail, we were tossed and tumbled about to the horror of us all ; at length, an arch boy, taking advantage of our distress, came round with his greasy cap, and collected money for *las animas* ; that is, for the souls in purgatory ; every one bestowed liberally, except the cadet and priest ; the former, pretending still to be in a passion, dismissed the supplicant with a box on the ear ; and the latter, keeping his eyes shut, also closed his ears to the vociferous boy, who repeatedly dinned them, though to little purpose, with *las animas, Señor Padre!* Immediately after the collection, we got a little breeze, that carried us past our danger, which was supposed to have been granted in consequence of our offerings and supplications. We once more went to prayers, returning thanks for our delivery ; when the whole company assumed a different countenance : the priest, who was the most alarmed,

was

was severely rallied ; but he bore the sneers that were thrown out against him with all imaginable *sang froid*, recruiting his spirits, at the same time, with some wine and cold ham, and then went quietly to sleep : thus, without any more dangers or fears, we pursued our voyage, till ten o'clock at night, when we arrived at Ferrol.

This place is now the first marine arsenal in the kingdom : it was established in the reign of Ferdinand VI. by the Marquis of Enfanada, who, it is reported, by those who wish to depreciate his character, was induced by a favourite mistress, who had a considerable estate in this part of the country, to fix it here ; but as his judgment seems to have been consulted in the first instance, by having made choice of a most excellent situation, whatever may have been the secondary motive, he is much to be commended. The site of this port renders it extremely strong, as to approach it by sea, it is necessary to pass a river, no where above five hundred yards broad, defended by several forts, and where a boom may be placed occasionally ; on the land side, it may be easily secured against any hostile attempts, as an enemy must disembark at, and march from a very distant point to attack it. The basin wherein the ships are laid up, which may be about fifteen hundred yards long, and between five and six broad, so far as I could guess, is a magnificent work ; it is not yet compleated ; there are only two docks finished, two more are to be made, with store-houses, ropewalks, &c. Great sums of money have been expended on this place, and it is still a favourite object of government. The nation appeared more alert here than in any other part of the kingdom I had been in : there were not less than 6000 men employed, besides 600 *presidarios*, or convicts, condemned to labour for a certain number of years. There were laid up thirty sail of the line, with seven frigates and sloops, and six

urcas

urcas, which are vessels built for war and burthen; they often bring timber, &c. from the Havannah; but a great part of what is used here comes from the Asturias: each ship has its particular storehouse, wherein the boatswain's, carpenter's and gunner's stores are marked and laid up in separate places. I was on board the Santissima Trinidad of 112 guns, built at the Havannah, all of cedar; and several other ships, which are kept in the greatest order both within and without: a captain is appointed to each ship, who resides here, and is answerable for it.

There have been prodigious complaints made against a French builder, who has built fifteen sail of the line since the peace, which, the officer, who shewed me the Arsenal, told me, were constructed on a very bad principle; as to use the seaman's phrase, they are all crank, and the lower deck batteries are made too low. The complaints that have been made against this Mr. Gautier from time to time, though at first interpreted the accusations of envy and jealousy, have at length been attended to; and he received preemptory orders, very lately, to build a seventy-four gun ship on any other model, except that on which the others were constructed. There are two English builders here; but since this man has been in favour, they have been neglected.

The officers of the navy and marines, are employed by rotation in the different departments of the Arsenal, without any salary.

The marine barrack here is a most handsome and commodious building. There is an establishment of 5712 marines in the kingdom.

The number of matriculated seamen for this district, including Biscay, are above 17,000; not that a third of that number could be raised on an emergency; for as there are some advantages accrue to those who enroll themselves, many are matriculated, who are very unfit for the service: every great and opulent nation may build ships; but it is for a commercial one alone, to man them.

Before the year 1752, this was only a little dirty fishing town, that is still recent: the new town, which is regularly laid out, has been, since that period, most rapid in its progress; it is fortified with nothing more than redoubts, with four, and sometimes five guns on each face, and three or four on each flank, joined together by a wall with loopholes, defensible only by musquetry; there is no ditch or other works; and, as it stands at present, is only calculated as a defence against a *coup de main*. I was told there were at least 30,000 inhabitants here.

The regiment of Milan quartered here, is one of the foreign corps, composed of deserters and out-casts from every other country: a most vagabond crew!

One morning, I saw fifteen prostitutes drummed out of town for their mal-practices; they were placed on the steps of ladders, carried horizontally upon men's shoulders, with the hair of their heads and eye brows shaved off.

Sept. 6th. Returned to the Coruña and took my leave of the commandant, who seemed surpris'd to find I was not gone.

Here

Here I increased my suite, by adding a horse to it: this province is famous for a small, but strong breed of horses, which are very cheap.

LETTER

The thermometer rose, during my residence here and at Ferrol, from 12 to 13 at seven in the morning; from 13 to 14 at noon; and at eight at night from 12 to 13: there was drizzling rain and heavy fogs several days whilst I was here.

Rest contented, my dear Sir, with this cursory view; when we meet we may extend our prospect. I set out to-morrow for the famous St. Jago de Compostella, where you will certainly hear further from me; in the mean time, I shall conclude, like the Spaniard, with sincerest wishes, "that God may protect you many years," &c.

The place has been rendered famous from the pretend- ed discovery of the body of St. James the apostle. I shall give you Mariana's account of that most miraculous event. He relates, in the time of Don Alonso the Chaste, who reigned the latter end of the eighth, and beginning of the ninth century, that the body of St. James the apostle was found near Compostella, by the disciples of Thaddeus, a Jew of Galilee, in the following manner: A certain per-

LETTER

LETTER XI.

My Dear Sir,

St. Jago, Sept. 10, 1774.

I Left the Coruña on the 8th in the afternoon, and travelled on a new made road to Carral; three leagues in four hours: saw many vines, some Indian corn, and passed much waste land: here we found a most indifferent *posada*: ever since we left Astorga, when we met not with hay or grass for our cattle, we got long wheaten straw, which we were obliged to cut for them with a machine which is fixed in every stable.

9th. Pursued our journey on a road lately made, carrying a mountainous country with us to Segueyro, where we dined; and thence hither; seven leagues in eight hours: passed several villages and some wood: the country highly cultivated with Indian corn, rye and vines: near the town a very bad road.

As this place has been rendered famous from the pretended discovery of the body of St. James the apostle, I shall give you Mariana's account of that most miraculous event. He relates, in the time of Don Alonzo the Chaste, who reigned the latter end of the eighth, and beginning of the ninth century, that the body of St. James the apostle was found near Compostella, by the diligence of Theodomiro, Bishop of Iria*, in the following manner: "several per-

* Now Padron.

“ sons of credit having given out, that they had frequently
“ seen, in a wood, near that place, many lights shine forth
“ through the obscurity of the night, the report reached
“ the ears of the Bishop ; when he, to ascertain the truth,
“ went to the wood, which he observed resplendent in eve-
“ ry part ; he immediately caused the trees to be cut
“ down, and employed people to dig the earth, who disco-
“ vered, under a little hill, a small marble house, wherein
“ was found the sacred sepulchre. The reason they per-
“ suaded themselves it was the tomb and body of the apos-
“ tle, is not recounted ; but there can be no manner of
“ doubt of it, only such great events, are not readily re-
“ cognized without sufficient proofs. The angels, it is said,
“ that appeared every instant, witnesses that must be
“ credited, gave testimony of the truth. The Bishop went
“ immediately to court, and acquainted the King of his
“ discovery : Alonzo, who was very pious, hastened with
“ all speed to the place where the treasure had been found ;
“ and, seeing that, which had been told him, immediately
“ ordered a temple to be erected on the spot where the mau-
“ soleum was discovered, called it St Jago, and richly en-
“ dowed it.

“ Fame spread an account of this discovery throughout
“ Europe ; and pilgrims, from all parts, flocked hither to
“ pay their devotion at the shrine of the sacred apostle.
“ The reputation of the place daily encreased, from the
“ wonderful and numerous miracles that were constantly
“ wrought at his tomb, which were sufficient testimoni-
“ als, that what had been believed and promulgated, was
“ not without reason.” He also recounts, “ that the
“ Bishop’s see was translated from Iria to Compostella,

“with additional advantages and privileges.” And says, “it
 “were needless to combat the various opinions that have
 “been spread abroad, about the impossibility of St. James’s
 “coming into Spain; and the fictitious discovery of the
 “body; to discuss such points were useless.” And then
 concludes with observing “that there are few sanctuaries
 “in Europe, ascertained with more certitude, or better at-
 “tested, than that of Compostella.” In the year 1129,
 it was made an archbishop’s see, with twelve suffragans,
 which remains as such to this day. Avila, Salamanca, Za-
 mora, Ciudad Rodrigo, Coria, Badajoz, Lugo, Astorga,
 Orense, Mondonedo, Tuy and Plasencia.

The order of St. Jago having originated from this disco-
 very, I shall also transcribe to you, from Mariana, the cause
 of its institution; with the original of three other military
 orders of this country; Calatrava, Alcantara and Montesa;
 and the order of Christ in Portugal.

“After the sepulchre of St. James was discovered, the
 “religious reputation of the place where it was found,
 “spread its influence, not only throughout all Spain; but
 “to distant nations. Many people, from all parts, came
 “to visit the tomb; others were deterred from taking the
 “journey, by the difficulties they had to encounter on the
 “way to it; the sterility of the country; the want of ac-
 “commodations; and the incursions of the Moors, who laid
 “wait, and carried many of the pilgrims into captivity,
 “induced the clergy of San Eloy (it is not known exactly
 “at what time) with a view of obviating these evils, to
 “build

“ build hospitals* on many parts of the road that leads to
 “ France, for the reception of the pilgrims; amongst
 “ which, that erected in the suburbs of Leon, with the
 “ appellation of San Marcos, was of the greatest confide-
 “ ration. This act of piety was so universally satisfactory,
 “ that great riches, with lands for ever, were bestowed up-
 “ on those clergy. Forthwith, from their example, persons
 “ of family and fortune in Castille, trained in war, resolv-
 “ ed, with a view to the protection of the faithful, thereby
 “ to extend the dominion of Christ, to join their wealth in
 “ one common stock, like the religious orders; and, by the
 “ persuasion of Cardinal Tacinto, determined to associate
 “ themselves, and unite their force with the benevolence of
 “ the friars of San Eloy, who had their convent near St.
 “ Jago. With this intent, they sent embassadors to Rome,
 “ to procure Pope Alexander’s sanction to their institution,
 “ and manner of life, which they proposed should be con-
 “ formably with that of St. Augustin, the same which the
 “ friars had embraced. Pedro Fernandez de Puente, who
 “ was the chief of this embassy, obtained, by the means of
 “ Cerebruno, archbishop of Toledo, a bull from the Pon-
 “ tiff, dated the 6th of July, 1175, in which, were rules
 “ for their conduct: women were also received amongst
 “ them; but under the restriction of not marrying with-
 “ out the consent of the chief. Fernandez was then elected
 “ head of this militia, and master of the order. The en-
 “ signs of which, were a white mantle, with a red cross in
 “ the shape of a sword. They fixed upon the hospital of
 “ San Marcos, at Leon, for their convent; and they held,
 “ at this time, great possessions in Castille.

* I passed two of them, one at Fonsria, and another at Lugo.

“ The order of Calatrava, takes its name and origin from
 “ the town of Calatrava, situated on the Guadiana. In the
 “ reign of Don Sancho, king of Castille, the Knights Templars,
 “ and other Christians, on hearing that the Moors were as-
 “ sembling a very considerable force, with an intent to at-
 “ tack the town, despairing of being able to resist their ef-
 “ forts, retreated to Toledo, where the King then resided.
 “ There happened at that period to be at court two friars,
 “ Raymond, abbot of Cister, and Diego Valasquez, who had
 “ formerly been a soldier; they offered his Majesty to take
 “ upon them the defence of the place, who accepted with
 “ joy of their proposal. The archbishop of Toledo, as Cala-
 “ trava was in his diocese, assisted them with money; and,
 “ from the pulpit, animated both the nobility and people to
 “ enlist themselves under their banners; accordingly, many
 “ flocked to their standard, uniting themselves by a vow, and
 “ assuming a peculiar habit, like the monastic orders, which,
 “ by Pope Benedict XIII. in 1397 was changed to a white
 “ mantle with a red cross, adorned with *fleurs de lis*: his
 “ happened in the year 1158, when the King granted the
 “ sovereignty and territory of Calatrava, to Santa Maria of
 “ the order of Cister, and in her name to the abbot Ray-
 “ mond and his associates for ever: the news of this associa-
 “ tion reaching the ears of the Moors, they gave up their de-
 “ sign: thus this order of knighthood had its origin, and
 “ Pope Alexander III. confirmed it, by a bull in the year
 “ 1164, when Don Garcia was elected first master of the
 “ order.

