

of his countrymen, had exclusively devoted his life to the pursuits of rural economy. In a country where the fine season lasts nine or ten months of the year, where the winter is scarcely felt and never totally divests the fields of their verdure, it is rather extraordinary that this preference of a country life should be so rare.

Beyond Vendrell you proceed through a naked country to the handsome village of Villafrauca, and on leaving that place, you have before you a chain of mountains which bounds the horizon on almost every side. Here is situated the celebrated convent of Montserrat, the solitary abode of those recluses who have engaged the attention of more than one traveller, and among whom I was informed that some French prelates had shortly before taken refuge.

The monastery of Montserrat is eight leagues to the north-west of Barcelona. The only place worthy of notice in this interval, is the town of Terrasa, known for its manufactures of fine woollen cloths. On the brow of a lofty mountain is situated the convent adjoining to the church, which is one of the most remarkable monuments of sumptuous devotion. It contains eighty silver lamps, chandeliers, shrines, crosses, busts of the same metal, crowns enriched with precious stones, and magnificent apparel, all appropriated to the decoration of a wonder-working image of the blessed Virgin.

What extravagant profusion in the midst of a country, where industry yet requires so much encouragement! I am not the advocate either for the profanation or the forcible plunder of temples. These abrupt reformations, these paroxysms of persecution, presuppose and are attended with other excesses. Commanded perhaps by reason, they are accomplished by madness, and the scandal which they occasion, is one of the least of the evils that result from them. But, thought I, were these treasures, now so uselessly hoarded up, applied to the facilitating of the communication between Valencia and Barcelona, and between Barcelona and Saragossa, to the improvement of the interior of Catalonia, of which too favourable an opinion is formed by those who have seen nothing of it but the coasts, they would not confer less honor on the image to which they are consecrated, neither would those to whose care they are entrusted be less happy or less revered.

The recluses of Montserrat are thirteen or fourteen in number. Their hermitages are scattered over the side of the mountain, and occupy a space of near two leagues up to its summit. The highest, that of St. Jerome, commands a magnificent view over plains of immense extent. From this spot the eye expatiates over rivers, whose courses it pursues, cities, islands, and the expanded bosom of the Mediterranean. The tenants of these soli-

tary retreats cannot be supposed to have much relish for beauties which daily meet their view; but setting aside that devotion which has been so bitterly calumniated, but whose illusions would embellish the most dreary desert, they here lead a tranquil and even agreeable life, without having any prescribed task to perform, without any anxiety in respect to a livelihood, without remorse, but not without austerity. In the midst of their useless wealth, in the bosom of abundance, they limit themselves to a happy mediocrity, and the hospitality which they shew to travellers is almost their only expence. Philosophy might proscribe, and policy attempt to reform, but cruelty alone could find in its heart to curse them. But to return to the route to Barcelona.

Beyond Villafranca the road was already marked out and even begun upon, but it was at that time so exceedingly neglected, so dreadfully encumbered with rocks, that a hundred times I wished it had not yet been planned except upon paper. The bridges were the only part on which due attention had been bestowed. At one of them, distant a quarter of a league from the inn called the *Ostal d'Orda*, we found a piece of excellent road, after which, turning short to the right, we came to one so bad that it can scarcely be matched in Spain. We tumbled, in a manner, down a narrow, steep, rugged road, which borders a deep valley. To avoid this passage which

was at that time really frightful, but has since been repaired, a bold plan had been formed, the object of which was to join the two opposite mountains by a kind of bridge of three stories. The projectors had not maturely weighed the difficulties of this undertaking, which it was found necessary to relinquish; but the very plan has in it something extremely striking. A foot-path which leads across the valley, enters the arches of this triple bridge, and enables the spectator to embrace the gigantic whole.

