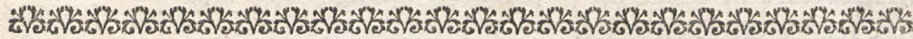


which is now corruptly called LANGUEDOC: but in their turn they gave place to the MOORS or ARABS, whose dominion ceased, when PELAYO was established in his throne. The MOORS conquered all SPAIN, except those mountainous parts, whither some bodies of resolute christians fled for refuge. These by degrees planned and concerted measures to shake off the Arabic yoke. The first stand against them was made by the mountaineers of ASTURIAS, who elected King the Infant Don PELAYO, swearing the nobles over a shield, and crying out, *Real! Real!* This PELAYO was a Gothic prince by birth, so that he in some measure restored again the Gothic monarchy. He recovered GIJON and LEON; and his son got possession of part of PORTUGAL, and all GALLICIA. From this recovery of LEON came the race of the kings of OVIEDO and LEON. The boldness and success of these christians alarming the ARABS, they attacked them in their different strong-holds, in order to cut off their communications one with another. But this produced a very different effect from what they expected. The christians, to repel the danger that threatened them on every side at the same time, chose different heads in different places, who being separate one from the other in their governments, defended their subjects independently of one another. This necessary resolution gave rise to the *different kingdoms* in SPAIN. Such was their undoubted origin, tho' it is impossible to say, at what exact period each kingdom rose, as there are no antient monuments remaining sufficient to prove that point.

THE first kingdom or monarchy that arose, after the Moorish invasion, was that, as we have said, of Don PELAYO in the ASTURIAS, an elective monarchy: and in proportion as the Asturian princes dislodged the pagans of those lands and territories that lay nearest to them, they changed the stile of their titles; being first called Kings of ASTURIAS, then of OVIEDO, and lastly of LEON and GALLICIA, until they were incorporated with the Kings of CASTILE, by the marriage of Queen Donna SANCHA ISABELLA, sister of King Don BERMUDO III. its last prince, both of them descendants of King Don ALONZO V. who married the daughter of FERDINAND *the great*, to whom some give the title of Emperor, and who was first King of CASTILE.

OF this long period, in which the christian princes gained such glorious successes, and singular victories over the infidels, there are some short and obscure accounts in the little chronicles of Don ALONZO III. King of LEON, furnamed *the great*, and of ALVEDA, of SAMPIRO, and of Don PELAYO.



COUNTS and KINGS of *CASTILE*.

AT the same time with these ASTURIAN Princes, arose many nobles, who signed their deeds and instruments, with the titles of Counts or Princes, and, among others, those of CASTILE, which state arrived at sovereignty in the time of the great Count FERNAN GONZALEZ, by his heroic valour, glorious triumphs, and extended power. The most distinguished Prince of this house was Don SANCHO GARCIA, whose violent death was the cause, why this house united itself to the crown of ARRAGON and NAVARRE, by the marriage of the Princess Donna SANCHA his sister, with the King Don SANCHO MAYOR, whose second son Don FERNANDO raised CASTILE into a kingdom. CASTILE afterwards became an hereditary crown in his lineage, in preference to all the other kingdoms, altho' inferior in origin to ARRAGON and NAVARRE.

THE series and chronology of the several counts is much contested between the Spanish writers, ARREDONDO, AREVALO, SANDOVAL, and others: a dispute not worth our entering into, since it is certain, that from the bravery, success, and power with which Don FERNANDO extended his dominion, so as to be stiled first king of CASTILE, his kingdom became so famous, that all the Moorish princes acknowledged him for their sovereign. His son was Don ALONZO VI. his grand-daughter was the Queen Donna URACA, with whom ended the barony of NAVARRE: the crown of CASTILE falling back again into the house of the Counts of BURGUNDY (who came from the Kings of ITALY) by her marriage with the Count Don RAYMUND, her first husband; from which match came their son the great Emperor Don ALONZO VII.

THIS prince left his estates divided between his two sons: To Don SANCHO, the eldest, whose great virtues and untimely death gained him the name of *the regretted*, he left the kingdoms of CASTILE, and part of LEON: And to Don FERDINAND, the second, the rest of LEON, GALLICIA, and ASTURIAS. He took upon himself the title of King of SPAIN, pretending that the primogeniture of the GOTHs, which was re-established in PELAYO, had centered in himself.

DON SANCHO dying, he was succeeded by Don ALONZO *the noble*, one of the greatest princes of his time. It was he who gained the famous battle of the plains of TOLOSA over the MOORS, destroying 200,000 of them at one time †. He dying without issue-male, the two kingdoms of CASTILE and TOLEDO went to Donna BERENGUELA, his eldest daughter.