“ The order of Alcántara, was instituted a filiation of
 “ Calatrava. Don Alonzo, king of Leon, who having, about
 “ the year 1213, taken the town of Alcántara from the
 “ Moors,

“ Moors, gave it to the knights of the order of Calatrava to
 “ defend it, and make incursions into their territories : thus
 “ this new order was subject to that of Calatrava ; but af-
 “ terwards, they got a bull from Pope Julius II. exempting
 “ them from the superiority : the ensigns of this order is a
 “ green cross, adorned with *fleurs de lis*.

“ These being originally religious orders, the former of St.
 “ Augustin, and the two later of St. Bernard, the knights
 “ lived in celibacy ; but the military life to which they were
 “ exposed, and the great wealth of which they were posses-
 “ sed, induced many nobles to enter into their societies, who
 “ obtained, from time to time, dispensations to marry ; and
 “ even now it is necessary, for every knight who chuses to enter
 “ into the matrimonial state, to get a dispense for his vow.

“ In the year 1317, The Roman pontif, at the intercession
 “ of the king of Arragon, granted the possessions of the
 “ Knights Templars in Valencia, to a new order of knight-
 “ hood, under the regulations of the order of Cister, and sub-
 “ ject to Calatrava, though with a distinct master : for their
 “ habit, they had a white mantle with a red cross : they fixed
 “ their principal habitation in Montesa, from which the order
 “ takes its name : in their incursions against the Moors, they
 “ signalized themselves equally with the other three orders.

“ The masters of these military orders, being exempted from
 “ royal jurisdiction, and having so much authority from their
 “ immense wealth, even caused the King, sometimes, to dread
 “ their power ; in so much that when Don Garcia de Pedilla,
 “ master of the order of Calatrava, died, in 1487, Pope Inno-
 “ cent VIII. granted, by a bull, the administration of these
 “ orders

“ orders to Ferdinand ; and on the death of Don Alonzo de
 “ Cardena, a little after, he took possession of the order of St.
 “ Jago ; he also negotiated with Don Juan de Zuriga, to ex-
 “ change the superiority of Alcantara for the archbishopric
 “ of Seville : and Pope Adrian afterwards confirmed them all
 “ to Charles.

“ A little after the period, and under the same pontif that
 “ the order of Montesa was instituted, the order of Christ
 “ was established in Portugal, and the property of the Tem-
 “ plars were assigned them : they wore a red cross with a
 “ white stripe in the middle, and fixed themselves in Castro
 “ Marin.”

I am afraid this historical account will prove rather dry
 and prolix ; but, I am sure, you will give a proper credit for
 my labours; when, I inform you, that I cannot think of ac-
 quiring knowledge without your participation.

This town is situated amidst uncultivated hills, is large, and
 swarms with priests, who, enjoying great incomes, live in lux-
 ury and every kind of dissipation ; still preying upon the weak-
 nesses, folly, and even rascality of their fellow creatures, who
 come on pilgrimage to the shrine of the sacred apostle. Here
 Hypocrisy has raised a most stupendous temple, wherein Delu-
 sion officiates as high priest, and Ignorance daily crowds in
 superstitious multitudes its votaries ; the credulous and virtu-
 ous to obtain and further merit heaven, and the vicious to ex-
 piate their crimes, are alike received ; and equally made to
 contribute to the ease and pleasures of the sacerdotal tribe :
 the Bishop, supreme empiric, heals the minds, and cures the
 consciences of all by the same prescription.

The cathedral is nothing extraordinary; there are some relicks, and other baubles shewn to strangers; but the surly keeper would not satisfy my curiosity till the next morning; and I thought it hardly worth while to postpone my journey to see them.

The cloyster in the convent of San Martin, is a neat and elegant piece of architecture of the Doric order.

This place is an university; but there are few students, and it is not in great repute.

Here I found provisions very good, and tolerably cheap.

I observed the sex here rather handsome.

After this long and tedious epistle, you must be equally fatigued with myself, so I bid you adieu, being, &c.

LETTER XII.

My Dear Sir,

Oporto, Sept. 20, 1774.

AS I have fixed myself here for some days, I shall trouble you with my further proceedings from St. Jago, which I left on the 11th, and journeyed on a very bad road, with hills and mountains to the right and left of it: saw a great deal of fine Indian corn; all the cultivable spots in verdure; passed many little villages and farm houses. The vale of Padron* beautiful: the town, through which we passed, it being Sunday, was crowded with people, vending their different commodities: a river runs by it, over which is a stone bridge. Went on to Caldes, where we stoped for a short time: a poor town: the English sailors, in the year 1719, strolled in bodies from Vigo to this place, committing depredations all along the road; but as they were very licentious, and subject to no order, many were destroyed by the peasantry: thence travelled through a country as before; a great deal of Indian corn, with which the people not only feed their cattle, but make it into bread for their own use: passed a stone bridge over a river that runs close by the town, and arrived at Pontevedra: thirteen hours ten leagues.

Here we found a most wretched *posada*: the town is large, with the regiment of Savoy quartered in it: it was taken by the English in the year 1719.

* The antient Iria Flavia.

12th. Set out and travelled on a very bad road, through a mountainous country, with some Indian corn and vines in the vallies, to Ridondella; in the bafon of which, Sir George Rook, with the confederate fleet, destroyed the galleons, &c. in 1702: I was told, that the mafts of some of the fhips ftill appear at low water: it is a moft noble harbour: thence coafting along the ftreight, that leads from the bafon to the bay of Vigo, where the boom was laid, and broke by Admiral Hopfon, arrived at Vigo: eight hours travelling what is called five leagues. Paffed three little wooden croffes this day. From St. Jago to this place, the people were dirtier; the roads were crouded with little faints and altars; and I met more beggars than in any other part of the country.

13th. Appearing in the market-place early, the Alcalde fent one of his officers to bring me before him, when he asked me a multiplicity of questions; happening not to have my pafs about me, he treated me moft cavalierly, and ordered me to go and fetch it immediately, fending a foldier along with me, left I fhould run away: on producing it, he changed his tone, and was very civil. I found afterwards, that thofe who are guilty of crimes in Portugal, which oblige them to flee their country, make this place their afylum; when they are under the neceffity to fee the magiftrate to obtain his protection.

I waited on General O' Neal, who is commander in chief, and *administrador*, or head of the revenues of this diftrict: he was extremely obliging to me. He is an Irifhman; was unhappily engaged in the Rebellion in 1745, was taken prifoner, and confined for a confiderable time in Edinburgh
Q 2 castle;

castle; when he was exchanged for Lord Moreton, who had been put into the Bastille in France. He wrote to the custom-house at Tuy, to get me a pass for my horses into Portugal; at the same time, for form sake, I was obliged to procure a security, on a penalty, that they should repass into this kingdom.

This is a large fishing town. Fish are in great abundance, and so extremely cheap, that I could buy a hundred fardiñas, which are as large as sprats, for a quart.* The devastation committed by the English in the year 1719, is still recent; and the inhabitants have not yet recovered their losses. I was ashamed to hear of the licentious acts of my countrymen, still mentioned with horror, who pillaged the people, and wantonly plundered and set fire to their houses: such feats of cruelty are unworthy of their character: indeed such a method of carrying on a war is paltry; to destroy the property, and take away the little scrapings of a few individuals, tend not either to the glory of the nation, or conduce towards drawing matters to a conclusion; it is only becoming the dissolute manners of pirates and buccaneers.

This is a most excellent port; it is defended at the entrance, where it may be between three and four miles broad, from the violence of the Atlantic, by the islands of Bayona; to the northward and southward of which, there are passages for large ships, and smaller vessels can go between them; on every other side it is surrounded with high hills: from the islands to the town, where it is about two miles broad, it may be near six miles; and thence passing the strait, which is three quarters of a mile over at the

narrow-

* About a farthing.

narrowest part, to Ridondella, may be about eight miles more. Vessels may ride at anchor, under the islands of Bayona, in great safety; and there is no fort or any thing to annoy them. There is a kind of fortification at the town, but being found of little import, is allowed to go to ruin. The castle in the streight is also in a demolished state.

I was told, by the General, that the revenues of the customs of the Corruña had risen, since the year 1750, from 1 to 16,000 dollars; and at this place, within four years, from 800 to 3,000

Here I found one battalion of the regiment of Toledo quartered; very good looking men, like all the rest of the national troops.

From Lugo I have fed my cattle with rye, but here it was not to be had, and I was obliged to have recourse to Indian corn.

15th. Left Vigo, and journeyed on a very bad road over a mountain, when we came to the banks of the Minho: passing some Indian corn and vines, arrived at Tuy: five leagues in five hours.

This town, which is a fortress, is seated on a rising ground, menacing Valença in Portugal on the opposite side of the river, which is also situated on a height. The other battalion of the regiment of Toledo was quartered here. I only stopped to be dispatched at the custom-house, where they ordered me to register my money, a part of which I shewed, as they allowed me to carry only, what they judged,

ed, sufficient to bear my expences to Oporto. I concealed some gold, but I need not have given myself the trouble, for no one was at the pains to search me.

Crossed the river Minho, which is not above a quarter of a mile broad, and put up at a most miserable *estallagem** in Valença. Captain Muller, an officer of the artillery quartered here, who had been formerly in our service, insisted upon my lodging at his house, which I accepted; a most excellent exchange.

This town, which is the most northern frontier of Portugal, is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Minho; the prospects from it very fine; all without is pleasant, but within is wretched; every person, every thing in the town, carried the appearance of poverty. The slates on the tops of the houses, instead of being fastened by cement, were only secured by stones laid upon them: I had observed, this method of roofing in Galicia: it is fortified, but the works have never been finished, and even those that have been compleated, are now going to ruin. The guns are honey-combed, and dismounted; indeed all appeared as if lately dismantled by an enemy. By an officer, just returned from Almeyda, I was told, that the state of that garrison was fully as bad; that the breach made by the Spaniards, during the last war, had never been thoroughly repaired; and that there was not a military store in it, fit for service.

* An Inn.

I waited on the governor, who was very civil to me, and received my visit as a great favour. He is a brigadier-general, and whose income, as I was informed, is about 120l. a year.

There was a regiment of artillery, and another of infantry quartered here; but such a band, in general, I never saw; though the former, which is commanded by an English officer, had the best appearance.

During the course of the last war, many foreign officers entered into this service. There are several here of all nations; they are most heartily tired of it; and if they knew how to better their fortunes, would not be long ere they retreated: they have all double pay, and even with that, it is but a paltry trade; a colonel, with this advantage, has not above 230l. a year. It is not surprizing that they should be disgusted, as there has not been a promotion, except for a few favourites, these seven years. In the regiment of artillery there are several companies vacant, and they will not fill them up: the major of the regiment has been confined in his room for two years, for mal-practices, and it is not yet determined what is to be his fate. If an officer should be tried for a crime, even though acquitted with honour, he may be kept in confinement for years, nay, all his life, without he has influence enough with the minister to prevail on him to peruse his court martial, which is generally thrown aside and forgotten, whilst the poor captive is lingering in suspense; and, added to this cruelty, from the instant an officer is put under arrest, or a soldier confined, his pay is stopped. These circumstances alone are sufficient to deter any man of liberal principles from entering into such a service. At Viana, not far from

this place, there is a regiment quartered, in which, except the lieutenant colonel, an Irish gentleman, all the commissions above the lieutenants are vacant. There did not appear to be much order or regularity amongst the troops; their cloaths were ragged, their arms were rusty, and their accoutrements torn and dirty. I was told that there were not a dozen firelocks in the two regiments fit for use. The regiments are immutably fixed in their quarters, are recruited from the vicinage, and the soldiers diet with their friends and relations. There was a kind of laboratory, and a trifling artillery apparatus here, which would, from the abilities of some of the officers, have been extended, had government given assistance; but neglect reigns in the capital, and has spread its influence to the extremities of the kingdom.

I observed, at the market-place a milliare, with the following inscription:

TI. CLAVDIVS. CAESAR
AVG GERMANICVS
PONTIFEX MAXIMVS
CONS. I.I.I. TRIB. POT
III. PP. BRACA
XLII.

This stone is said to have been taken up at the river side, just below the town.

I noticed the dress of the people much changed; the women wore handkerchiefs about their heads, and a short blue cloak; the men, brown cloaks, and smart cocked hats.

Here

Here I got a fresh passport.

The mornings and evenings were very sharp. The thermometer at seven o'clock, when I left Valença, was at 8°.

18th. Travelled on a very bad road, through a pleasant country in general, which appeared populous, cultivated as high as the hills would permit with Indian corn and vines: met many people, they had a neat appearance, but the women were without shoes or stockings: saw some oaks and firs, with a few scattered olive trees; I had not noticed any of the latter since I left Madrid: passed an extensive stone bridge of sixteen Gothic and eight circular arches, which gives the name to the town of Puente de Lima, where we arrived; being seven hours going what is called five leagues.

This town originally defended this passage of the river; it has been fortified, but the works are now in ruins.

The friars, in all countries, have chosen beautiful situations for their houses. There is a convent of San Benito, delightfully placed on a height that overlooks the river, and is very conspicuous from the town.