Beyond this wall the traveller found himself, even in 1793, on a tolerable road, which leads to one of the finest bridges in Europe. It is five hundred and forty paces long, and extends across the whole broad bed of the little river Llobregat. It takes its name from a village which you come to beyond it, Molinos del Rey, or Remolinos. The country through which you pass before you reach it, is picturesque but wild. Lofty mountains bound almost the whole horizon. On their prodigious sides you behold the conflict of industry and sterility. The plough has turned up every part that is not absolutely inaccessible.



C H A P. XV.

Environs and Interior of Barcelona. Fortress of Montjouy. Details relative to Catalonia. Corvera. Diocese of Solsona. Mine of Cardona. Lerida. Course of the Segre.

A FINE road conducts from Los Molinos del Rey to Barcelona, a distance of four leagues. Nothing can be more delightful, more lively, more luxuriant than the country adjacent to that capital, which is worthy, in every point of view, of the notice of the traveller. Its port contributes greatly to its embellishment, though neither good nor capacious. It is even likely to be entirely choked up, unless a speedy remedy be applied. The sea has sensibly receded from it within half a century. A space of fifty or sixty fathoms which was then covered with it is now dry. The Llobregat and the Besos, two small rivers which discharge themselves one on each side of Montjouy, produce an accumulation of sand in that part; the bar formed in consequence, increases every year, and leaves to the ships that enter the port but narrow and variable passages, for which

they require the assistance of coast-pilots. It would be possible to check the progress of this evil, by giving another direction to the currents of the two rivers, and forming a new basin. A few years since some wealthy Dutchmen proposed to undertake the execution of this enterprise, if they might be allowed to levy certain dues for a limited time, but the court of Madrid either unwilling to increase the importance of Barcelona, which approaches the capital, and far surpasses Cadiz in population; or firmly adhering to the plan of promoting in preference the prosperity of Tarragon; or induced by some other political motive, gave no encouragement to the proposal of the Hollanders.

The port of Barcelona, such as it is, and as it will long continue in its state of progressive deterioration, is formed by a kind of bay situated between the citadel of Montjouy or Montjouich, the city of Barcelona, and Barcelonetta, a small modern town the residence of all the workmen employed in the dock-yard, and all the seamen both natives and foreigners. It is to the Marquis de la Mina, one of the last captains-general of Catalonia, that Spain is indebted for the foundation of this town, on a sandy spot, covered less than a century ago by the waters of the Mediterranean. The streets of Barcelonetta are all perfectly straight, and the houses uniform. They have been built only one story high, in order to

facilitate the superintendance over the turbulent class of people by which they are inhabited, and not to intercept the view of the sea from the houses in the city. The author of this excellent idea richly deserved the tomb which has been erected to his honor in the principal church of Barcelona.

The merchants of Barcelona are proprietors of between one hundred and one hundred and twenty vessels both of two and three masts. Full one-third of these are employed in time of peace, in conveying to America the productions of the soil and of the industry of Catalonia. The rest are engaged either in the commerce with the different ports in the Mediterranean, or in the brisk coasting-trade carried on from the confines of France to Cadiz. They have, besides, a multitude of smaller vessels with lateen sails, which confine themselves to the inferior branches of the latter.

That part of the city contiguous to the harbour, contains the objects most worthy of notice in Barcelona; the fine walk, in the form of a terrace, which runs along the port; the *Lonja*, a new edifice comprehending a drawing-school, a seminary for pilots and a commercial academy; the residence of the captain-general, which notwithstanding its defects, has a majestic appearance; and the new custom-house, a magnificent building which was scarcely finished in 1793.

