proceedings. Accordingly the contraband trade has not upon the whole any more active or faithful agents than the lower class of custom-house officers. The customs at Cadiz are under the superintendence of a director, who is in general extremely rigid. The same cannot always be said of the eight inspectors, or *vistas*, who are subordinate to him, and whose duty it is to examine the goods exported or imported, to value them and charge them according to this estimate. It is unnecessary to observe how arbitrary all these operations are, and how many resources fraud discovers, especially when the persons appointed to prevent it become its accomplices. All Europe might learn a useful lesson on this subject at Cadiz. The severity of the director is of no avail in opposition to the artifices of so many agents conspired against him. In 1785, this place was held by Don Francisco Vallejo, a man equally distinguished for rigour and integrity. The abuses which he complained of, but did not repress, occasioned the appointment of a committee of inquiry. The rapacity and dishonesty of the officers of the customs were punished, and that department of the revenue was regenerated. Every branch of it was to be reformed, and the contraband trade was to be utterly annihilated by the energy and vigilance of authority. These brilliant expectations have been disappointed. Vallejo was soon afterwards superseded by Don Jorge

Francisco Estada, who was more rigid, if possible, than his predecessor. But smuggling is a plant which strikes deep root in the soil in which it is once naturalized; in vain you may cut down its stem to a level with the ground; it soon sends forth fresh shoots. Those engaged in this traffic conceal themselves in the moment of danger. No sooner is it over than interest resumes its old habits and cupidity its former boldness. Such, in spite of the severity of Estada, was the state of the contraband trade in 1793.

If since that time it has somewhat diminished, the reason is, because the opportunities for carrying it on have been less frequent. The long continuance of one of our squadrons at Cadiz, could not fail to encourage its efforts, but it never prospers except when commerce flourishes. The commerce of Cadiz suffered severely from the war in which Spain engaged: it has sustained still greater injury from the two successive wars in which she has been involved with England: but let the return of peace give new life to commerce, and we shall doubtless see the contraband trade appear again in its train, in spite of the vigilance and severity of the present director of the customs, Don Pedro Mendinuetta.

Cadiz is incontestably the most opulent and one of the finest cities in Spain. Though it is not large, and its situation prevents its further

extension, it contained in 1799 a population of 75,000 souls. It was diminished by the destructive contagion which raged in the following year. The disease attacked almost all the inhabitants of this ill-fated city. It was observed that most of those who were born in the West India islands or in Spanish America escaped its influence; that it was not quite so dangerous to the old inhabitants as to those who had recently settled at Cadiz; and that the majority of foreigners fell victims to its fury. It was likewise remarked that it raged with much greater virulence among men than among persons of the other sex. This difference was likewise observed in 1804. It was asserted to have been in the proportion of 48 to one; and the extreme inequality of the two sexes, which was perceived in the churches, in the public walks, and assemblies, seemed to confirm the accuracy of this calculation. It was between the 12th of August and the 31st of October that the contagion committed the greatest ravages at Cadiz. During this interval, it attacked 47,350 persons, and carried off 7,195 of that number, exclusive of the troops, who had recently arrived for the defence of the coast, and who alone lost 3,000 men.

Winter seemed not to check this calamity, as had been hoped. Cadiz and the other cities of Andalusia were not wholly free from it till the end of April 1801. Every measure tending to prevent the spreading of the contagion was re-

sorted to. Every apartment and every place to which it had penetrated, was whitewashed and fumigated. Care was taken to burn the clothes and the goods of the infected, and to inter the dead at a considerable distance from the city, and in graves of sufficient depth.

The unfortunate inhabitants of Cadiz might have mournfully applied to themselves these energetic lines in which Roucher describes the ravages of the plague at Marseilles:

—— chaque instant voyait hors des murailles
S'avancer tout rempli le char de funérailles
Nulle voix ne suivoit ce mobile tombeau.
Sans parens, sans amis, sans prêtre, sans flambeau,
Solitaire il marchait à ces monceaux livides:
Une fosse profonde ouvrait ses flancs avides,
Et dans son large sein, les cadavres versés
Y tombaient en roulant l'un sur l'autre entassés.

When the contagion was at its height, in September and October, 1800, from 140 to 170 persons died every day at Cadiz. During this dreadful calamity, M. de Morla, the governor of the city, displayed the greatest zeal and activity, and manifested repeated proofs of the most courageous devotion to the public welfare. He neglected no means to procure proper attendance for the sick, and to check the progress of the infection, which was, at the same time, making terrible ravages in the adjacent places, at Port St. Mary, the Isla de Leon, and Rota. The gates of Cadiz were kept closely shut. They were not opened even for such of the inhabitants as had fled on the first alarm from the city, and were

desirous of returning. The contagion extended to Chiclana, Puerto Real, and St. Lucar. It even spread to Xerez, Seville, and by degrees over the whole province of Andalusia. A cordon was placed along the foot of the Sierra Morena, and was not withdrawn till the spring of 1801, after it had been ascertained that every part of the country was free from the infection.