I was accosted by the magistrate, as I was walking, who, very superciliously, demanded my passport, and treated me with much contempt. We met with a tolerable good *estalagem* here, better than I had been accustomed to for a long while, but we found it difficult to get any thing; and when we succeeded, it appeared to be given as if we were the obliged.

R

19th. From

19th. From Puente de Lima, to Braga, through a most populous, pleasant and inclosed country, rather hilly, but full of houses and villages at every step; fertile with Indian corn, some flax and vines; the latter twining round the oaks, and other trees in the hedges, formed most beautiful festoons: six hours, five leagues.

Flores traces the name of this town from the province of Gallia Narbonensis, which was antiently called Bracara; and says, "as the Celticks came into Gallicia, it is probable " some of them might have settled in that part of the " country near the river Cebado, retaining their antient " name, and communicating it to the principal town, which " is now called Braga." In the time of Pliny, it was a place of great importance, having under its jurisdiction 24 cities and 575,000 inhabitants: the numberless Roman antiquities that are still recent, are vestiges of its antient grandeur: it is famous for the councils held in the fifth and sixth centuries; and it is still a Metropolitan see, the king's natural brother being archbishop.

Near the church of St. Sebastian, I saw a great many milliaries, that had been brought here from different parts.

I was conducted by a friar, and shewn several antient inscriptions, &c. which are still recent.

This city is pleasantly situated on a height above the river Cebado; is large and well built; the streets spacious, clean and well paved, with many fountains. There is a manufacture of beaver hats carried on near this place, and an appearance of much trade in it.

This

This day there was a fair here, at which there was a great deal of coarse linen cloth, some small cattle, crockery ware, wooden shoes, called *galloches*, fowls, Indian corn, millet, wheat, rye, salt, and most excellent fruit; melons, peaches, &c. in great abundance: the peasantry had a neat appearance, but the women wore not shoes or stockings; they had all English baize petticoats and cloaks, of various colours and different fancies. The women of the city wore black cloth or baize mantles and petticoats, which gave them a most sombre appearance.

There are some gaudy churches and large houses here; but they are loaded with superabundant ornaments, which gives them a most Gothic appearance.

20th. Left Braga, and travelled through a most fertile, pleasant and populous country for five hours: the villages, farms and inclosures all look well at a distance, but, on approaching them, there appears a want of neatness: for an hour and a half more, mountains and waste land, when we halted and dined at a little village: pursued our journey, and crossing a ferry, went through an indifferent country, and poor soil, not so much cultivated as before; passed a few scattered olive trees, and being twelve hours travelling, what is called eight leagues, arrived here, where being lodged in a very comfortable English house, if I may be allowed the expression, I shall take my leave, &c.

LETTER XIII.

My Dear Sir,

Lisbon, Oct. 13, 1774.

BEFORE I stir abroad, I shall send you my journal during my residence at Oporto, and thence hither.

In the latter end of the 11th century, in the reign of Don Alonzo VI. a number of foreigners came into Spain, to assist the Christians in their wars against the Moors; amongst them was prince Henry, of the house of Lorrain, said to be born at Befançon in Burgundy, with many followers; for his services, the King gave him his natural daughter, Doña Teresa, in marriage; and for her dowry, granted him the city of Porto on the Due-ro, and many other places in that country, which had been taken from the Infidels, under the conditions that he should be a vassal to the kings of Castille; that he should attend the *cortes* of that kingdom; and, when required, he and his subjects in arms should accompany the king to war; whence from Porto and Gallia (his native land) many derive the present name of this kingdom; certain it is, this country changed its appellation about that period: from this prince, the antient kings of Portugal descended; and to him, and his followers, the Portuguese are indebted, for the many French words introduced into their language: others derive its name from Porto, and the name of a place in that district, called Cale, now Caye, whence originally Porto Cale, now Portugal.

This

This town is agreeably situated near the *embouchure* of the river Duero, where there is a bar that is often very outrageous, and very disadvantageous to trade, as it prevents vessels from entering the port, and detains others within it; at the same time, it is thereby secured from any hostile attempts by sea. This has been, originally, a place of considerable strength; the antient fortifications still environ great part of the town: many of the streets are wide, handsome and clean, others narrow and dirty: the quay, to which ships of burthen come close, is spacious and pleasant: the depth of the river, with the rapid torrents that occasionally pour down and swell it considerably, prevent a bridge from being built across it here, and was antiently its great security.

Here I was at once transported to the environs of the Royal Exchange, from the *olla, gaspachio*, and boiled rice, to rounds of beef and fat turkies. I feasted most voluptuously with the consul and factory, who were remarkably civil and attentive; the only thing that I disliked amongst them was, their supercilious treatment of the Portuguese, from whom they derive their wealth and opulence: they complained heavily of the exclusive privilege of the wine trade, granted to the Portuguese company, which, from all I could find, appeared rather a disadvantage to the factory, than to Great Britain; for, from the principle, that a rivalship in commerce is of advantage to the consumer, the London market has been supplied with better wine since the establishment of this company, and the commodities of England are still exported as before. The shops are filled with baizes and coarse cloths, and every person I met, was clad with some of the manufactures of Britain. This wine monopoly affects the people of the country very severely: a man possessed of a vine-
yard,

yard, in the wine country, is obliged, if required, to sell its produce to the company, and repurchase it from the monopolizers at an advanced price.

It is surprising, that any nation that has the least pretence to refinement, should so long persist in drinking such an infernal liquor as the wine sent from this place to the English market: in its genuine state it is agreeable; but to please the palates of my boreal friends, such a quantity of spirits is incorporated with it, that it is rendered poisonous and destructive to those who use it.

I waited upon the Commandant, in company with the Consul, and drank tea with his lady. From the great intercourse with the English, the people of this kingdom have adopted many of their customs.

I am told that almost all the livery-servants through this kingdom, come from Galicia; it being scarcely possible to persuade the Portuguese to wear that badge of dependence.

Sedans, carried by mules, are used here for conveyance from one part of the town to the other; and such is the prejudice of custom, that, it has been with the utmost difficulty, some of the ladies of the factory, have prevailed upon a few of the Gallegos to carry their chairs; they chuse not to do the work of beasts they say.

The regiment quartered here is still worse than that at Valença. Returning from the play one night, in company with the Consul, the centry at the door of the theatre stopped him, to ask alms; and this more from wantonness than necessity,

sity, for each soldier receives a ration of two pounds of bread, with about three-pence sterling a day, and has liberty to employ himself in any occupation he pleases. This regiment was commanded by a German lieutenant colonel, who was aggregate to it; every field officer's commission being vacant.

An hospital is begun on a most magnificent and extensive plan; it is computed it will cost two hundred thousand pounds: the work is so great, that it never can be completed, and it is most absurd to think of such a building here; for the wealth of this place is not equal to it; it would be worthy of the first city in Europe.

There are some very gaudy churches, but none very conspicuous for the beauty of their architecture.

Here is held the supreme court of judicature for the northern provinces, with an appeal to the superior court at Lisbon.

I observed many persons, particularly some young fellows, wore spectacles in the streets. This custom is ridiculed on the Spanish stage, but it is laid aside in that country: it is a strange affectation; for study will never destroy the eyes of the people of this kingdom, they give themselves little trouble about literature.

I was told that there are 36,000 inhabitants in this city: it is very populous, and the whole people appeared busily employed.

It

It rained constantly during my residence here, which retarded me longer than I intended.

Sept. 28. Left Oporto, and crossing the river to Villa Nova, where the merchants have their wine vaults, which are very spacious, entered the antient Lusitania : travelled through a country little cultivated for three leagues, when we came to a small village, where we were obliged to put up at a most filthy *estallagem*, on account of the very heavy rain that fell.

29th. Pursued our journey through a populous country, passing several villages : saw many vines, much Indian corn, and some fir trees : arrived, wet to the skin, at St. Antonio, a village : two and a half leagues in three hours : here we met with an abominable *estallagem*.

30th. Set out and travelled in a narrow inclosed and bad road : passed some vines and waste land, with scattered olive trees and many droves of cattle to Piñeyro ; whence by Alvergueria, crossing the river Vouga in a boat, arrived at Sardaon : six leagues in eight hours.

Oct. 1st. Travelled on a tolerably good road : passed a great many olive trees, some vines, and Indian corn, with a few villages. Observed the country became less populous ; not so many houses and towns, and some waste spots of ground. All through this country, from Valença, there is a kind of carriage, like the Irish car, drawn by oxen yoked by the neck ; the wheels are never greased, on purpose, as they told me, that they should give notice to each other in the narrow roads, which prevail all through the northern

parts of the country ; a most barbarous custom, as it encreases the draught considerably : and they make a most disagreeable screeching : arrived at Mehallada : four leagues in five hours. At this place we got again wheaten straw for our cattle ; the grain trod out as in Andalusia. Here I met, for the first time since I left Astorga, a travelling carriage : a horse-litter put up at the same *estallagem*. The roads hitherto have been so rugged, that it is impossible for other vehicles to travel : we got very clean beds.

2d. From Mehallada, went, for two leagues, through a country little cultivated ; some vines and olive trees ; afterwards more improved : passed several *quintas* or country houses, and arrived at Coymbra : three leagues in three hours.

This town is pleasantly situated on the side of a hill, near the river Mondego, over which there is a stone bridge : the prospects from the town, both up and down the river, are fine and extensive. The convent of Santa Clara, where the unfortunate Agnes de Castro was murdered and interred, but afterwards removed with great funeral pomp to Alcobaza, is an extensive building, seated on the opposite side of the river, and presents itself most beautifully. This has been a strong post in the time of the Moors ; there are the ruins of a Moorish castle still extant.

Here is the famous university of this kingdom. New regulations of some merit, as I am told, have been lately made by the Marquis of Pombal, the minister. Chairs are established here for the different sciences ; but the salaries of the professors are small. The old book of Thomas

of Aquinas, and the school divinity is exploded. Here is an excellent collection of instruments for experimental philosophy, new and lately arrived from England.

Knowledge cannot extend its influence here; it were inconsistent with the policy of this government to admit of free scientific speculation, as people would thereby acquire more liberal ideas, than are consistent with the despotism established in this country. It may please the vanity of an ostentatious old man, to have his name blazoned throughout Europe, for his skill in newly regulating a seminary of learning; but whilst he holds the tyranny, it will be his interest, rather to promote ignorance, than cultivate literature.

It is said, that the students here, undergo a strict examination before they obtain their degrees; but I doubt much of the assertion; for, at the same time, I was told, that the rudiments of learning are universally neglected.

From the great power of the clergy, in this, as well as every other Catholic country, they have by degrees, intruded themselves into all the houses which were originally instituted for colleges; so that the students are now lodged in a most wretched manner: formerly it was the custom for almost every person round the country, to matriculate himself in this university, as he was thereby exempted from many public services; but now, as the students are obliged to reside, the numbers are much reduced; from between three and four thousand, to about six hundred.

There

There are no less than seven convents of Franciscans in this town, and above twenty of one sort or another, which possess all the territory around : in order to get a little spot of ground, in a proper situation for a physic garden, a portion of land was obliged to be taken from three different convents.

The gardens of the monastery of Santa Cruz, founded by Alfonso I. who reigned in the twelfth century, and lies buried in the church, are very extensive, with a few *jets d'eau*, which render them cool and refreshing, and a profusion of orange and lemon trees. This monastery is richly endowed.

There is a museum and observatory building here, under the inspection of Lieutenant Colonel Ellden, an English gentleman, who is second in command in the corps of engineers : these works were going on with great spirit, and planned with superior taste : to this gentleman I was extremely obliged for his politeness and attention. Expensive public buildings, which should only arise from the superabundant wealth of an affluent state, seem to be much the passion in this country, when things more solid and essential to its welfare, are not thought of.

This town is famous for horn-work and *pallitos*, or the little wooden tooth-picks.

4th. Left Coymbra, and travelled on a stone causeway for above a league, when passing Condeyza, and dining at Redinhe, two villages, arrived at Pombal : seven leagues in six hours : passed this day many olives, some vines, and

Indian corn; several firs, some oaks, cypress trees, and waste land: I saw the Aloe, but it appeared to be of a degenerate kind: the country not so populous as hitherto: I found this day very warm; the thermometer at noon was at 16° , and at eight at night at $13\frac{1}{2}$.

At this place, which belongs, and gives title to the Marquis of Pombal, there is an old castle seated on a height; I was informed, it was worthy notice, but I was too tired to visit it.

The ingenuity of the inhabitants still continues, in not using cement for the tiling of their houses.

There is a considerable hat manufacture carried on here, under the guidance of a Frenchman.

5th. Set out and travelled through a flat country for two leagues, fertile with Indian corn, afterwards vines and olives in great abundance to Leyria: five leagues in five hours: though a bishop's see, this city is small and had a *sombre* and poor appearance. I was told there are seven convents here. We dined, and pursued our journey through a pleasant and improved country for a league, when we entered upon a heath, and carried it along with us to Marinha: three leagues in five hours.