There is not a city in Spain, where a greater appearance of activity, or more real industry prevail, notwithstanding the causes of idleness and depopulation which still exist in Barcelona, as well as in the rest of the kingdom. It contains eighty-two churches, twenty-seven convents of monks, eighteen nunneries, and several congregations. According to the enumeration of 1787, the inhabitants of Barcelona amounted to one hundred and eleven thousand four hundred and ten; it has now one hundred and sixty thousand including the religious houses, the garrison and Barcelonetta. In no part of the country has the increase of population been more rapid, if it be true, as we are assured, that in 1715, Barcelona contained only thirty-seven thousand souls, and that so late as the period of the landing of Charles III. in 1759, it had no more than fifty-three thousand. A circumstance which inclines us to believe this statement is the prodigious number of buildings erected within these few years, not only in the interior of the city, but also particularly in its environs; so that in the number and beauty of its country-houses Barcelona is surpassed by very few cities of France. Marseilles might in many respects be compared with it, and in some, is certainly superior to Barcelona: but its territory cannot be put in competition with that of the latter city, where you meet at one and the same time with beautiful scenery,

every variety of cultivation, the bustle of industry and all the symptoms of affluence. If to the charms of such a country we add the advantage of an atmosphere extremely pure ; a fertile soil, and a climate which, without being intensely hot, favors the growth of all the productions of warmer regions ; the concourse of foreigners who abound there ; a numerous garrison ; the means of instruction afforded by several literary societies, a theatre of anatomy, the public libraries, a cabinet of natural history, which was highly esteemed by Tournefort, which he enriched with a valuable collection of plants from the Levant, and which, though belonging to a private individual, yet, for the variety and judicious selection of the curiosities of the three kingdoms of nature, might excite the envy of many a petty sovereign ; beautiful walks ; companies numerous and select ; that variety of occupations displayed by commerce and industry ; we shall be obliged to admit that few cities in Europe, offer such diversified pleasures as Barcelona.

The amateurs of the fine arts will here admire three pictures by Mengs ; and the lovers of antiquities will find six fluted columns of the Corinthian order, the remains of a magnificent edifice, respecting the destination of which the learned are not agreed ; the ruins of an amphitheatre, and of a bath ; several trunks of antique statues ; and lastly, a great number of inscrip-

tions which still continue to exercise the ingenuity of the literati.

In a military point of view also Barcelona is a place of great importance. The reader will recollect the long resistance which it made in 1714 to Marshal de Berwick, and the value which Philip V. attached to its conquest, without which he would not have thought himself securely seated upon the throne of Spain: and in the war with France, in the second half of which the latter obtained such advantages on the side of Catalonia, her victorious generals looked forward to the reduction of this city, as a decisive stroke. It owes its strength to the prodigious citadel which defends it on the east, and to Montjouy, which commands and protects it on the west. Montjouy is a mountain of considerable height, on whose summit there is a large fortress capable of containing a numerous garrison. It is fortified with great care towards the city, and remarkably steep on the side next to the sea. Though its appearance, at first sight, is highly imposing, the professional man who takes the trouble to examine it, soon discovers that it is too large, too much loaded with works, more massy, and expensive than it is possible for them to be useful, and above all, too high to be formidable to a besieging army encamped in the plain.

Barcelona is principally indebted for its splendor and opulence to its industry and the number

of its manufactures. The chief are those of cotton; one hundred and fifty manufactories being engaged in the spinning of that material, and the same number in making printed calicoes. Those of bone-lace, blond-lace, ribbons, thread, furnish employment for twelve thousand persons, and as many are employed in the various branches of the silk manufacture.

These manufactures and others carried on in this province, have, however, fallen off considerably of late years, chiefly in consequence of the impediments which three successive wars have thrown in the way of the intercourse between Catalonia and Spanish America. One-third of the manufactories have been shut up. In the other two-thirds part of the hands have been discharged, and the conductors have suspended their orders for the raw materials. Last year (1805) and even at the present time, the gazette of Barcelona frequently announces the sale of spinning-machines. The war is not, however, the only circumstance that threatens the prosperity of Catalonia.

