

stagnate wealth circulate a little, and become of some use; but the proposals were not accepted by the court; and this man had the fate so common to genius in this country: His parts raised him envy and enemies at court, and in the end he was banished entirely, and confined to CORUNNA, where he died. His *Political Testament* is a great curiosity; but I could never get sight of it. And since his time another gentleman designs laying some proposals of the same sort and tendency before the present ministers. These may possibly meet with a more favourable reception: for as the present King has just now had spirit enough to confine the inquisitor-general, and banish him to a great distance; a bolder stroke than any of his predecessors ever dared to attempt! he certainly need not fear to put any measures in execution, which he judges to be expedient.—But to return to TOLEDO.

THE *Alcassar*, or Palace, built by CHARLES V. as some say, or, as others, by the Archduke CHARLES, is a noble building; though it is now almost a ruin, being burnt by the Allies and Austrian party, in the partition or succession-war, lest it should fall into the hands of PHILIP V. Who would ever conceive, that this very PHILIP should have afterwards desired an alliance with the burner of his own palace, and the competitor for his throne? It was such a counsel as no one but a RIPPERDA could suggest, or indeed execute: yet such was the VIENNA-Treaty! But I forget TOLEDO. The manufactory for *swords* is just revived there, and their goodness is solely owing to the confluence of the XARAMA and the TAGUS: for those two rivers have been tried separately, by way of experiment, by the King's order, and their disunited waters will not give that *trempe*. This manufactory is all worked by English tools, which came into the hands of the Spaniards very oddly: The story, as I was told it, runs thus;—About twenty years ago, a set of English workmen came upon contract to TOLEDO, to make such works, or engines, as were necessary for throwing the water of the river up the rock into the town: for at present it is brought by asses, each ass carrying six earthen pitchers burthen, as indeed is the general custom throughout SPAIN: These English contractors brought with them all sorts of English instruments and tools necessary for such a work, and some very large

large iron pipes. The undertaking certainly was difficult; but foreigners professing and endeavouring to execute such a work, as the *Spaniards* owned themselves unequal to; and then these being *English Heretics*, all these circumstances soon raised the envy and jealousy of the people: In short, from their opposition, and their endeavours to counteract every step the English undertook, the whole project and design came to nothing. But here my story begins to grow dark; for the conclusion is, that these English all died, and as there was no heir to claim their effects, they were kept *as goods without an owner*; and what remains of these tools and effects are now in the hands of the King of SPAIN, and employed in the old, but just-revived *Sword-Fabric* of TOLEDO.

BUT give me leave here to make one or two remarks.——
The effects and goods of these unfortunate contractors amounted at least to above 1000l. What! were they and their servants all so absolutely swept away, that no one should remain as heir, claimer, or inheritor of these effects? Had they no friends, or even relations left in ENGLAND? Was there no resident, or ambassador then in SPAIN, to apply to for the removal of these goods, or at least for the sale of them? All these circumstances seem to me so improbable, that I am at a loss what to say, or what to conjecture: And the whole, I think, that can be said, is, that it is really a very blind story.

BUT to return to TOLEDO; the city, like that of SEGOVIA, is built upon a rocky mountain; but you must remember at the same time that it was built by the Goths or the Moors. I take particular notice of this circumstance for two reasons; first, because it is evident, that a principle of fear, and self-defence, drove those people into such marvellous situations: And secondly, Because a Spaniard would never have been industrious enough to have carried so much weighty and bulky materials up so high, and into such impregnable and almost inaccessible strongholds. For you can neither get in or out of those cities, without passing a descent or ascent of immense length, and all in zigzags, just like lines of circumvallation. The gates and portcullis's, like some of the *Saxon*
I have

I have seen in ENGLAND, or *Norman*, never face the street, but are all in oblique positions. The streets of TOLEDO are remarkably narrow, but those of SEGOVIA much broader, and the walls of immense height, with turrets all round.

THERE is indeed one very great curiosity at TOLEDO, not yet mentioned, which is an *original Hebrew Temple*, and it certainly is a fine remain; but here, to my sorrow, the piety of the Spaniard in converting this temple from Judaism to Christianity, or rather to Popery, has taken away much matter of entertainment to the antiquarians. The antient divisions, or *cancellæ*, were all taken down; the *sanctum sanctorum*, and even the *tabernacle* itself was here literally done away. There was likewise above a separate *tribune* for the women, as I remember there had been at St. CROSS at WINCHESTER; and the walls, which are covered with the finest Hebrew characters in the world, I believe; written all over with the *Psalms in Hebrew*; these the good Spaniard had very zealously plaistered over with untempered mortar. (Whether or no this temple will furnish arguments for or against Bishop HARE or Dr. LOWTH; whether it will determine any thing relating to the metre, the points, the vowels; or whether it will support any *Hutchinsonian* nonsense; all these things must be left to another time, and in the interim I shall go on with my tale.)