This is a village, where one Stevens, an Englishman, has got a grant from the crown, and established a glass manufacture, to the prejudice of foreign commerce.

6th. Pur-

6th. Pursued my journey through an uncultivated country for two leagues, when we came to extensive olive groves, some vines and Indian corn : arrived at Batalha : four leagues in four hours.

At this place, there is a very handsome church belonging to the convent of Dominicans, in the Gothic stile, built and endowed by Don John I. king of Portugal, who conquered John I. of Castille in the famous battle of Aljubarrota in 1385 ; John lies interred here, with Dona Phillipa his consort, who was daughter of John of Lancaster of England : several other kings of Portugal are also buried here. The Chapter-house is a handsome building under a roof of sixty feet square.

Near the church are some works in the Moorish taste, remarkably rich in ornament and beautiful, but were never finished.

This day at twelve the thermometer was at 16°. Left Batalha, and went through a country for two leagues fertile with olive trees ; some very barren hills to the left of us ; afterwards Indian corn, and many vines to Alcobaza : three hours three leagues : passed very few people, houses or villages this day.

Alphonso Henriquez made a vow, when passing by this place to the siege of Santarem, that, if successful, he would establish a monastery of monks on the spot ; accordingly, having taken it by escalade, he founded, with the spoils gained in his wars with the Moors, this convent about the middle of the twelfth century, and richly endowed it : it derives its name from standing between the two rivers Alcoa and Baça :

it

it is a most extensive and large pile of building, in the Gothic taste, with some modern additions, that disfigure it exceedingly.

The church is rich in chalices, plate, &c. the convent is inhabited by 130 friars of the order of St. Bernard, who have an amazing income, they told me, 180,000 *cruzades* a year, about 20,000*l.* sterling, and live most sumptuously. I dined with the prior, who entertained me with great civility. What a shame it is that those celestial pastors should possess so much worldly wealth, thereby wallowing in sloth and idleness, a nuisance to society!

There is a cambric manufacture established at this place, under the guidance of some Scotch and Irish manufacturers; it is in its infancy.

There is an old Moorish tower here, but of no great import. The country, hence to Lisbon, narrow and confined between the Tagus and the sea, is filled with Moorish posts.

7th. From Alcobaza to Caldes: four leagues in five hours: travelled through an uncultivated country in general; passed a few villages thinly distributed; and saw many windmills.

This place is famous for its salubrious waters, which are hot, and being of a sulphureous quality, is much frequented.

8th. From Caldes, through a pleasant country for about a league, to Obidos, which is situated on a height, surrounded by an antient fortification : passed a considerable aqueduct, that extends itself to the town, from a neighbouring hill : went through a mountainous and rather uncultivated country to Torres, a village seated on the side of a hill, which rises abruptly, commanding a passage between two other hills, and on which there is a Moorish fort : thence to Mafra : twelve hours nine leagues. The amazing length of the leagues deceived us, and we were benighted. Travelled this afternoon through a hilly country : passed some villages, several windmills, and a number of little wooden crosses ; saw many vines, a few olives, with corn lands about the towns : here we found a most excellent *estallagem*, but prodigiously dear.

At this place is an amazing structure ; a palace and convent, founded by the late king, in consequence of a vow made by him to St. Anthony ; emulating through vanity, and a desire of religious fame, the ostentation of Philip II. who built the Escorial. It is a most stupendous work, but bears not so noble an appearance as the Escorial, though it is much more decorated, and richer in marble : the vestry, consistory, and refectory, are handsome ; in the church, the altars are costly, and there are many very fine marble columns, each of one block. The convent was originally intended for the Franciscans.

In the palace are prodigious suites of apartments, as its extent is the external square, which, as I was told, is above 700 feet each side ; the convent and church forming the internal : the room, intended for the library, is very spacious.

cious and handsome. Here centers pride and poverty, folly and arrogance; a stately palace with bare walls, a sumptuous convent for supercilious priests!

There is a large space of ground, inclosed for the king and queen's sport; for it seems the consort is equally famous for her dexterity and perseverance at the chace, with her Catholic brother.

10th. From Mafra to Cintra: three leagues in four hours: travelled through an open country, which, though now dried up, shews there had been much corn.

Here is a small royal palace, built by John I. situated on the north side of a hill, near that promontory, which, by our sailors, is called the rock of Lisbon. There was originally here a castle of the Moors, taken from them by the Christians, in the reign of Don Alphonso Henriquez. This place, from its situation, draws a number of the inhabitants from the suffocating heat of Lisbon, to recreate themselves, by the enjoyment of the cool and refreshing sea air, at their umbrageous *quintas* or country houses, which are dispersed over the surface of the hill. The people of every large city, particularly those who are confined to it for six days in seven, find a beauty in every shady and verdant spot; hence the inhabitants of Lisbon sing of the delights of Cintra, as if it were the terrestrial Paradise: taking it at one general view, it is romantic and agreeable; but there is nothing great or conspicuous in either the houses or gardens of individuals.

12th. From

12th. From Cintra hither ; six leagues in six hours ; where I am lodged in the *Calzada de Estrella* : for near three leagues an open country, when we came to villages, which extend to the city : passed by Calous, a palace belonging to the king's brother ; it is situated in a hollow, environed with hills, which were at present parched with the heat, but had been in corn : I have been told since, that there are some magnificent apartments in it worthy observation : on all the hills to the town, there are an amazing number of windmills.

I expect much matter for contemplation in this place, which I will take the liberty to communicate to you ere I leave it ; in the mean time I shall subscribe myself, &c.

T

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

My Dear Sir,

Lisbon, Oct. 25, 1774.

I Am now to give you the best account I could obtain of this unfortunate metropolis.

Lisbon is situated on several little hills, near the *embouchure* of the Tagus, extending itself beautifully for about three miles on the northern banks of the river; the broadest part of the town may be rather more than a mile.

The devastation of the earthquake in 1755 is still recent; whole streets lying in a demolished state; however, some good will be derived from that misfortune, for a handsome city is rising out of the ruins of one that was most deformed; a sample of which is still to be seen in many parts that escaped demolition. Mariana describes the streets of Lisbon to be nearly the same at the time the town was taken from the Moors, by Alphonso Henriquez in the twelfth century, as they are at present in that quarter of the town called the Mororia: they are very irregular, and so narrow, that the projections of the upper stories of the houses, on the opposite sides, almost meet; thereby excluding both sun and air.

The habitations of every country depend upon a variety of circumstances to render them more or less magnificent.

In

In the feudal states, the castles of the Barons, dispersed throughout the country, were the courts of those little princes, as well as their fortresses; and were constructed according to the wealth and consideration of the possessor: thus we find in all these old palaces, a suite of apartments for the state of the chief, and handsome accommodations for his servants and followers. In the capital stood the castle or palace of the monarch; habitations for his dependants, and the officers of justice; likewise, for merchants, tradesmen, mechanics, &c. who existing by their industry, and obliged to have a fixed abode, searched more for convenience than splendour; the nobility made it only their temporary place of residence, when their business or duty in government called them to it; but in those countries, where the independent power of the nobles hath ceased; and they have been obliged, from the despotism of a prince, or induced from the progress of luxury, to quit the ruder pleasures of the country, for the more gay and brilliant amusements of the capital; magnificent and elegant buildings have arisen in it, proportionably to the degree of splendour in the court, wealth and refinement in the state.

Here the court is little elegant; the king and royal family live in a barrack, where there is not much taste or magnificence; and as few of the first rank are wealthy, there cannot be any private buildings of great consideration. I was told, that the Duke de Cadaval has an estate of about 80,000 *crusades* a year, equal to about 9000*l.* sterling; and one or two more of the nobility have from fifty to sixty thousand *crusades*; when the rest dwindle into inconsiderable fortunes. The Marquis of Pombal, the minister, has accumulated much wealth from a very small beginning; but, except by himself, it is not known to what it amounts.

The Arsenal here is a large and handsome building ; but its contents do not pronounce a very formidable state.

The famous aqueduct of Alcantara is a most noble work ; as it is composed of two different kind of arches, the beauty of uniformity, which should prevail, is destroyed ; the Gothic arches should have been Roman, or the Roman Gothic ; at present it appears a building of different artists, or as if constructed at different periods. I could not ascertain the height of the principal arch, which is Gothic ; but the width of it, as near as I could judge from pacing it, may be about ninety feet.

After the earthquake, a stupor ensued for several years, when, at length, the New Town was begun, which has made a great progress ; though it was against the inclination of the inhabitants, either to build, or reside on that part where its shocking effects were most apparent. In the New City, there is great attention to uniformity ; and the houses, being built of white stone, have a beautiful appearance ; though they are certainly too lofty for a place where earthquakes are still frequent, being four or five stories. The streets are flagged for foot passengers, and raised above the carriage way ; but are unnecessarily loaded with stones, placed perpendicularly, like the posts formerly in London. The great square in the center of the town, where the India-house, Exchange, &c. are building ; and where a most remarkable bronze statue of the king is to be placed, will be magnificent. The streets are not lighted, and those of the Old Town are remarkably dirty ; every kind of filth being thrown into them.

The

The fish and corn markets are worth notice; in the latter, to prevent imposition, the price of every kind of grain is regulated, and fixed up at each stand.

There is a paltry kind of public walk lately made, by no means in stile with the town, where, by particular edict, no one is allowed to go in a cloak: the same rule of exemption extends to some of the coffee-houses: the policy of this government, is to have the French dress universally introduced.

I must take notice to you of a prejudice both in this country and Spain, which is somewhat singular: having had the finest moon-light evenings imaginable, I have constantly noticed the women hold their fans, in such a manner, as to prevent the moon from shining upon their faces, as they conceive it will spoil their complexions. At Madrid the same prejudice not only prevailed amongst the women, but extended even to the men: I was walking one evening with the great O' Reilly in his garden; having my hat under my arm, he desired, I might be covered, as the moon in that climate, he said, was more dangerous than the sun. Such feminine ideas, I think, are only worthy of the sex; I did not imagine they could influence a great monarch's favourite.

The harbour is a good one, but not sheltered from easterly winds, though they seldom prevail very strongly: it is by no means defended from the hostile attempts of a naval force; for, from Fort St. Julian to the fort on the opposite shore, it is at least two miles; and there is no other defence of any consequence, after passing those forts.

The

The military knowledge of the Moors is obvious here, in the ruins of the fortifications of those people; there are the remains of a stupendous fortrefs, judiciously placed on the most conspicuous eminence, near an elbow of the river, whence other works extended, encompassing the whole city.

In the church of St. Rocco, is a chapel very rich in marble, jasper, verd antique, Egyptian granate, lapis lazuli, &c. in Mosaic; in it are three pictures brought from Rome, of the Annunciation, Pentecost, and Jesus baptized by John; copies, in Mosaic, from Raphael, and Guido Reni; one of them is spoiled, for the reflection of the sun from its surface, dazzling the eyes of some of the beholders, gave offence, and the polish was immediately removed.

The city is divided into a certain number of districts, each division being under the particular guidance of a magistrate, called an *emburgador*.

There may be reckoned two kinds of states; one which gives greatness to the monarch, the other, which the monarch must make great.

This kingdom comes under the latter denomination; but, whatever may be the cause, it makes a figure, at present, but little respectable in itself, or formidable to others. I was told, that the revenues of the kingdom, annually produce near three millions sterling, which arise from taxes on the consumption; on all lands and property bought and sold; on the profits of tradesmen; on the wages of servants and labourers; from the duties on exports and imports, which are enormous; and from the gold, &c. annually received from

the Brazils; which immense sum is squandered, in general, without judgment, upon objects of little real utility to the state; upon a prodigious royal household, without the least œconomy; the king, who is in debt to all his servants, has, as I have been informed, some thousand horses and mules; the Marquis of Marialva, master of the horse, has 400 at his command; upon an opera, which costs many thousands annually; upon expensive fortifications, to please the whim of vain projectors; upon a large and ill regulated army, which had better be reduced, than continue in its present unmilitary state; upon expensive public buildings, and costly decorations to the capital, that pronounce false pride and vain glory.

This kingdom is governed, under the despot, by the Marquis of Pombal, who has rendered his name famous throughout Europe, for his assiduity in promoting the expulsion of the Jesuits; and infamous for the bloody scenes, in which, conjointly with the monarch, he imbrued his hands after the conspiracy in 1758; thereby reducing the power of the nobility, which before, in some measure, counterpoised the weight of the crown. The great character given of this minister, seems to me, to be not just; to retain his power, which has been established by destructive and oppressive means; to enrich himself, and gratify his vanity, are his springs of action; the welfare of the state, or happiness of the people, are only secondary considerations: he has rendered the tyranny compleat, and destruction awaits him who dares oppose it. The fate of Scabria, is one instance to verify the assertion: raised to a great degree of power, he thought, by attaching himself to a party in
secret

secret opposition to the minister, he might thereby, in time, become more considerable; but the too artful Marquis, discovering his intrigues, he was immediately disgraced, confined prisoner to the castle of St. John at Oporto; and, a few days after I left that city, was sent to Angola, on the coast of Guinea, there to end his days; the climate alone being sufficient to destroy every European after a short residence: such is the power of this minister, but such his wretchedness, that he is only the first slave in the kingdom; he is obliged to transact every thing himself, for he cannot confide in any one.