About the end of September, 1801, a new alarm was excited. At Medina Sidonia, and in its neighbourhood, several putrid fevers appeared, but it was soon discovered that they were not of an epidemical nature. No contagious symptoms were again observed till towards the end of the summer of 1804, when the yellow fever, called *vomito negro*, broke out at Malaga in the most terrific manner. It extended its ravages along the coasts of the Mediterranean, to Carthagena, Alicante, and even to the vicinity of Barcelona. It proved particularly fatal at Gibraltar, where, in the month of October, 120 persons daily died. Cadiz could not entirely escape this new scourge, but it was much less destructive, and also of shorter duration, than the former. The greatest mortality amounted for a few days only to 70 or 72.

These two calamities following so closely upon each other, together with the considerable emigration which they occasioned, at first seemed to have produced a great diminution in the population of Cadiz. It appeared to be reduced to fifty thousand souls; but the cessation of the

alarm, the return of the emigrants, and other causes, have rapidly raised it to nearly the same point at which it stood in 1799; and so early as the end of 1804, it was estimated at the lowest, at 70,000 souls.

It would have been impossible for such a large number of people to find habitations in a space so circumscribed by nature, had not the greatest economy in respect to ground been observed. Accordingly, all the streets of Cadiz, except a few, such as the *calle ancha*, are narrow, and the height of the houses makes them in general dark; but the city is kept remarkably clean, extremely well paved and lighted, and adorned with handsome ramparts, which serve for a public walk. The proximity of the sea renders the heat much more supportable than it it is at Madrid.

The emporium of the wealth of two worlds, Cadiz possesses almost every thing in abundance. With the exception of water, you there meet with all the necessaries and conveniences of life; and in the near view of verdant meads and fertile corn-fields, you find all its charms. Those, however, which result from intellectual cultivation would be sought in vain. Pleasure, in the strictest sense of the word, absorbs all the physical faculties, and commercial calculations all the powers of the mind. The one is accounted for and excused by the climate; the other is the result of a concurrence of circumstances to which Cadiz principally owes its prosperity and importance.

CHAP. VIII.

Industry of Cadiz and its Environs—Linens—Salt works—Bay of Cadiz—Road from Cadiz to Chiclana—Chiclana and Algesiras—Observations on the Agriculture of Spain.

THOUGH commercial speculations, either lawful or illicit, almost exclusively absorb the whole capitals and attention of the inhabitants of Cadiz and its environs, manufactures, however, are not totally neglected. There are at Cadiz about twenty looms for silk ribbons and netting, which do very little, and yet have a great demand for their reputed productions. It is certain that the principal employment of these manufacturers is to put their mark upon articles imported from other countries. It is in this way that the stockings of Nîmes are shipped as Spanish, for the Indies.

At Port St. Mary, at the Island of Leon, and at Xerez, there are linen manufactures, which for some years have been in a flourishing state. No linens but these, and those of Catalonia can legally be shipped for the Indies; but to judge how this law is evaded, it will be sufficient to compare the quantity of goods exported to

America, with what these manufactures are capable of furnishing.

There is at Port St. Mary an establishment for bleaching wax, through which all the foreign wax sent to America ought to pass. This, however, is almost always evaded by the gratuitous payment of two ducats, the sum required for each quintal of wax bleached there.

Some years since, the Spaniards at the Havannah had the prospect of being able to furnish wax sufficient for the consumption of the colonies. On the cession of Florida to the English, in 1763, some Spanish colonists retired to the Island of Cuba, taking with them a number of bee-hives. The bees had increased prodigiously in this new country, to which they had come in quest of an asylum from the conquerors, as people driven by persecution from their native soil carry with them its treasures and its industry. But they found new persecutors at the Havannah. Alarmed at the mischief which they did to the sugar plantations, the colonists kindled fires to keep them away. This expedient succeeded so well, that the island of Cuba, forsaken by the bees, produced no more honey, and was again obliged to have recourse for its supply of wax to Barbary, Poland, and Hanover.

It will probably be asked, if the commerce of Cadiz has sensibly diminished, as the jealousy

of its inhabitants predicted in 1780. To this we must reply in the negative: their predictions have not been accomplished, neither indeed was it likely that they should be. Cadiz is so advantageously situated, so opulent, in such complete possession of the direct trade with Spanish America, that it has no occasion for a long time to fear the competition of any of the other ports. Those however of Catalonia and Valencia, derived, especially in 1789, a great advantage from their situation. The government had recently directed that at least one third of the cargo of every vessel bound to America should consist of national commodities. The above-mentioned ports, having an opportunity of exporting wine, brandy, silks, and printed cottons, seemed for some time to obtain a superiority over Cadiz in this respect. But as the manufacturers of Catalonia and Valencia could not continue to furnish such large supplies, or give such long credit, the merchants of Cadiz, whose abilities are equal to these efforts, have regained their former advantages.