THERE were now no longer any traces or appearance of aught that ever had been *Jewish*, as much as if TITUS, or the Inquisitor-General had been visitors; and so this temple stood for many years: There was nothing but a vague and vulgar tradition remaining, to prove that it ever had been Jewish, and was now wearing the *San-Benito*. But fortunately for the antiquarians, a canon and treasurer of the church of TOLEDO, whose name is DON PEREZ BAYER, being a man of parts and learning, and having a particular turn for Hebrew, as one would think indeed from his name: This gentleman, I say, happily observing, that in some places where the plaister had fallen off, *Hebrew letters* might be traced, he had spirit enough instantly to set about the displaistering the inside of the temple, and has since very accurately and carefully copied the whole into a book, taken drawings and a section of the

building, and explained all with a learned and elegant dissertation: This book, you must know, he cannot well publish in SPAIN; Spanish writers lie under disagreeable restraints in that particular. UGOLINUS, the great collector of Hebrew antiquities, would fain have begged it of him, but he refused: I offered to publish it in ENGLAND for him, if he would let me; but he said he had not finished it, and would at least put the last hand to it, before he ever thought of printing.

THERE are, I am told, near the city of TOLEDO, some remains of a *Circus* and *Amphitheatre*, which are *Roman*, but at present one may almost say,

— *etiam hæc perire ruinae.*

As I had but an indifferent *Ciceroni*, these I did not see. Nor, which I am sorry for, the very curious *library* which belongs to the *cathedral*, replete with invaluable treasures. But as one frankly owned to me, they do not much care to shew their library, and less to print a catalogue of what it contains; lest they should disclose how rich they are: politically apprehending, perhaps not without reason, that if others were let into the secret, they might possibly like to have a greater share in those treasures, than would be agreeable.

THERE is also an hospital for the *French disease* only, which will easily tell you the prevalence and malignance of that distemper in this country. This is more owing to their want of neatness, and their ignorance in physic and chirurgery, than to any other cause. I remember the King's physician told me, that it had been observed, that patients infected with this disease, if they came from a colder climate, were easily cured here; but if they went from hence infected into a colder climate, that they seldom or ever could be cured. There is an hospital also for *foundlings*, where the children seem to be well taken care of.

I DO not remember any thing more worth observing with regard to TOLEDO, than that they had hung on the wall of one of their convents a vast number of fetters, which were taken when they released some christian captives from the MOORS. The fetters are indeed monstrously large, and of inhuman weight: such is Eastern cruelty! They were taken at the conquest of GRANADA.

LETTER

LETTER X.

Description of the City of SEGOVIA.

HAVING just given a description of TOLEDO, I shall now give an account of SEGOVIA, for though the two cities are at such a distance from each other, they have some resemblance in common, and may serve as companions, like two pictures, to each other.

THE site of the city has something of a very martial air, built upon a high rude rock; by which means most of the entrances to it are steep, and disagreeable, especially as you are obliged to make several zigzag-windings before you can gain the summit: It is entirely surrounded with a lofty old Moorish wall, with battlements and turrets, in the stile of the fortifications of those days; which indeed were almost impregnable. There are several *Roman inscriptions* in the walls; some too high ever to be read, others turned wrong side upwards, others defaced, and some with the inscription turned inwards: For as the MOORS considered these only as meer stones to build with, it is no wonder to find them in such strange positions. I copied one or two of them of no moment, but however they serve me as proofs to make out one point, which I shall speak to hereafter. On the *castle* or palace-side of the town is a deep, natural foss, formed by two contiguous ridges of mountain; on the northern side a small river runs at the foot of the rock; which serves to little other use, but to turn a large paper-mill, where they make great quantities of an ordinary

coarse paper. The next advantage they draw from this river, is the washing themselves and their linen; which last is performed in SPAIN in the following manner, however it may surprize a good ENGLISH housewife. The women carry all their linen down in great bundles to the side of this river; and having chose a good smooth stone, or sometimes a piece of wood, they kneel down, wet the linen, and then wring it and soap it; and then beat it upon the stone or wood, till they have got the dirt out of it. And this is all the operation; the chief inconvenience of which is, that the linen is apt to be beat to pieces, otherwise it is clean enough. *Ironing* is, I believe, but little used in this country; plaiting never; and the folding or smoothing the linen is most commonly done by the hand, or what we call the mangle, or calendar. In FRANCE, I am told, the linen is washed in the same manner, as may be seen on the banks of their rivers, and on those of the SEINE at PARIS, where the water is so muddy and yellow, as to leave a bad tinge upon the linen. I am informed by a friend, that at St. MALO and other sea-ports in BRITANNY and NORMANDY, the women take the opportunity of the tide's going out, to wash their linen in the sea-water left in the cavities or basons in the rocks; when having soaked, soaped and washed it, they lay it on the rock, and beat it with a kind of wooden battledore, which commonly pinks it full of holes.