It has been long the object of government for the kingdom to raise corn for its inhabitants: amongst the various projects formed for that purpose, the minister gave orders for some vines, which grew in a part of Alentejo, to be grubbed up; and that the inhabitants should cultivate corn on the lands instead of them, without compensating the proprietors for the loss they must necessarily sustain: “it
 “is the highest refinement of a despotical government, to
 “rule by simple commands, and to exclude every art, but
 “that of compulsion:” persons were employed to carry this scheme into execution, and who were to be the judges of such plants as were to be destroyed; this opened the door to venality, and those who bribed the highest, saved their vines; but the obstinate and indigent, were obliged to submit; and losing the labour of many years, were necessitated to undertake a fresh cultivation: “complaints
 “were vain, the extortioners would have been obliged to
 “have purchased impunity by imparting a share of their
 “bribes; but no reparation would have been made to the
 “injured:” such are the blessings of despotism; but the

time may come, when the tyrant, in turn, shall feel the weight of his own oppression. He has established many manufactures in the kingdom, but they are formed into so many exclusive companies: the minister, in the name of the king, first fabricant, who obliges the nation to purchase his commodities at his own price: he makes a great deal of wine, which always sells better than any other in the country; and to keep up the price, the superabundant produce of one part of the kingdom, is not permitted, without special licence, to be transported to another: to those who hire his houses, and either decorate them, or pay an advanced rent, which he generally exacts, he grants monopolies, and other exclusive privileges, to the great prejudice of commerce, which, to flourish, should know no restraint. He has a guard to attend his person, but fear, in this instance, is blended with ostentation. In the public monuments to be erected, his bust is to be placed conspicuously; a tribute of gratitude, offered by himself, to perpetuate his glorious name to posterity.

- “ If fame engage your views,
- “ Forbear those acts which infamy pursues ;
- “ Wrongs and oppression no renown can raise ;
- “ Know, friend, that virtue is the path to praise.”

In states like this, “ caprice and passion are the rules of government with the prince ; every delegate of power is left to act by the same direction, to strike when he is provoked, and favour when he is pleased.” The terms, law and justice, are mentioned here, as well as in every other country ; but the former must ever fluctuate, and the latter is little known. The canon law, owing to the

U

great

great influence of the Roman pontif, has been much blended with the civil code, which, mixed with the regulations for commerce, as trade has been the object of government for many years, and the royal edicts, form the laws of this kingdom.

I am told, there are twenty-six regiments of foot in the kingdom, of one battalion each; four battalions in America; four Brazil battalions; four regiments of artillery; and twelve regiments of cavalry.

Each regiment of foot is composed of six battalion companies, and one company of grenadiers; each regiment of cavalry of four squadrons of two troops each.

The regiments, as I have observed before, are immutably fixed in the different garrison towns: the men serve for life, and are draughted recruits from the vicinagé, to fill up the vacancies that happen in the regiments. If a man be maimed or disabled in the service, he is dismissed without the least provision.

The Portugese are born subordinate from the nature of their government; and being very temperate, are well calculated for good soldiers: exclusive of their natural qualities for military men, their detestation of the Spaniards, their common enemy, is a strong incentive to action, in the hands of an able leader, when called upon to war against them.

The Count la Lippe had the Prussian regulations translated for the army, and given to each regiment for its conduct;

duct: but what doth institutions avail, if they be not observed? The present commander in chief is a lieutenant colonel in our service, who is supported at the court in state and pomp, bearing the *insignia* of power, without having the least authority.

There is no inspection made of the army, so that the regiments are left to act at the discretion of the different commanding officers at quarters, who, expecting little from assiduity, allow every kind of relaxation to take place.

In my opinion, the world has been much deceived in the accounts that have been spread abroad of the great perfection to which the military establishment of this kingdom was brought after the last war: it has been nothing more than a patched up business, to deceive, by a little external shew, some few ignorant observers.

After the peace, the Count la Lippe had some regiments encamped together, when he hastily taught them a few military parade motions, with, what are called manœuvres; and having got them new clothes, and their old English accoutrements washed and whitened; assembled them to be reviewed by the king, who having never seen his troops make so brilliant a figure, poured forth praises on the Count for their appearance, and the excellence to which, in so short a time, he had brought them. These encomiums flattered all concerned, and each hero, thereby concluding he had attained the greatest degree of martial perfection, gave up all further pursuit in the *science militaire*. The Count satisfied with his exploits, and happy

to be free from a command, which he held dependent on another, left them to enjoy, at leisure, their martial knowledge; and to compleat the structure on the foundation he had laid, which has been most nobly executed.

There are four regiments of foot, and a regiment of cavalry quartered here and at Belem,* where the king resides: they are most wretchedly lodged; and, excepting one, badly governed.

I was informed by the colonel of one of the regiments, that many of the officers of his corps had been employed in pilfering and robbing in the streets; but, that since he had obtained the command, most of them had been removed.

In conversation with a gentleman one day, at the inn where I lodged, an officer of the regiment of marines, quartered at Oeyras, dressed in his regimentals, with a sword on, came into the house, and asking for the very gentleman with whom I was discoursing, pulled a pair of stockings out of his pocket, and gave them to him; on enquiry, I was informed, he was a lieutenant, and husband to a washerwoman, who often, whilst she was employed in her necessary avocation, sent him on her errands: and what must a man do with a family, said the gentleman, when he has only forty shillings a month? I most heartily concurred with him, that it is but a poor pittance; at the same time, I could not readily blend the ideas of a washerwoman's husband and an officer.

* Bethlehem or Belem, as it is called, is a town between four and five miles from Lisbon, which owes its name to a monastery founded by Emanuel the Fortunate in 1501, and given to the monks of the order of St. Jerome: the church is a stupendous structure.

In truth it is a paltry service, and it concerns me exceedingly, that Englishmen can submit to be slaves in such a state.

The naval force of this kingdom, is inconsiderable; there are, as I am told, about seventeen ships of war, including six frigates: many of the captains employed in this service are Englishmen.

What a change in this country since the last reign! when the clergy governed the realm; when a bigotted prince, and superstitious people, indulged their enthusiastic rage, at horrid *Autos de Fea*, in watching the torments, and listening to the dying groans of suffering martyrs. The parade of religion still remains; but the force of bigotry, from the great resort of foreigners, particularly English, is much broken, at least, in the capital. Now, the inquisition only prosecutes, it can neither condemn or punish without the royal sanction. A priest guilty of a crime against society, is pursued by the civil law, which exerts itself over the ecclesiastic. An edict has been published, to prevent any one after sixty years of age, from making his will to the prejudice of his heirs; or leaving to convents, churches or hospitals, above a stipulated sum: this prevents artful priests from duping enthusiastic dotards of their wealth, under a pretence of expiating their sins, and obtaining for them a heavenly abode. The monastic orders will be considerably reduced in the course of time, as noviciates are not admitted without particular licence. I am informed, there are 50 convents in this city, and 300 in the kingdom.

Since

Since the establishment of gold and silver lace manufactures, laced cloathes are worn, notwithstanding sumptuary laws still exist.

The carriages chiefly in use here, are two-horse chaises, which have not a most elegant appearance: the principal people have other carriages, but not being a very numerous body, they are not the most conspicuous: many persons ride on horseback from one part of the town to the other.

The Portuguese stage has made but little progress towards refinement. I was informed that plays in the language had not been allowed till about seventeen years ago; the translation of an English comedy being one of the first. I was at the representation of the tragedy of Beverly, a translation from the Gamester: the performers had no great tragic powers; were cool and languid. In a little farce, the manners of the inhabitants of Brazil were ridiculed with some humour; they represented them as a very formal and pedantic people, and brought them in with a suite of negroes, monkeys, parrots, &c. there was a kind of low wit introduced in it, which seemed to give greater satisfaction to the audience, than any other part: an old woman frequently breaking wind in her master's face, produced infinite applause, even from the boxes. The *fofa*, a dance peculiar to this country, as the *fandango* is to Spain, was exhibited in the farce, between a black man and woman; it was the most indecent thing I ever beheld, and only calculated for the stews, yet no one seemed displeas'd; on the contrary, the women beheld it with calmness, and the men applauded the performance. The national music resembles the Spanish, but is by no means so much improved. There is a kind of Brazil music that I heard a young
Brazilian

Brazilian play upon the guitar, accompanying it with his voice, which though solemn, is soothing and agreeable. There is generally an Italian opera here; and the king has a company of Italians, who perform at the palace: I was told that his theatre was well conducted, but there was no representation during my residence.

I made an excursion to Oeyres, about five leagues from town, where I had an opportunity to see the Marquis of Pom- bal's gardens and improvements; there are some cascades, and extensive alleys of orange and lemon trees, but without taste: his cellar is a work worthy observation; there are thirty tuns in it, which contain thirty pipes of wine each: the apparatus for squeezing the grape and, making the wine, is admirably contrived.

In this country, the sex have sparkling black eyes, white teeth, and fine hair, to which they add powder and pomatum, in such quantities, that they encrease their heads to a most enormous size: they wear rouge, but with delicacy, and patch a great deal.

The Portuguese must be an ignorant people, from the despotism established in the country: they are obliged to be industrious, from the prodigious taxes laid on every article of consumption; but as the tyranny of government renders property insecure, industry has only got the length of necessity. The lower sort of people, in general, are revengeful; but stabbing is not so much in use as formerly. Love is the darling passion of both sexes, and it is wonderful their perseverance, to obtain their object. Jealousy prevails, yet the eyes of Argus do not prevent intrigue, which, when discovered,

ed, is often feverely avenged. Sapphic love rises predominant here; the stories I have heard of the females, who indulge themselves in this passion, are almost incredible. The people, in general, are temperate in their diet: in the large towns, from their intercourse with my countrymen, we find some drunkards: beef and boiled rice is their favourite food. I had an opportunity of dining twice with some people of rank, but elegance did not prevail at their tables: they are as familiar with their servants as if their equals, nay, they even go so far as to take a principal servant into their party at cards, if one be wanting to make up the set; yet the people of family picque themselves much on their birth, and would not keep company with a Bourgeois.

Adieu, my dear friend, live happily, in that country, where the hard hand of tyranny cannot exert its iron rule.

LETTER XV.

My Dear Sir,

Seville, Nov. 9, 1774.

I Have now to give you an account of a most disagreeable and dismal journey from Lisbon hither, and a cursory sketch of this celebrated city.

Oct. 26. Left Lisbon, and embarking in the ferry to cross the Tagus, had very near lost one of my horses, from the very bad contrivance to get cattle into the boat. The prospect of the city from the river is very fine. We were five hours on our passage to Aldea Gallieja : three leagues. The tide was out, which obliged me to leave my cavalry and servants in the boat all night : they disembarked early in the morning, when we pursued our journey to La Venta de los Pregones : three leagues in four hours : and thence to Ventas Novas : three leagues in three hours. Around Aldea Gallieja a poor soil, but many vines ; afterwards some fir wood ; then waste land, with the shrub oak all the rest of the road, which was an entire flat : here we lay all night at a tolerably good inn.

28th. Left Ventas Novas, and passing a royal palace, of no great consideration, going to ruin, pursued our journey, and arrived, wet to the skin, at Montemór : four leagues in five hours : we saw the town two leagues before we came to it : the first part of our journey was a dead flat ; afterwards
 X rather

rather an hilly country, and waste land: when within half a league of the town, enclosures with vines and olives: this place was originally a Moorish post: on the summit of the hill, on which the town stands, are the ruins of a fortress. In the evening an officer of the police came to the *estallagem*, and examined my passport most minutely.

29th. Pursued our journey, and passing some vines and olives near the town, entered into a hilly country, which had been cultivated with corn: stopped at a little *venta* on the road to refresh, and thence to Evora: five leagues in five hours.

This is a most antient city. A Portuguese, who writes a volume on its antiquities, affirms, that it gave birth both to Cicero and Virgil: It is well known to have been the place of residence of the famous Sertorius, who environed the town with walls, and fortified them; who built an aqueduct, on the ruins of which, John III. raised that which now supplies the town with water from a considerable distance. It is pretended, that the ashes of the Roman were removed from Osca, now Heusca, where he was stabbed, and where he had founded an university, and reposed in this city: his palace has been pulled down, of which stables have been made. There is an old building here, now called the tower of Sertorius.

I saw the remains of a temple of Diana, of which there are still seven entire pillars standing of the Corinthian order. In the wild waste of all-devouring time, this edifice has gone through various revolutions: from a Pagan place of worship, it was first changed into a Moorish mosque, and now con-

verted into butchers shambles. There are many other Roman vestiges, inscriptions, &c. several of which are placed in the great square.