We must admit with the Spaniards themselves, that the inhabitants of Catalonia are active and industrious, but they are also obstinately attached to their old routine. They are tolerable imitators; but sure of a market for their stuffs, however coarse and ill dyed they may be, they take no pains to invent or improve; and while they have

been lulled to sleep by this fancied security, formidable rivals have started up in the Americans, who begin to smuggle the productions of their manufactures into the Spanish colonies. Lastly, notwithstanding the severe prohibitions which exist, establishments for dyeing and spinning have been formed at Mexico, and have opened markets for their goods in Peru. These various causes cannot fail to affect the manufactures of Catalonia, at least of those branches connected with dyeing and spinning. There are, however, others which, within the last twenty-five years in particular, have operated with rapidly increasing force. Catalonia, during this interval, has adopted several branches of French industry. The storms of the revolution drove from Lyons and Nîmes a great number of artisans who settled in Catalonia, where they introduced processes before unknown to the Spaniards, by means of which the latter are enabled to make finer stuffs, and even some of the mixed kinds. The French manufacturers have nevertheless no great reason to be alarmed. When Scanderbeg, at the request of Mahomet II. sent that monarch his tremendous sword, the emperor found himself unable to wield it. The hero of Epire, on being apprized of this, replied,—“The reason is because I did not send you my arm at the same time with my sword.” The manufactories of Catalonia, notwithstanding the valuable accession they have

received, are still far from possessing that assortment of hands, each skilful in a particular line, which conduces to the perfection of the productions of Lyons.

The stocking manufactures which have prodigiously increased in number within these twenty-five years, and to which late events have transferred a multitude of French artisans, are in the same predicament. The silk which they make use of is always nappy; let that defect proceed from whatever cause it will, either from the nature of the soil in which the mulberry trees are planted, or from the processes followed in the winding and spinning, or from the quality of the water, or from the construction of the machines employed in working it. In vain have certain manufacturers imported from France silk prepared for weaving; the stockings made of it have nearly the same faults; and setting aside all national prejudice, it may be asserted that Catalonia has not yet a single manufactory that produces silk stockings which are equal in beauty and wear to those of Paris and Lyons, or in fineness to those of Nîmes and Ganges.

The Catalonians have, on the other hand, almost entirely robbed France of the manufacture of hats, immense quantities of which were made at Lyons. In the single city of Barcelona there are upwards of twenty manufactories, which not only supply the demand for hats at home, but

export part of their commodities to Spanish America.

The cloth manufactures of Catalonia are not in a condition equally prosperous. The Catalonian cloths are not exempt from the defects of the finest kinds made in the other parts of the kingdom. They are all faulty in what is termed the reduction; that is, they are neither close nor solid enough to admit of being shorn so smooth as the fine cloths of France and England. The warp is always too strong in comparison of the woof, and this disproportion is observable in the texture of every thing that is woven, whether it be thread, cotton, silk, or wool.

In the spinning of cotton very great improvements have been made in Catalonia within the last twenty or twenty-five years; but the province is still unprovided with jennies for very fine work. The only sorts of cotton which are made use of are those of the Levant, or of Malta, or of the environs of Malaga, or lastly of the Spanish colonies. Old ordinances, which experience ought perhaps to have induced the government to repeal, exclude from Spain not only all other kinds, but likewise spun cottons of every description, and all stuffs containing the smallest portion of cotton of foreign production. We would ask the wise rulers of Spain, whether any thing can be better calculated to doom their manufactures to an incurable mediocrity, notwithstanding the

improvements introduced into them by the considerable emigration of French workmen, than thus to deprive their manufacturers of the raw materials of the best quality, and to keep out of their sight those foreign stuffs which might serve them for patterns, and excite the emulation of the native artisans ?

The manufacturers of Catalonia have derived greater advantage from the assistance of the French in respect to the improvement of the art of dyeing. Within these seven or eight years they have made themselves masters of the secret of dyeing cotton red. At Barcelona and in its district there are twelve or fifteen establishments of this kind, that have been formed by French refugees, and where they begin to produce colours of a beauty and durability that leave very little room for further improvement.