BUT as to the river's being of much use to the city, by supplying it with water for all the domestic purposes of life: This you will easily imagine could not be the case, from the extreme height of the mountain; and, because they must constantly have brought it up with asses, as they do at TOLEDO. It was this inconvenience, and the desire of supplying the city more effectually, that gave rise to one of the noblest works, to one of the most magnificent fabrics of that sort possibly in the whole world: You will naturally guess, I mean, THE AQUEDUCT.

THE extent of this *Aqueduct* is said to be about three miles; at the eastern entrance of the town it begins with small arches gradually

gradually encreasing, and rising, till it expands into a double row of arches and pillars, and has then the noblest effect you can possibly conceive: Some of the first arches are a little more *pointed* than the rest (which are fairly circular) tho' not enough, I think, to be really called pointed arches. The people have built so many houses round this *Aqueduct*, it would grieve any true Antiquarian to the heart; since you are hindered from having so full and complete a view of it, as a whole, which every curious spectator would wish: The stone-pipes too, or ducts of water, fixed to the sides of it in some places, deface it much, and look rather like props; but they are certainly of the same age with the rest. With regard to the height, and other measures of this fabric, I was forced to take them myself: for as to the people, they neither know nor care how high it is, or how broad. Thus it fares with objects, which we see every day. Let them be ever so noble, or excellent, when they become familiar, they are neglected: It is the novelty that strikes, and not the excellence. This is not peculiar to these people, but is the case of all: let an Englishman never have seen the sea before, and I will warrant for his admiration and surprize; though if you ask a peasant about it near BRIGHTHELMSTONE, he will tell you, "He don't see any thing very extraordinary in it."—Upon enquiring about the *Aqueduct*, some said it was 108 feet high, and that the number of arches was 150; others 144 feet, and 177 arches. The reason of this difference is, that as the arches must be of unequal heights, to maintain a *level*, they have measured from different stations: This indeed accounts for the difference of the measures, but not for the number of the arches: How that happened I cannot say. The following measures I can answer for, since I took them upon the spot with my own hands. Its greatest height is exactly 101 feet, and 1 inch; for I took the measure from the highest trace of stone.

The breadth of the front of the pillars, 6 feet, 2 inches;
 The depth of them, 11 feet, 3 inches;
 The width of the arches, 12 feet, 7 inches, and one quarter.

As to the number of the arches, we counted them, and we could reckon only 118 to the city-wall from the first visible arch; and

and seven more arches within the walls; in all 125: But then, where the arches were double, that is, placed one over another, we did not count those, as two arches, but as single: Because in conveying an idea of this *Aqueduct* to one who had never seen it, we judged, that a stranger would always form his notion of the length of this *Aqueduct* by the number of arches continued in length. Again, as to the measures, except that of the height, they are only true with regard to that particular part, arch, or pillar, which I measured at that time: For I measured several others since, and find their dimensions differ widely from one another, so that there is no one general proportion, which runs through the whole structure. The reason of which I take to be, that where they were obliged to make the *Aqueduct* higher, in order to preserve the level; that there they were obliged to enlarge the proportions, and increased the base in proportion to the height of the pillar; and consequently contracted the arches, in order to make the building more stable. It seems to be built without any cement, and the stones are about *three feet* long, and *two feet* thick; all roughly hewn, and with the edges rounded, not sharp. Why the SPANISH writers chuse to call this *the Bridge of SEGOVIA*, and not *the Aqueduct*, is a solecism I cannot account for: But this is the language of MARIANA, PINEDA, and many others. A Spaniard being asked, why he called it *The PUENTE DE SEGOVIA*, answered, *because it was a bridge*; for though it was not indeed a bridge for people to walk over, yet it was a bridge for water to go over. And perhaps this may be their reason, though it certainly is a very odd one. Old Spanish writers call it *PUENTE SECA*, which is stranger still; for sure no one can say with any propriety, that an *Aqueduct* is a *Dry Bridge*.

HAVING now given a description of this truly magnificent structure; the next enquiry is, *who* was the author? and *when* it was built? I think, there are but three or four opinions about it. MARIANA, according to his usual modesty, is in suspense; and doubts whether it is to be attributed to the Emperor TRAJAN, or to LICINIUS LARIUS, who was praetor in SPAIN, under VESPASIAN, and a friend of PLINY the elder. Father HENRY FLORES,