ALTHOUGH the royal barony of BURGUNDY ended in the Queen Donna BERENGUELA, it returned and united with the kingdom of LEON, GALLICIA, and ASTURIAS by the marriage of King Don ALONZO, her uncle (who succeeded in those kingdoms to King Don FERNANDO, brother to King Don ALONZO *the noble*, her grandfather) from which match came the King SN. FERNANDO, from whom descended, without interruption, the Kings of CASTILE and ARRAGON, until united in FERDINAND and ISABELLA, they relapsed into the august house of AUSTRIA, by the marriage of the Queen Donna JUANA, their eldest daughter, to the Arch-Duke Don PHILIP I. from which great union sprung the Emperor CHARLES V.

FROM this period downward, the Spanish history is very connectedly written, and well known; I shall now therefore only give a summary view of it from the death of CHARLES II. to the present time.

† Begging the Spanish historian's pardon, this number must be exaggerated: 50,000 slain is full enough for any hero.

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A CONCISE VIEW OF
THE HISTORY OF SPAIN,

From the Death of CHARLES II.

To the Present Time.

AS CHARLES the second of SPAIN had no issue, ENGLAND, FRANCE, and HOLLAND, formed, in 1699, the famous treaty of partition, for dividing the dominions of the crown of SPAIN, upon his death. Each party had, or, at least, pretended to have, the common view, in this treaty, of preventing such a vast accession of power from passing, either into the House of AUSTRIA, or that of BOURBON, already formidable enough of themselves. This step very sensibly affected the court of SPAIN: CHARLES the second was so much offended thereat, that, on his death-bed, he signed a will, by which he bequeathed all his dominions to PHILIP Duke of ANJOU, grandson of LEWIS XIV. Though that Prince had before entered into the partition treaty, yet, finding the succession thus left to his family, he paid no regard to any former engagements or renunciations, but on the 18th of February, declared his grandson, PHILIP, King of SPAIN, who arrived at Madrid on the 14th of April, 1701. This proceeding immediately alarmed the maritime powers and the Emperor; the former were apprehensive of Spanish AMERICA's falling into the hands of the FRENCH, and the latter, besides the injury he imagined done to his own family, dreaded the too great influence of the power of the House of BOURBON. A war ensued; and CHARLES Arch-duke of AUSTRIA was soon after set up, in opposition to PHILIP V. His claim was vigorously supported by the maritime powers, and at first favoured by many of the grandees of SPAIN. In the third year of this war, the King of PORTUGAL and the Duke of SAVOY joined likewise

wife in the alliance against PHILIP; who, in the following campaigns, was driven from his capital, by the success of the allied forces, and almost obliged to abandon SPAIN. In the end, however, his party prevailed, and, at the peace of UTRECHT in 1713, he was acknowledged as King of SPAIN by all the confederates leagued against him, except the Emperor. The allies then contented themselves with such limitations and restrictions, as might keep the two monarchies of FRANCE and SPAIN disunited. A treaty of partition may, indeed, be said to have taken place at the last; for PHILIP, by the articles of the peace, was only left in possession of SPAIN, its American colonies, and settlements in the EAST-INDIES; but the Spanish dominions in ITALY, and the islands of SICILY and SARDINIA were dismembered from the monarchy, which had also lost the island of MINORCA and the fortress of GIBRALTAR, both of which places were ceded to GREAT-BRITAIN. The Duke of SAVOY was put in possession of the island of SICILY, with the title of King; and the Arch-duke CHARLES, who, two years before, had been elected Emperor of GERMANY, held MILAN, NAPLES, and SARDINIA, and still kept up his claim to the whole Spanish monarchy.

THOUGH PHILIP, by the peace concluded at UTRECHT, was left, by the allies, possessor of the greatest and most important part of the Spanish dominions, yet some obstinate enemies still remained to be reduced, before he could be said to have fixed the Spanish crown securely upon his head. The inhabitants of CATALONIA refused to acknowledge him, and, finding themselves abandoned by their allies, solicited the assistance of the Grand Signior, in hopes of establishing themselves into an independent republic. Their blind obstinacy, however, served only to heighten the miseries and calamities to which they had been greatly exposed during the whole course of the war. After a most bloody and stubborn defence, they were entirely reduced by the King's troops, when they were deprived of their antient privileges, and their country was annexed to the crown of CASTILE, as a conquered province.

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THE reduction of CATALONIA restored tranquillity to SPAIN, which had been harassed for twelve years by a most cruel and bloody war. PHILIP, by that conquest, finding himself quietly seated upon the throne, began to turn his thoughts to the re-union of the Italian dominions, which he had seen wrested from him with the utmost regret. With a view to this re-union, his first wife being dead, he married ELIZABETH FARNESE, heiress of PARMA, PLACENTIA, and TUSCANY; which alliance afterwards proved a source of new dissensions and wars among the Princes of Europe; and, to this day, still leaves an opening for bloody contests.