This place was taken by the Moors, in the year 715, when they over-ran all this country; but was retaken by the Christians, under the command of Giraldo, a man who had raised himself by his superior merit, 1st of December 1166, and thereby reduced under the dominion of Alphonso Henriquez. It is at present an archbishop's see; and there are no less than twenty-five convents in it. The town is large, but it is nearly depopulated, and going to ruin: neither trade or manufactures prevail; nothing appears, but the gloom of bigotry. There has been a modern fortification begun here; but never compleated. We had very heavy rains in the night; the next morning at seven o'clock the thermometer was at 9°.

30th. Left Evora, and passing many olives and vines near the town, entered into a country where there had been corn: went on to Venta de Cergones; a most wretched hole: here we stopped to refresh, and then pursued our journey, through a hilly country, passing at the foot of Evora al Monte, an old fortress, situated on the top of a high mountain; amongst the hills, cork trees and indifferent country; when we passed them, corn and scattered olive trees to Estremos, which is situated at two leagues from Evora al Monte, on another rising ground: six leagues in seven hours.

This town is surrounded with a modern fortification; but going to ruin. We had a tolerable *estallagem*; but at this season of the year, especially whilst the rains last, which fall

very heavily, there is little comfort to be expected in a Portuguese inn; there is only one fire-place in the house, and that is well crowded with dripping travellers. Near the town, is the place rendered famous, for a victory gained over the Castilians by the Portuguese in 1663.

31st. Pursued our journey through a country abundant in olives; afterwards some corn, but much waste land: saw a few flocks of sheep, and herds of goats: when within a league of Elvas, many vines and olives; near the town passed an aqueduct of four tiers of arches; and arrived there: six hours travelling six leagues: we were conveyed by a sentry to the governor, who examined my passport, and then dismissed me.

This is a frontier town, irregularly fortified. The governor permitted me to see the works, which are kept remarkably clean, and in good order; but would not allow me to visit Fort la Lippe; a new fortification, situated on the top of a very high hill, commanding the town, and the whole country around. There is a cistern here, which contains 11,000 pipes of water; it is annually cleaned, and filled again. There are some *casemettes* lately built, remarkably good and well contrived. Three regiments of foot and one of cavalry are quartered here; the soldiery were cleaner in this fortress, and had a more military appearance than I had observed before; the horses of the cavalry were very bad. The foreign officers here complained of their situation, as they did elsewhere: an officer in this service, is obliged to immure himself at quarters; for from the instant he gets leave of absence, his pay is stopped; and it requires, not only superior interest, but is looked upon as a great indulgence, to have it restored

restored to him on his return. I saw the returns of the infantry, wherein I found that above 1300 men had deserted from the three regiments of foot since the peace: not a Spanish deserter has come in these three years, since the new regulations of the *quintas*. This place was besieged by the Spaniards in 1658, but without success. I dined with the Governor, Don Manuel Bernardo de Melo, who was remarkably civil to me in every thing, but in permitting me to see Fort la Lippe, my only view for taking this route. From the best accounts I could get of this fortress, it is a most singular work; it has cost government an immense sum of money; the whole genius of the projector has been exerted to raise this monument to his fame; it is composed of four bastions, with many other works; the parapets are contrived for a second defence; the upper part of them is of tapia, the lower of brick; the batteries are covered and bomb proof, with magazines to every two guns; upon the top of these bomb proofs, are lodging-houses for the officers in time of peace; but whenever war commences, are immediately to be thrown down, and their materials are to erect an upper parapet for wall pieces, &c. in case of a breach made in one of the bastions, the *decombres* are to be immediately placed on an angle of the internal redoubt, so as to form, at the same time a retrenchment, and flank for that work: the mechanism of the draw-bridges, &c. are equally curious and well contrived. I imagine, if ever the Spaniards should think of attacking Portugal at this point, their efforts would certainly prove ineffectual against Fort la Lippe.

Nov. 2.

Nov. 2. From Elvas to Badajoz: three leagues in three hours: about the town of Elvas, many olives, and afterwards an open corn country: I saw some sheep and cattle: crossed the Guadiana on a stone bridge of twenty-seven arches, and entered the town. The Spaniards possess both sides of the river.

This is a frontier, and very antient city; it is intended to be regularly fortified, with eight bastions and other works; but they are not compleated. This place was besieged by the Portuguese in the year 1658; but the siege was raised on the approach of Don Lewis de Haro, with the whole army of Spain. During the course of the last war, I was told, that there were never 500 men quartered here. The regiment of Estromadura, in garrison, was newly cloathed, and looked well.

In the *estallagem*s in Portugal, there is always something to be got to eat; but here we found a very indifferent *posada*, and nothing to be had but straw: there was a procession in the afternoon of all the young women in the town, the rest of the inhabitants seemed to be asleep. It is a bishop's see, under the metropolitan of St. Jago. I was obliged to register the entry of my cattle again into this kingdom, and send to Tuy, in Gallicia, the custom-house acknowledgment, to indemnify my security there. The difference in the price of things was remarkable; at Elvas, barley was very near double the price it was here.

3d. Set out at seven o'clock. The officers of the *aduana*, or customs, stopped me at the barrier, and were extremely

tremely insolent; in searching my baggage, they found some letters, which they insisted upon taking and putting into the post-office; a contest ensuing, I shewed my passport, when they were all submission, and allowed me to pursue my journey: about the town a few olives, and there had been some corn; afterwards waste ground, with few inhabitants to Albuera: four leagues three and a half hours: a poor village: thence to Santa Marta; a good road, but the country lying waste; three leagues in three and a half hours: here we found a very decent *posada*, and very obliging landlord, by much the cleanest I had seen since I left Ofuna; we got very comfortable matresses; and we found not the least spirit of imposition; for the treatment I received, I paid a trifle more than was demanded, and carried the prayers of the family along with me: who would not enjoy such blessings for so small a tribute!

4th. Went through an uncultivated country in general, with mountains to the right hand; passed a large tower, situated amongst them, on the pinnacle of a rock; and arrived at Zafra: five leagues in five hours: this is a large town, famous for lamb-skin gloves, some of which are dressed, so as to be contained in the space of a walnut-shell: thence to Fuente de Cantos, a long straggling village in a bleak plain: four leagues four hours: about Zafra some corn, afterwards, in general, waste land: passed two villages, and saw several flocks of sheep: here we met with a bad *posada*.

5th. Left

5th. Left Fuente de Cantos: for about a league, an open corn country; afterwards some few spots lately taken in, with scattered cork-trees, to Monasterio: three leagues in three hours: a poor village; but we got some excellent pork, for which this country is famous: dined, and pursued our journey: entered into the Sierra Morena: nothing but mountains and cork-trees, with very indifferent road, to Santa Olalla: four leagues in four hours: here is an old fortrefs, now converted into a monastery; it has originally defended this pass in the mountains: in the village there are few houses but what are *posadas*: in the one where I took up my quarters, there were several carriers from Seville, who entertained us with an account of some robberies that had been committed, two days before, in the mountains through which we were to pass. At Almaden del Azogue, near this town, are quick-silver mines, of which I got not intelligence till my arrival at Seville. All the people from Badajoz hither, appeared as if they had the jaundice: they are much subject to the fever and ague, all through this province of Estremadura, which gives them this unhealthy aspect.

6th. Left Santa Olalla, and travelling through the most wild and desolate country I ever saw, halted at the side of a brook, where we fed our cattle, and regaled ourselves; then, pursuing our journey through a continuance of the same kind of country, following a chaise track, our only guide, arrived at Castel Blanco: ten hours going seven leagues. We saw no living creature in all our route, but two flocks of sheep, and two suspicious-looking fellows; not a village, a house, or a bit of culture; nothing but mountains, brush-wood, and cork-trees. Here we found a very bad *posada*; but got some excellent pork for supper. We were again entertained

entertained with an account of the robberies that had been committed; and of a man who had been murdered between this place and Seville. Two inhabitants of the village applied to me, to be allowed to accompany us the next day; to which I readily consented.

7th. Set out early in the morning, with my fellow-travellers, who, to my great mortification, were mounted on *burros*, without any defence, but what I could give them: this perplexed me exceedingly, as it retarded my journey for them to keep up; but as I had promised my protection, I thought myself bound to give it. On conversing with one of my companions, I found him a fellow of some humour, which compensated for the drudgery of going his pace; he was a Seville man, and, like the rest of the world, had great partiality for his own country; he declared there could be no such city as Seville, and then quoted the Spanish proverb, "*Quien no ha vista Sevilla, no ha vista Maravilla.*" He admitted the inhabitants had many vices: he said, even drunkenness prevailed amongst them: he told me that they were very fond of dress: that, in general, they were much addicted to women; and were great *maxos*.* He concluded his narration with an humorous Sevillian *seguidilla*; which brought us to the foot of the mountain, about two leagues from Castel Blanco; and having passed our danger, I took my leave, and pushed on, over that extensive plain, which reaches from the sea beyond Cordova. Passed a great deal of fine corn lands, olives, and the white mulberry trees for silk-worms; crossed the Guadalquivir in a ferry-boat, and arrived at Seville: six leagues in eight hours.

* *Maxo*, a man who affects peculiarity in words, actions, and dress: originally a kind of *bravado*; at present, a *petit maitre*.

Flores observes, that Hispalis or Sphalis, is a Phenician term, derived from Sephela or Spela, which signifies a plain, and answers well for Sevilla, on account of its being situated in a flat country; and, whenever, says he, we can find the origin of any antient term in the language of the Phenicians, we may adopt it, on account of the number of towns that people inhabited in Bœtica, to which they gave their idiomatic names. This must have been a very antient city, for it is still environed with Roman walls, which are kept entire at the royal expence. In the *façade* of the gate of Xeres, which was rebuilt in 1561, the following Castilian verses are cut in white marble:

Hercules me edificó,
 Julio Cesar me cercó
 De Muros y Torres altos;
 El santo Rey me Ganó
 Con Garci Perez de Vargas.

It was possessed by the Moors at the time they inhabited this country; was the place of residence of the Moorish kings, and capital of the kingdom of Sevilla. Don Fernando el Santo took it by capitulation in the month of November 1248, from the Moorish monarch Axatafe, after a siege of sixteen months: no less than 100,000 Moors, men, women and children left the city on this occasion. Fernando made it his place of residence, and gave encouragement to people, who flocked in crowds from many parts of Spain, to re-people it. This prince employed the most learned lawyers of the realm, to compile the antient laws of the kingdom in one volume, vulgarly called, *Leys de las*

las Partidas, which was afterwards compleated in the reign of his son Don Alonzo.

This city, including the suburbs, is three and a half leagues in circumference; but round the walls is not more than six miles: it is situated on the Guadalquivir, over which there is a bridge of boats, that communicates with the large Barrio de Triana, said to be the place where the Emperor Trajan was born. The streets of the city are, in general, very narrow and irregular; but there are many houses of consideration, though their external appearance is not very conspicuous: including the different suburbs, I am told, there are 14,000 private houses, which are computed to contain 300,000 inhabitants: in the city and vicinage, there are no less than forty-six convents of friars, and twenty-nine of nuns.

The famous cathedral church, is a very fine building of Gothic architecture: it was begun in the year 1401, and finished in 1520; it is immensely rich in treasure; the silver altar, which is exhibited on particular festivals, is most magnificent: the Giralda, built by the Moors in the year 1000, is a square tower, which serves as belfry to the church; from the top of it, is an extensive and beautiful prospect.

This is an archbishop's see, with a most enormous annual revenue, said to be 300,000 dollars, equal to 50,625l. sterling; there are forty canons belonging to it, with great incomes.

This city abounds in hospitals, wherein the poor sick are received, and of whom great care is taken.

The royal palace, called the Aleazar, built by the Moors, is not a very magnificent edifice; the gardens belonging to it are laid out in a very antient taste, and the walks are ornamented with gigantic figures, in different shapes and attitudes: there are some pieces of water in them, which served the Moors for baths.

There are many public edifices, that are visited by strangers, but are of no very great or singular merit; such as the Lonja or Exchange, the Foundery, &c.

The Toro de Oro, or Golden Tower, is worthy notice, on account of its pretended antiquity: it is said to have been built by the Phenicians, but I should imagine it of later date.

The tobacco manufacture, is a large handsome fabric, in the Moorish taste, which is the case with almost every building in this city; there are from 1500 to 2000 people, and 200 horses constantly employed in it; for from this center, the whole kingdom is supplied with tobacco, which brings in an amazing revenue to the crown.

The Plaza de Toro,* is large and built of stone, but not yet compleated. The Alameda, or public walk, is handsome; there are two Roman columns of the Corinthian order placed at one end of it, with two antique statues of Hercules and Julius Cæsar, one on the top of each.

* Amphitheatre where the bull-feasts are held.

This is an university; but it is not in a very flourishing state: There are few students of any other science but theology.

There is a mint here, and royal treasury. Some very fine paintings of Murillo are to be found in the chapel of the hospital of La Charidad, and the Capucins.