The cultivation of madder, to which considerable attention has for some years been paid in the environs of Tortosa and Valencia, cannot fail to promote the progress of this branch of industry; especially since the Catalonians have recently acquired a perfect knowledge of the art of grinding that plant, and adapting it to the dyeing of their cottons. Spain abounds no less in minerals than in vegetables suitable for dyeing; but this source of wealth has been long neglected. The Catalonians, aided by French artisans, expatriated from our southern provinces, have

lately made some successful experiments of this kind. They have, in particular, discovered the art of making salt of lead fit for the use of their calico manufactures.

Such are the latest particulars we have been able to collect relative to the state of industry and manufactures in Catalonia.

We should entertain rather too favourable an opinion of this province, were we to form a judgment of it from its capital, and some of the cities at a greater or less distance from the coast. In the interior of Catalonia, there are many desert tracts, many that it would be difficult to render productive; but industry has fixed its abode wherever it could obtain access. Notwithstanding the falls of wood which have become more frequent since the reign of Ferdinand VI., Catalonia still contains a sufficient quantity for fuel, for the consumption of its manufactures, and even for ship-building, though it receives large supplies of timber from Russia, Holland, England, and Italy. Cork-trees (*alcornoques*) are particularly numerous in its forests; and this province annually sends twenty-five ship-loads of cork to the north, and a great quantity of corks, ready cut, to Paris. Catalonia also contains many walnut-trees, which are much used by the carpenter and cabinet-maker, besides an immense quantity of almond, hazle, orange, and fig-trees, whose fruits are exported in abund-

ance to the northern countries. The only kind of wood of which it has not a sufficiency to supply its wants, is that of which pipe-staves are made.

Catalonia, notwithstanding its present flourishing state, is not so populous as it might be. It contains one million three hundred and fifty-two thousand four hundred inhabitants. Its population was formerly more considerable. In those times this province was perhaps more industrious. It is certain, for instance, that in the fifteenth century, the cloths manufactured at Barcelona were exported to Naples, to Sicily, and even to Alexandria. The modern Catalonians, it must be admitted, are more anxious to do a great deal than to execute their work well. Good taste does not yet preside over their labours; and they are still strangers to the art of giving to the productions of their industry that finish which tempts the consumer. Some other causes impede their progress. The roads, the grand medium of commerce, are in general extremely neglected in Catalonia. This province is far from having availed itself of all its mineral treasures. What a variety of marbles it contains! How many mines might be opened! There are, in particular, several of coal; but though various proposals have been made to work them, difficulties have been always thrown in the way. Among the rest, one of great importance

has been discovered at Montanola, in the diocese of Vique.

Next to Barcelona the principal city in Catalonia is Lerida, distant twenty-five leagues from the capital. In this interval, you meet every hour with towns or villages, except in the last four leagues. The five first lead through a country abounding in the gifts of nature, and enriched by the efforts of industry. The tract over which the next four leagues conduct you, exhibits a striking proof of the enterprising activity of the Catalonians.

Further on you come to the Noya, a very capricious stream which you ford a dozen times. It frequently lays waste the country; but, upon the whole, it tends more than any thing else to enliven it. It drives a great number of mills, especially of those which supply great part of Spain and America with paper. This is a branch of industry which, within these few years, has increased in an astonishing manner. In 1777, Catalonia contained only one hundred and twelve paper-mills. In 1788, their number exceeded three hundred. The clear profit which they annually produce is estimated at upwards of a million of piasters.

Pursuing the route from Barcelona to Lerida, you pass through the towns of Igualada and Cervera. The country between these places is not so beautiful or so well cultivated. Cervera,

situated on an eminence, which commands an extensive view, belongs to the diocese of Solsona, a portion of which is mountainous, though the greater part is fertile in all sorts of grain and pulse.

Cervera, a town with five thousand inhabitants, has a well frequented university, founded by Philip V. at the time when he suppressed all the others in Catalonia; for nothing escaped the resentment of the conqueror, exasperated by a long resistance. But Catalonia, the theatre of suppressions and reforms of every kind, has disappointed the intentions of revenge. Though stripped of its privileges, and subject to a particular kind of imposts, it is still the least oppressed, and the most industrious province of Spain; and the faithful Castilians have more reasons than one for envying rebels. The natives of these provinces form even to the present day two distinct nations, who rival, and even hate each other, but who, in the last war with France, cordially co-operated, because the court and the priests persuaded them that they were both fighting for one common cause.