THE match was first proposed, and afterwards negotiated, by the famous Abbé ALBERONI, who, from being a simple curate in the PARMESAN, rose, by a surprising series of fortunate incidents, more than by any extraordinary talents, to be prime minister in SPAIN. ALBERONI was the son of a common gardener. In the beginning of the war he had, by his forwardness and address, insinuated himself into the favour of VENDOME, the French General in ITALY, who brought him with him to FRANCE, and afterwards to MADRID, where, after the Duke's death, he continued as agent for the affairs of PARMA, and laid hold of the opportunity of aggrandising himself, by proposing a match that suited with the views of the Spanish court. The new Queen, being a stranger in SPAIN, was advised in every thing by ALBERONI, who, being protected and countenanced by her, boldly intermeddled in affairs of state, and soon acquired a great degree of favour with the King. A few days after the celebration of the King's marriage with the Princess of PARMA, his grandfather, LEWIS XIV. died, and left his dominions to an infant successor. Though PHILIP had, before the conclusion of the treaty of UTRECHT, solemnly renounced, for himself, and his heirs, all right to the succession of the crown of FRANCE, yet he was now strongly urged by ALBERONI, to insist upon the regency of that kingdom, during the minority, as first Prince of the blood of FRANCE, and next in succession to the present monarch. This wild and imprudent counsel, if it had been followed, would undoubtedly have involved SPAIN in a new war,
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which would have had no other object, than the meer point of honour; and, upon that consideration, and, perhaps, some regard to the oath, it was rejected by the King. It proved, however, extremely prejudicial to SPAIN, and, in the end, occasioned the ruin of ALBERONI; for the Duke of ORLEANS, who had been declared Regent by the Parliament of PARIS, having received intelligence of his designs, conceived an implacable hatred against him; did his utmost to thwart all his projects of government; and never ceased persecuting him till he saw him disgraced. This happened a very few years afterward, the Duke's wishes being seconded by ALBERONI's own conduct; for the same impetuous and intriguing spirit, which had promoted his grandeur, pushed him on to his downfall.

AT this time, however, he was in the height of favour, and continually urged the King, not to delay the renewing of the war in ITALY, against the Emperor CHARLES, who gave just foundation for a rupture, by still retaining the title of King of SPAIN; by creating Spanish grandees; by protecting those who were disaffected to PHILIP; and by punishing those who remained faithful to him, with the forfeiture of their estates in FLANDERS and ITALY. The Queen, who was lately delivered of a son, had now got a great ascendancy over her husband, and zealously supporting ALBERONI in all his proceedings, PHILIP, out of complaisance to her, was easily persuaded to commit the whole management of his affairs to him, and weakly suffered himself to be guided, in every thing, by his counsels. ALBERONI, though not declared prime minister, now acted as such, with a most despotic authority, and caused immense military preparations to be carried on in the ports of SPAIN, with the design of attacking the dominions possessed by the Emperor in ITALY. But, to deceive the Pope, from whom he had, for some time, been soliciting a Cardinal's hat, and who, he knew, would be greatly offended with the renewal of the war in ITALY, he, by private letters, professed his abhorrence of disturbing the repose of that country, and alledged, that the naval armaments were designed against the Turks, who had attacked the Venetian

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Venetian territories in GREECE, and even struck a terror into the Italians, by making a descent upon their coasts.

THE great naval preparations kept all EUROPE in suspense, and very much alarmed several states. The Emperor suspected an attack upon NAPLES and MILAN; the Duke of SAVOY feared an invasion of SICILY, which island, he knew, was not well affected to him; and GEORGE I. of GREAT-BRITAIN, was apprehensive, that the fleet was designed to assist the Jacobites, who had been defeated two years before in SCOTLAND.

ALBERONI having, at length, obtained from the Pope, not only the dignity of Cardinal for himself, but also an indulgence to raise a subsidy, for five years, upon the clergy in SPAIN and Spanish AMERICA, immediately took off the mask, and ordered the fleet to sail against SARDINIA, which island was reduced in less than two months. The Emperor being, at this time, engaged in a war against the Turks in HUNGARY, had left but a very few troops in his Italian dominions, not expecting to be attacked by PHILIP in those parts, as both Princes had stipulated to observe a neutrality, in regard to them. He had, indeed, done some things that might be deemed infractions of that neutrality; but the King of SPAIN not having made any formal complaints of these, was now generally looked upon as the aggressor, by the invasion of SARDINIA.

ACCORDINGLY the Pope, who now never mentioned ALBERONI's name but with some injurious epithet, by a public brief expressed his resentment against PHILIP, and he, in return, commanded the nuntio to leave SPAIN. The King of GREAT-BRITAIN and the Regent of FRANCE ordered their ambassadors at MADRID, to complain of the violation of the neutrality. They even sent ambassadors extraordinary to SPAIN, to press an accommodation between the Emperor and PHILIP. ALBERONI, however, replying, in a very haughty stile, and continuing his military preparations with more vigour than ever, the powers who offered their mediation entered into a league with the Emperor, which was called the triple alliance: and King GEORGE sent a fleet of 26
c ships