Many families of consideration make this their place of residence.

A silk manufacture is carried on here; but not so considerable as formerly: Valencia has become its rival; the silk-worms thrive much better in that province.

A great deal of fruit, lemons and oranges for the London market, are exported hence. The trade of this place is much dwindled; it is transported to St. Lucar, at the *embouchure* of the river, and to Cadiz; ships of great burthen cannot come up to the town.

This city is privileged with a tribunal of justice, called *real audiencia**, which extends its jurisdiction five leagues round the city; and from which there is no appeal, but to the council of Castille: it is exempted from having troops quartered in it, on account of its loyalty to Philip V.

* *Audiencia* is a superior tribunal of justice, where, besides the causes that originate in it, there is an appeal to it from the civil and criminal jurisdiction of all the *corregidores*, *alcaldes mayores*, and other justices within its territory.

I shall now conclude this long epistle with four Castilian lines, to shew how noted is the fame of this city in the opinion of the Spaniards.

De quantas Ciudades goza
El orbe en su redondèz,
La noble Sevilla es
La mas illustre, y hermosa.

I am in haste to finish my journey, as the winter season approaches.

I have only to assure you, that I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XVI.

My Dear Sir,

Gibraltar, Nov. 26, 1774.

IN comfort seated at my own fire-side, I am now to give you the remainder of my journey from Seville hither.

Nov. 10th. Left Seville, and after travelling about a league, we were overtaken by two fellows, who entering into conversation with us, pretended they were going to Cadiz; but not liking their appearance and behaviour, I obliged them, in a short time, to decamp; when I found we had been conducted much out of our road. Went on to Los Pallacios, antiently a country seat of the Moorish kings: passed many olives, some corn and waste land: here we halted to refresh, and then pursued our journey through an entire flat country, which had been in corn: observed, in different parts, from thirty to forty ploughs going together, drawn by oxen: saw some sheep and cattle: drank at the Venta de Alcanterilla, where there are two old towers on each end of a stone bridge, to defend that passage over a marshy part of the plain: arrived at Las Cabezas de San Juan, being eleven hours on horseback going what is called eight leagues: here we met with a good *posada*.

11th. Pursued our journey through a country little cultivated, till we drew near Xeres, when passing many
very

very fine olive walks, some vines and inclosed lands well laid down for corn, finished this day's journey: five leagues in five hours.

This town is called Xeres de la Frontera, is large, well built and populous. There are many *hidalgos*, who reside here: it is famous for horses, and, what we call, sherries wine.

Near this place, in the year 714, Don Rodrigo, King of Spain, was beaten by the Moors; and this defeat, the Spaniards call, *la perdida d' España*.

About three miles hence is a Carthufian convent of very great note: I dined with the prior, who entertained me elegantly with eight dishes of different fish. The thermometer this day at 16°.

12th. Left Xeres, and passing a ferry over the river Guadalete*, went through an uncultivated country, taking the circuit of the bay of Cadiz: saw the town of Puerto Real on our right, when we entered upon a fine made road, which is carried all the way to Cadiz: passed the Isla de Leon, where there is a marine academy, and where the commandant of this marine department resides: thence to Cadiz: seven leagues in nine hours: we were stopped at the barrier; but on shewing my passport, and giving the officers of the *aduana* a trifle, I was permitted to pass on: here I put up at a good Fonda.

* This, it is said, is the famous river Lethe of the antients; for it was the Moors, who added the Guada to it, in the same manner as to many others; Guadalquivir, Guadiana, &c.

This city is situated in a peninsula, rising as if it were out of the ocean; it is very ancient, and a noted sea-port: hence almost all the trade of the kingdom is carried on to the West Indies and America.

The town is large, supposed to contain between 70 and 80,000 inhabitants, who consume 54,000 lb. of bread every day.

The streets are narrow and confined; but, as a great number of persons reside here, who have made considerable fortunes by trade, there are many large and handsome houses.

The fortification is strong on the land side, which is of small extent; towards the sea, there is a line wall, and other works dispersed around: there is generally a large garrison here, at this time, composed of five regiments of foot and one battalion of artillery: the troops are well quartered; the *casemates*, on the land side, being remarkably good.

There are few ships of war laid up in this port; they are chiefly at Ferrol and Carthageña.

The police of this city is well regulated; it is amply supplied with all kinds of provisions, and the markets are put up to sale by auction weekly: it is furnished with water from Port St. Marys, on the other side of the bay; and, I believe, it is the only place in Europe, where the venders of that beverage, think it worth their while to adulterate it; which is done, by mixing with it rain water, that is caught at every house in the Algibe, or reservoir in the middle of the court-yard.

This place swarms with French, who are greatly protected, and carry on a considerably trade: there are also a number of Irish Catholics here, and itinerants from all countries. The English factory consists of the consul and three members, who are remarkably civil and attentive to strangers.

From the difficulty of placing money at interest on good security, I am informed, that there are not less than twenty-five millions of hard dollars here locked up in chests unemployed.

There is a most elegant little French theatre here, supported at a very considerable expence by the French; there is also an Italian Opera, at present badly mounted; and a Spanish comedy: in the former there are performances four or five times a week; at the latter every day. At the Spanish comedy, I saw a curious play of Lazarus and Dives, wherein the whole story was carried on in the performance; and concluding with the representation of Heaven and hell, it ended with the expression "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, &c." Though not prone to change, a constant connection with the Italian and French performers, have caused a degree of refinement to take place upon this stage, though the alteration has not been much relished by the *mosqueteros*, as they are called, the critics of the pit. I saw the translation of a French play represented here with some degree of performance. Exclusive of these amusements, there is a bull feast at the proper season: the amphitheatre contains about 11,000 people.

In the church of the Capucins, is an unfinished painting of Murillo, which in executing, it is said, he fell from the scaffold, and thereby lost his life.

19th. On leaving Cadiz, we were again stopped at the barrier by the custom-house officers, who examined if I had any money; no one being allowed to carry out above a certain sum, without paying duty; and as that is very high, it encourages smuggling to a great degree: pursued our journey near three leagues along the Isthmus, arriving at the river St. Pedro, where we crossed a ferry: this river, communicating with the bay of Cadiz, forms the town and neck of land into an island. Here, it is said, was placed the famous temple of the Egyptian Hercules, which gave the name of Heraclium to this isle: thence through an uncultivated country in general for two leagues; afterwards some corn lands and olives; saw some droves of cattle, and arrived at Veger: eight leagues in eight hours.

Here we lay all night at the worst *posada* in the world: this place was originally a Moorish post; there are some Moorish vestiges still to be seen in the town, which is situated on the top of a hill that rises abruptly from the plain: there is a river runs at the foot of it, near the inn, over which there is an old Roman bridge of three arches.

20th. Pursued our journey through an uncultivated country for about a league, when we came to the Campo de Tariffa; extensive plains, bounded by prodigious high mountains; these plains had been all cultivated in corn: saw several droves of cattle: passed many *cortijos*, or farm-houses, at one of which we halted to refresh: five leagues in five hours. As every thing was to be had here by courtesy, we could hardly get any thing for ourselves or cattle. The master of this farm, told me, that he rented it from the Duke of Medina Sidonia, from ten to ten years; and

that he annually paid him the rent of three thousand dollars, equal to five hundred pounds sterling; yet this man eat *gazpacho** with his servants, all out of the same dirty bowl: after paying very dearly for the use of the fire-place, and straw for our cattle, we pursued our journey for about a league, when we entered into the mountains, which continued all the way to Algeciras; a most wretched and dreary road: four leagues seven hours.

Algeciras is situated on the bay of Gibraltar, directly opposite to the town, and distant from it five miles. It is famous for being the place where the Moors, under their leader Muza, landed in 715; there are the ruins of the Moorish fortification still extant: part of a regiment of foot, and some cavalry is quartered here.

21st. Pursued our journey, crossing the small rivers Palomos and Guadaranque, and passing the ruins of the famous and antient city of Carteia, which is situated at the bottom of the bay of Gibraltar, arrived at San Roque; two leagues in two hours.

This is a village, where a Spanish general resides, and where there is at present a regiment of foot and some *piquets* of cavalry quartered, detachments from which are sent to the Spanish lines for their protection, and dispersed along the coast to prevent smuggling, &c. The vicinage of our garrison, and the number of Spanish troops quartered here, have caused the country round this place, which is very pleasant, to be much cultivated and improved.

* A kind of soup made of bread soaked in water, with pepper, salt, oil, vinegar and mixed together; a common food of the labouring people.

Having

Having got my passport from the commandant, went on to the Spanish lines, and passing the barrier, where a small fee prevented the custom-house officers from searching my baggage, arrived here : two leagues in two hours.

And now I shall conclude with some few observations on the Spanish character.

The Castilian, Andalusian and Gallician are strongly marked, each as a separate people ; but since the same government, one religion, and the like education prevail, a similitude of character is conspicuous : the gravity of the natives, is carried to a proverb, and their deportment would convince a stranger that it were true : they have no idea of walking for exercise, or ever stirring abroad in the heat of the day, but when obliged to it, and then they move with a solemn gait, which becomes habitual ; till lately, and that only now at the capital, and amongst people of rank in the provinces, they had little communication with strangers, or with each other, consequently a reserved behaviour took place whenever they met in company ; and their turn for gallantry, obliged them to keep a guard upon their countenances, lest they should betray their intrigues to their associates : as this has been long the seat of bigotry, the gloom of religion hangs upon their brow ; and the inquisition, employing its familiars in every corner of the realm, urged them to have a curb upon their tongue, for fear they should utter what might be interpreted to their ruin : all these causes combined, naturally produce those effects of external sedateness we see prevalent amongst them ; but, children of the sun, though not volatile, they have as acute and lively imaginations as any people of Europe : sanguine in their dispositions, and warm in their affections ;

fections, if thwarted in their pursuits, they often become enraged to a degree of passion, with which we are in general unacquainted: they are revengeful, and stabbing still prevails; the lowest peasant will not brook a blow; and that the honour of the soldiers may not be hurt, there is an article in the ordinances for the army, that they are to be beaten, only with the sword. They have the highest notions of the dignity of their birth: the Castilian, but more the Biscayan, though poor and beggarly, holds the Andalusian in the utmost contempt, as being in immediate descent from the Moors: the latter is crafty and designing, but a nobler spirit runs through the veins of the former. Marriages are generally made between persons of equal distinction: the old nobility seldom contract themselves with the new; and the superior rarely connects himself with his inferior. They are temperate, or rather abstemious in their living to a great degree: *borracho* is the highest term of reproach; and it is rare to see a drunken man, except it be among the carriers or muleteers: both men and women are fertile in resources to the attainment of their favourite pursuits; the latter, in particular, limited in their education, confined with bars at home, and attended by spies abroad, still find means to elude the vigilance of their *duenas*, and pervade the grates made to restrain them. It is particular, that the people throughout, are free from diffidence; they have a manly character, and speak to their prince with the same *sang froid* and confidence that they would to their fellow; they never utter any thing at which they seem to be the least abashed; each man appears to have a conscious dignity, which is not so conspicuous in other parts of the world: they treat one another with the greatest civility and respect; if even a beggar ask alms, and it be not granted, the supplicant is refused in most compassionate terms; another time, they tell him,

and

and God go with him, God conduct him, &c. insult is never added to misfortune. Such are my cursory remarks upon the present prevalent character of this people. There was a time, when the ardent flame of liberty fired each Spaniard's breast; but it has been extinguished by the malignant blasts of despotism, never to be kindled more. May God guide you through the remainder of your days, is the fervent prayer of,

My Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.



STAIR AND PORTUGAL

and God go with you, God comfort you, and I pray
that you may be happy in all your doings. I have
been very glad to hear of your health, and I hope
it will continue so. I have been very busy
with my work, but I have not forgotten you.
I have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much.

My love to you

I have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much. I
have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much. I
have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much. I
have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much.



I have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much. I
have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much. I
have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much. I
have been thinking of you very much, and
I have been praying for you very much.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE
SPANISH EXPEDITION
AGAINST
ALGIERS,

IN 1775.

My dear Sir,

Gibraltar, Oct. 1, 1775.

I AM just arrived from Cadiz, where I went on purpose to see the troops return from their late unfortunate descent near Algiers.

As this strange and romantic expedition has been matter of speculation to all Europe, both in its preparation and execution, I shall endeavour to give you some account of it, from authentic intelligence.

On the 22d of June was assembled, in the port of Carthage, a very considerable armament, commanded by Don Pedro de Castijon, admiral in chief, on board of which were embarked a large body of troops, under the command of Lieutenant general Conde de O' Reilly, together with

A a

a great

a great quantity of military stores, &c.* destined against Algiers.

On the same day, at the church of St. Francisco, in Carthage, there was a solemn ceremonial of the principal officers to *La Purissima Concepcion*, patroness of all Spain; imploring her protection, and success to his Majesty's arms; after which, Conde de O' Reilly, commander in chief, made a most pompous oration.