The diocese of Solsona feels the effect of its distance from the capital and the coast; and greater exertions are there required in order to encourage industry. The bishop has endeavoured, with considerable success, to enliven his residence. Jewellery, cottons, and laces, afford em-

ployment to a great part of the inhabitants. The utmost attention is bestowed on agriculture in its environs. Fallows are unknown there. The vine is not cultivated to the prejudice of corn; but those productions are blended without detriment to either.

Cardona, a small town in the same diocese, has in its territory, which art has rendered extremely fertile, a mine known to all naturalists, and which is perhaps the only one of its kind in Europe. *

Lerida is situated at the western extremity of Catalonia. Grain, hemp, vines, fruits, and vegetables of all sorts, abound in the plain by which it is encompassed. Several canals for the purpose of irrigation, which bear witness to the active industry of the inhabitants of Lerida, have augmented the fertility of this plain, celebrated of old in the verses of Claudian.

You enter the city by a fine bridge over the Segre, which washes it on the east. It is situated at the foot of a hill, crowned with the ruins of a castle, formerly a place of great strength.

The banks of the Segre, the environs of Lerida, cannot be surveyed without lively interest by men conversant in the military art, and by the more numerous class who love to tread the same

* An elegant description of the mine of Cardona is given by Valmont de Bomare in his *Dict. d'Hist. Nat.* tom. XIII. p. 167—169, fourth edition.

ground that was once honoured with the presence of heroes. I am not alluding so much to the sieges and battles of which this country was the theatre at the commencement of the last century, as to the ever-memorable campaign, in which Julius Cæsar displayed, in a higher degree perhaps than in any other, the talents of a great general against the lieutenants of Pompey; a campaign which furnished Guischard with the subject of one of his most learned and interesting commentaries. It is with the work of that writer in his hand, that the traveller ought to follow the course of the Segre from Balaguer to Mequinenza, if he would find in a memoir on tactics all the instruction that can be derived from a history, and all the entertainment from a romance.

The current of this river whose inequalities and inundations, eighteen centuries ago, threw in Cæsar's way impediments which nothing but genius and perseverance enabled him to surmount, is still what it was then, at all times a benefit, but often a calamity to the country which it traverses. The city of Lerida is particularly exposed to its ravages. To secure it from them, the late governor, general Drouhout, a native of Flanders, constructed a mole that contributes to its embellishment, and that may be added to the long list of useful works for which Spain is indebted to foreigners.

Before it reaches Lerida, the Segre, which rises at the foot of the Pyrenees, traverses the plain of Urgel, the most fertile in grain of any in Catalonia. Unfortunately the greatest part of this province is still destitute of the means of easy communication. Its roads are so narrow, and so bad, that its rich and numerous productions cannot be conveyed from place to place in any other way than on the backs of mules. An exception, however, will soon be made by the eleven Castilian leagues between Lerida and Tarragon. At the beginning of 1806, the inhabitants of the latter obtained permission to construct a road, which, passing through Valls and Montblanch, should terminate at Lerida, and thus form a more direct communication with Arragon.

CHAPTER XVI.

Journey from Barcelona to the Pyrenees.

RETURNING from my excursion to Lerida, I shall now conduct the reader from Barcelona to the Pyrenees.

Along the whole coast beginning with that capital, the manufactures and population are extremely flourishing. The first proof of this is seen at Badalona, which is only a league from Barcelona. Four leagues further, you come to the handsome town of Mataro, remarkable for its cleanliness and activity. It contains no more than nine thousand inhabitants; but its manufactures of cottons, silks, and in particular of lace, the high cultivation of its district, and its commerce, of which wine is the principal article, render it one of the most important places on this coast.