On the 23d, the fleet sailed, and anchored in the bay of Algiers on the 30th of June and 1st of July.

July 1. Behind a battery, east of the river Xarach, which lies to the eastward of the town of Algiers, a large encampment was seen, and several Moors on horseback about the

* General state of the armament, &c.

6 Ships of the line.	19,284	Infantry.
12 Frigates.	714	Cavalry.
9 Xebèques.	120	Dragoons.
7 Galeots.	900	Artillery men.
4 Urcas.	2,326	Marines.
2 Armed vessels of the King's.	503	Gunners or marine, artillery.
4 Bombs.	600	Deserters, to serve as workmen.
7 Armed vessels hired.		

51

24447 Men.

344 Transports.

ARTILLERY, &c.

30 Twenty-four pounders.	25,400	Balls of 24lb.	448	Grape.
12 Twelve pounders.	12,200	12	200	
18 Eighteen pounders.	15,020	18	650	
80 Battalion guns of four-pounders.	40,000	4	3,000	
12 Mortars of twelve inches.	5,069	Shells of 12 inches		
16 Mortars of nine inches.	6,748	9		
8 Howitzers of six inches.	2,400	16		
	8,000	Hand grenades.		

beach.

beach. At sun-set, the Moors fired three discharges of small arms, in the manner of a *feu de joye*.

2d. The principal officers were assembled, and orders were given for the troops to hold themselves in readiness to disembark the next morning at day-break; but before eight o'clock they were countermanded; because the night was windy, with a swell setting in upon shore: from this day, until the sixth, inactivity prevailed; but frequent councils were held, where violent contests arose; particularly, between the Conde de O' Reilly, and Major General Romana, a Spaniard of a warm and impetuous temper, who appearing to thwart the measures of the commander, received from him some very severe reproofs.

6th. All the principal officers were again assembled, to receive their ultimate instructions, when the orders of the 25th of May, at Carthagen, and 2d July, in the bay of Algiers, were strongly recommended. Those orders are pointed and clear; but offended the officers, in general, by allotting severe punishments for crimes and neglects, that ought not to have been supposed. In them, the commander in chief intimates the destination of the expedition, by telling the army, that the Moors constantly feign a most violent attack; but upon the smallest resistance, immediately fly precipitately, with an intent to draw their enemy into an ambuscade: he particularly cautions the troops to break not their order, as nothing but united force could possibly ensure success against an enemy, skilful in the art of a desultory war: he warns them against the error they afterwards committed, and points out to them the very snare in which they were afterwards intrapped: he orders, that each

battalion have 200 pioneer's tools, and 200 sand bags; that each brigade, on landing, form a column of a company in front, six deep; and the guards of half a company in front. The army, on landing, was to endeavour to possess some heights, which, when gained, were supposed to give sufficient advantage, to ensure success against the city of Algiers. The disposition of march was to be in four columns, with the light infantry advanced, and on the flanks; each column to have four field pieces in front, to be increased as the exigency require: two redoubts were to be formed, at the place of disembarkation, and a communication to be kept up between the army, those fortifications, and the fleet.

In the afternoon, some ships of war were ordered to fire against three batteries to the eastward of Algiers; but their efforts were fruitless, there was not a gun of any of the batteries dismounted; for all the Spanish men of war, except the St. Joseph, of 74 guns, which received some damage from the enemy, were at so great a distance, that their shot did not reach the shore. At sun-setting the firing ceased.

7th. Between eight and nine thousand men were on board the launches, &c. at day-break, and advanced very near the shore, about a mile to the westward of the little river Xarach, covered by seven galleys, and two long-boats, with a twelve pounder each: not a Moor appeared to oppose their landing. At seven o'clock, the boats returned on board the transports: not a shot fired on either side the whole day. It was reported, the landing was not made, because there were not boats enough to hold a sufficient number of troops at once; but this was given out to conceal

a misunderstanding that prevailed amongst the principal officers. Orders were given for the transport long-boats to be manned with Spanish seamen, and to be in readiness at day-break the next morning. And here I must observe, that there appears a capital error, in marking out to the enemy the real point of attack, so long before the troops entered upon action.

I am now to proceed, as a Spaniard calls it, to the *Dia de perdida, y sentimiento para España.*

8th. At day-break, the ships having been posted to batter the different forts to the right and left of the place of disembarkation; and the troops, to the number of about 8,000, being embarked in the launches, &c. formed in six columns, at the head of which were the grenadiers, preceded by the armed xebèques, galliots, &c. that were to cover their landing; the firing from the ships began, and the troops moved on, in order, to the place of disembarkation, about a league and a half to the eastward of the city of Algiers, with their right towards the town, and the left towards the *embouchure* of the aforementioned river; when near the beach, the covering vessels began their fire, and the troops landed in the intervals between them: notwithstanding there were above 80,000 Moors drawn to this point, two thirds of which were cavalry, under the Bey of Constantina, for the Turks remained to defend the city, not one of them appeared to dispute the ground: it is said, there were 150,000 Moors upon the coast, 100,000 of which were cavalry: as soon as this body of men had made good its landing, it formed six deep, according to orders; the armed vessels divided to the right and left, to cover their flanks; and the boats returned to bring the rest of the army on shore, with all expedition. The troops of the first disembarkation

barkation were scarcely formed, when a small body of the enemy appeared in their front; but upon seeing a movement of the Spaniards towards them, they flew in disorder: from this instant may be dated the misfortunes of this inglorious day. The troops then marched forward, by beat of drum, having the *Voluntarios de Aragon*, and *Cataluña*, a kind of irregulars, in front. I shall now give you the journal of an officer, who was engaged in this part of the army, and which corresponds nearly with all the accounts I have been able to obtain. He says, “ we moved on until we were engaged in a close coun-
 “ try, which the enemy had occupied in small parties; but
 “ so advantageously posted in ditches, &c. that they fired very
 “ smartly upon us, without presenting our men an object to
 “ return it: our grenadiers, and light infantry, which had
 “ been detached in advance, were repulsed; at this juncture,
 “ some of the troops of the second disembarkation, were, in
 “ small bodies, incorporating with us; and some large can-
 “ non coming up, their brisk fire protected our march, which
 “ was directed to occupy some inclosures, where we made a
 “ heavy fire, but without being able to dislodge the enemy.
 “ Our soldiers, who till then had given the greatest proofs
 “ of exemplary valour, and contempt of death, began to be
 “ alarmed at seeing so many fall, without gaining the least
 “ advantage; this produced some disorder in the firing; but
 “ did not prevent those of the 4th, 5th, and 6th ranks from
 “ keeping it up, to the great prejudice of the other three: the
 “ confusion incident to such cases ensued: the zeal and endea-
 “ vours of the officers were insufficient to contain the men,
 “ some retiring, others advancing, just as they judged it ex-
 “ pedient, without any regard to the orders or persuasions of
 “ their superiors. In this unfavourable situation we found
 “ ourselves, when, on a sudden, a drove of camels appeared,
 “ extending

“ extending on the left, conducted by some Moors, with a
“ design, no doubt, of drawing our fire upon them ; the cry
“ was also heard, that we were cut off by the horse ; this was
“ followed by the retreat, and without waiting for more or-
“ ders, some brigades forming in column, and others march-
“ ing in battalion, the whole retired with precipitation.
“ We left on the field, an infinite number of killed and wound-
“ ed, though the last begged not to be abandoned ; a favour
“ that a few only obtained, whose lives were saved, by being
“ brought into the intrenchments, which were carrying on by
“ the workmen and troops of the third disembarkation ; this
“ work had been already fortified with three eight-pounders,
“ to the well-directed fire of which, and the good conduct of
“ the Tuscan commanders, who drew their frigates close into
“ the shore, and fired with great execution upon the enemy,
“ we owed the security of our retreat. Of the seventeen en-
“ gineers, who went with the army to reconnoitre, thirteen
“ had the misfortune to be wounded, and the four who were
“ left, not being sufficient to direct the works, occasioned the
“ intrenchments to be scarcely large enough to contain the
“ army : in this confined position, we were much annoyed by
“ a thirty-six pounder, which the enemy brought out of one
“ of their batteries, upon our right, and firing also with an
“ elevation from the fort of Xarach, their shot did us so
“ much mischief, that though *epaulemens* were ordered to be
“ made, they did not effectually secure us. The Moors made
“ constant excursions, and braved us close to our trenches, to
“ their great slaughter. Thus we remained till it was dark,
“ when the regiments were ordered to embark, beginning with
“ the youngest, to save time.” He adds, “ that the disorder,
“ tumult, and confusion, with which the re-imbarkation was
“ executed, is not worth relating ; and ought only to be com-
“ municated,

“ municated, to shew the ignorance of the enemy, who
“ knew not how to take the advantage of so favourable an
“ opportunity, to obtain the compleatest victory.” The loss
sustained by the Spaniards on this occasion, according to the
Gazette, amounted to 27 officers killed, 191 wounded; 501
men killed, 2,088 wounded; and as this account nearly corre-
sponds with a letter from Algiers, I judge it to be not wide of
the truth; though private computations estimate the loss at
above 5000. The Marquis of Romana was killed at the head
of his brigade, the commencement of the action. The enemy
had between five and six thousand killed, and as many
wounded: the Moors did not leave one wounded Spaniard
alive; the government of Algiers had offered a premium of
ten sequins for each Spaniard’s head, to which this barbarity
may be, in some measure, imputed. The Spaniards left be-
hind them, on their retreat, 15 pieces of cannon, 3 howitzers,
a great number of small arms, ammunition, *chevaux de frize*,
&c, &c.

On the 12th, the troops, and great part of the fleet, failed,
on their return to Spain.

The length of time taken up in the preparation, and the de-
lay in the execution of this expedition, gave the enemy an op-
portunity to be ready for its reception. The Spanish court
might have had better intelligence of the force the Algerines
could bring into action, and the site of their coast; but the
generals seem to have been totally unacquainted with these par-
ticulars: after their arrival, the place of landing was for a long
time matter of dispute; how far at last it was well judged, is
not yet determined; even admitting that the point of attack
were proper, a great mistake was committed in the march of
the

the first body of troops, immediately after disembarkation; it should have certainly retained its position, until the whole army should have been disembarked, and then have made its progress by degrees. It was, I may venture to say; ignorant in the commanders, to think they were at once to penetrate an inclosed country, where the enemy was most advantageously posted in force, to oppose them: who it was, directed the troops of the first disembarkation to march, is not decided; it is attributed, on one side, to the unfortunate Marquis of Romana: again, it is said, that the Conde de O'Reilly was on shore before the army had marched an hundred paces; and if he chose not, that it should move forward, he, as commander in chief, might have ordered it to act otherwise; nay, it is alledged, and I am afraid with some degree of certainty, that on finding nothing to oppose his landing, thereby insuring to himself success, he hurried the troops into action. A Spaniard observes, that "the commander in chief waited upon the beach, and urged the second disembarkation on with precipitation; this," he continues, "was rather the duty of a subaltern general, to whom such employments more properly belonged." In short, from error, confusion ensued; and there appears not the least resource to rectify the first mistake, or abilities to re-establish order. After the retreat into the intrenchment, there were warm debates amongst the principal officers, what further measures were to be pursued, when the re-imbarkation was judged expedient: I must, however, do honour to the courage of a compatriot, General Vaughan, who, I am informed, was averse from retreating on board the transports; but, as the loss sustained, was not so considerable as to prevent the army from

B b

acting.

acting, gave it as his opinion, that it should remain on shore to renew the attack the ensuing day.

As large sums of money had been expended on this expedition, the people had formed great expectations from it; you may therefore judge of the national feelings, on the arrival of the melancholy news. The court endeavoured to palliate the disgrace, but it was exaggerated by the people. O' Reilly, universally detested by the natives, was denounced a victim to their wrath; and such was the general outcry, that mobs assembled upon the road to Alicant, and stopt many carriages, with an intent to reek their vengeance on the commander; they even went so far, as to make people get out of their vehicles, and walk before them, O' Reilly being lame, that he might not be concealed. Had the liberty of the press prevailed, all Europe would have known the sentiments of the nation upon this occasion: invective spread its influence through the realm, and did not stop at the palace gate; the prince was libelled and threatened, if his favourite should ever appear at court: the rage was so great against him, that the King was obliged to remove him from being governor of Madrid, and appoint a Spaniard in his room, when he was made a captain general of Andalusia. To shew you how far the Spaniards extend their detestation against the Count and his party, I must inform you, that Ricardos, lieutenant general of horse on the expedition, a friend of O' Reilly's, having landed whilst I was at Cadiz, and walking near the coffee-house, where the officers of several regiments were assembled, they to a man quitted the place, and left him to ruminate alone.

A Spanish

A Spanish serjeant, giving an account of this expedition to his wife, says, *Nos Mandaron a tierra, como si ibemos a beber Cafè con los Moros.*

I have only to wish the Christians better success in their crusades; more honour under abler commanders; and to assure you that

I am; &c.

F I N I S.

Bibb