The road from Barcelona to Mataro is very pleasant to the eye, but disagreeable in other respects. On leaving Barcelona, you first come to the river of Besos, the passage of which is dangerous and often impracticable. Further on the road is still worse in the rainy season, except in certain parts where the soil is more compact.

A new road which follows the windings of the coast, which sometimes runs along the steep brows of the hills, and, in some places, is hewn out of the rock, passes through handsome towns, which, from the structure of their simply decorated houses, from their cleanliness, and above all, their active industry, but unaccompanied with bustle, remind the traveller of the most agreeable parts of Holland. Forget the foggy atmosphere of that province, give it the deliciously temperate climate of warmer regions cooled by the sea breezes ; substitute the agitation and the boundless bosom of the deep, for the dull, silent current of the narrow and muddy canals of Batavia ; retain all the attractions imparted by industry to that country, and you will have a pretty correct idea of the tract extending from Barcelona to Malgrat.

Some of these towns, which form a striking contrast with the rest of Spain, deserve to be mentioned. Having passed Mataro, you come to Arens de Mar, where the diocese of Girona commences, and which has a small dock-yard, and a seminary for pilots ; Canet de Mar, a town in an agreeable situation, the inhabitants of which not only trade with all Spain, but even to the West Indies, and are successfully engaged in the manufacture of lace ; San Pol, a modern town, which is rapidly increasing under the fostering influence of industry ; Calella, one of the

handsomest places on the coast, which also has manufactures of cottons, silks, and lace ; Pineda, another town where travellers generally dine ; lastly Malgrat, after passing which, you quit this charming scenery and the banks of the Mediterranean, and enter a very wild country. You then descend again into a beautiful dale, in the center of which is the lonely inn called La Grenota. There is yet no beaten road in the forest which you traverse previous to your arrival at this inn, and upon leaving it, and in which you wander for some leagues nearly at random ; but as soon as you have quitted the forest, you again come to an excellent road.

Beyond La Grenota, you enter a mountainous country, consisting of woods and moors. You then discover the city of Girona, seated on the side of hills, which to the eastward are defended by some redoubts, and sink on the west into an extremely picturesque amphitheatre. This chain of hills forms a semicircular inclosure round Girona. At the distance of a league from that city, you would suppose it to be seated on an eminence, but you pass through and leave it without any perceptible ascent. Its cathedral, one of the finest monuments of Gothic architecture, is the only one of its buildings that stands upon a height.

Girona is divided into two unequal parts by the Ter, over which there is a bridge, but which

may be forded at almost every season of the year. This city, famous in the modern Spanish wars, exhibited in the month of March, 1793, no kind of military preparation, which confirmed me in the opinion I have ever since entertained, that the Spanish administration had not, as was at that time asserted, finally decided upon a rupture with the French republic. The garrison of Girona, composed of regular troops, was very small, and in some places scarcely any trace of the fortifications was discernible. The ditches and its covered way, given up to the peaceful pursuits of horticulture, attested the security of the inhabitants, and in particular of the governor, Don Ladislas Habor, a blunt, active old man, who, when I delivered my passport, the forerunner of a rupture, seemed far from thinking such an event near at hand. I had no reason to suspect that this was an awkward artifice on his part; because throughout a journey of more than one hundred and thirty leagues, I had not perceived any more than at Girona, the symptoms of that bustle which immediately precedes the breaking out of war. For near a year, it is true, the court of Spain had been sending troops and stores towards its frontiers, especially to Navarre and Biscay; but had this measure not been adopted, as it affirmed till the end of December, 1792, merely to protect its dominions from an invasion, which, from our military move-

ments, and the speeches delivered in the convention, and in the popular societies, it had every reason to apprehend; had it on the contrary been the result of a plan for invading the territory of the republic, would it not have assembled a considerable force in Catalonia, at a time when, as I know from ocular demonstration, there were not more than five thousand men in the whole department of the eastern Pyrenees.

The diocese to which Girona gives its name is one of the best cultivated and most flourishing districts in all Spain. The part contiguous to the sea produces wine, lemons, oranges, and grain of every kind in great abundance. The mountainous portion is covered with vineyards, corn-fields, and olive plantations. The woods contain great numbers of cork-trees, the bark of which forms a very considerable article of commerce. There are few tracts in this diocese but what are remarkable for the abundance of their productions and the activity of their inhabitants. The Lampourdan, which forms the northern part of it, which our troops occupied for a year, and where I resided two months to negotiate the peace which was afterwards signed at Basle, is an extensive plain, extremely fertile in all kinds of grain and fruits.

A small town in the same diocese, Olot, a place scarcely known by name, and situated near the source of the Fluvia, deserves to be rescued

from obscurity, on account of the astonishing industry which there prevails. All its inhabitants are busily employed. There is scarcely any kind of manufacture in which they are not engaged. You here find a hundred stocking frames, manufactures of woollen cloths, ribbons, paper, soap, and cards, dye-houses, &c.

Half a league beyond Girona, there is another town remarkable for its activity. Two leagues further, after you have traversed a pleasant country and crossed a rivulet near a mill and a small hamlet, you arrive at La Madrina, the dirtiest and the dearest inn on the whole journey, but which with the hill that overlooks it, forms a very pleasing view. The whole road from Girona to Figueras is now remarkably good, except where it crosses a high hill, of which only the descent next to France is yet finished. As you approach Figueras, it is constructed with a care bordering on magnificence, and conducts over several bridges of granite. From Figueras to the frontiers you find it invariably excellent, chiefly in the interval which separates Junquiera from the Boulon, and crosses the summit of the Pyrenees. The works of art which are here met with, will sustain a comparison with the most perfect of their kind.

But let us turn back for the purpose of giving some political and military details respecting the country through which this road runs.

From La Madrina to Figueras, the country has a sufficient proportion of trees, and, except a few copses, it is very well cultivated. You there meet with fields of corn, pulse, flax, but especially plantations of olives, and of vines. You cross several small rivers, where, during the greatest part of the year, a small stream runs in the middle of a vast bed of gravel; in which respect, almost all the rivers proceeding from the foot of the Pyrenees towards the Mediterranean, both in this part of Catalonia and in Roussillon, resemble each other. Of this description is, in particular, the Fluvia, which we ford two long leagues before we reach Figueras. Its banks were then as tranquil as in the midst of profound peace. Nothing indicated that the shores of this little river, which after the taking of Figueras and Rosas, our troops in their ardour were impatient to pass, but which the prudent measures of our generals, prevented them from crossing, would be the principal theatre of the military operations of two armies. I saw them again two years afterwards with more interest, when I was sent to Figueras, which, after our success in the Lampourdan, was the head-quarters of our army in the eastern Pyrenees.

When I passed through this place in 1793, General Ricardos who had just been appointed governor-general of Catalonia, was hourly expected. Figueras, which is an open town, and

which must not be confounded with its citadel, was then garrisoned only by seventeen hundred infantry and three hundred cavalry, and there were no more than five thousand infantry in its environs. Such was the force which, in March, 1793, Spain had to employ in the imaginary invasion of Roussillon.

The fortifications of the citadel, situated at the distance of scarcely a quarter of a league from the town, on an eminence, were not yet finished. It already contained a great quantity of artillery and stores of all kinds, which, eighteen months afterwards, were destined to fall a prey to the French.

At the commencement of the war, the Spaniards, by a concurrence of causes, from the number of which I shall not be so unjust as to erase their valour, had advanced into our territory. They had penetrated to the west of Bellegarde, by the Col des Orts, to St. Laurent de Cerda, a town situated among the defiles of the Pyrenees, inhabited by smugglers, and people not the best disposed towards the French republic; and had thence overrun the districts of Prades and Ceret, compelled the castle of Bellegarde to capitulate, threatened Perpignan, and then suddenly turning off towards the sea, had taken possession of Elne, Collioure, and the port of Vendres.

These triumphs were not of long duration.