One of the most extensive and the least hazardous of their speculations, is the exportation of foreign linens to America. They consist almost exclusively of those of Bretagne, Silesia, and Ireland. In 1787 and 1788, it was observed, that the demand for those of Bretagne

had rather increased than diminished, but not so much as that for the Silesian linens. The sale of Irish linens, which hold a middle place between the two others, has been of late years warmly encouraged by the English government. Those of France kept their ground only by their excellent quality; but we are informed that they had latterly met with very formidable rivals in the Silesian linens, in the manufacture of which great improvements have been made, as likewise in those of Westphalia.

The tables of the foreign commodities exported from Cadiz in the years 1792 and 1793, will afford an idea of the importance of the linen trade to that city.

Out of a total of one hundred and sixty-four millions of reals, the article of foreign silks amounts to eight or nine millions, that of woollens to twenty-two or twenty-three, and the value of the linens alone exceeds one hundred millions.

The total amount of national commodities was not then on an equality with that of the foreign productions, but was gradually approaching towards it. In 1790, it scarcely exceeded one hundred and two millions of reals. In 1791 and 1792, it was between one hundred and fifteen, and one hundred and twenty; and out of this total, the value of the silks was upwards of

sixty millions, of woollen stuffs near sixteen millions, and that of the goods manufactured from hemp and flax between seventeen and eighteen millions. In 1792, an idea began to be entertained that Spain was capable of supplying her colonies with all the fine cloths they wanted of the first and second quality, but not with the inferior stuffs. At the same period she was importing foreign silks to the value of between twenty-four and twenty-six millions of reals.

In order to afford, as briefly as possible, an idea of the prodigious extent of the commerce of Cadiz, it will be sufficient to observe, that in 1792, its exports to the Indies amounted to two hundred and seventy-six millions, and its imports exceeded seven hundred millions of reals.

The capitals and credit which are necessary for such extensive concerns, must alone ensure to Cadiz, for a considerable time, the enjoyment of its mercantile prosperity. A proof that it has not lately fallen off is, that in 1802 this city contained upwards of three hundred wholesale mercantile houses, among which there were much fewer foreign ones than formerly.

The manufacture of salt is one of the most productive branches of industry in the environs of Cadiz. The salt pits border all that part of the bay between the Puntal and Port St.

Mary. The manner of making salt in them is as follows.

By means of a little sluice the sea water is first introduced into a capacious bason, crossed by large canals of equal depth. Here it remains a certain time, during which the lightest parts are evaporated by the heat of the sun. From this first reservoir it is drawn off into other canals, not quite so deep, where it undergoes the same process. By this time it has become so sharp, that the workmen cannot stand in it with their bare feet, without burning them as if they had been dipped into aquafortis. In this state it is conducted into a long narrow canal, which runs by the side of a square space, divided into quadrangular compartments or basons. From this canal, where it is exposed a third time to the action of the sun, it is thrown into small basons. Here it is heated for the last time; and the workmen keep constantly stirring it with long rakes. The sediment which it deposits, becomes as hard as stone, if it be suffered to acquire consistence; and it is in the operations of breaking, taking out, and pounding it, that the workmen are continually engaged. This incessant agitation produces on the surface a white scum, which is carefully taken off, and yields a white salt, but much weaker than what is formed at the bottom. All the rest is thrown into large heaps in the open air. From these the king takes the quantity

necessary for his salt magazines, at the rate of two piastres per last of two hogsheads; but he sells it again at one hundred and twenty piastres, to all persons except fishermen, who obtain it cheaper. The salt manufacturers sell what they have left as they please, and dispose of it as speedily as possible, for fear of the autumnal rains.

This salt is exported by the Swedes, the Danes, the Dutch, the English, and particularly by the Portuguese. The latter carry the greatest part of their cargoes to the coasts of Galicia and the Asturias, which they have long been in the habit of supplying exclusively with their own salt. The fishermen of St. Malo, Dieppe, and Grandville, sometimes go to the bay of Cadiz to load with salt for Newfoundland; and when the salt pits of France fail, the French take off large quantities from the same place for their home consumption.

Every individual that pleases is at liberty to form one of these artificial salt pits on his own ground. He may dispose of the produce to foreigners, but not to natives of the country; salt being in Spain sold exclusively for the king's account. Guards are stationed round the heaps, but they are not always able to secure them from thieves and smugglers.

Cadiz, like most large commercial cities, contains few monuments of the arts. Of late

years, however, some handsome edifices have been erected, but the greater number of them belong to foreigners. The old Italian opera-house has been converted into a place of resort for the lovers of news and of fashionable amusements. It is called the *Camorra*; its apartments are spacious, but perhaps overloaded with ornaments. The custom-house is a new building of a very good appearance. The national theatre is planned with taste. The new cathedral, begun in 1722, had cost in 1769 upwards of four millions and a half of reals, and will cost two millions of piastres before it is finished. Notwithstanding this heavy expense, and the magnificence, of its decorations, the inelegance of the plan on which it was begun, will for ever prevent its being considered a master-piece.

Another sacred edifice, the defects of which are still more striking, is the church of San Antonio, designed for an ornament to the beautiful square of the same name, but which it only serves to disfigure.

In the church of the Capuchins, the traveller will find an *Ecce homo*, by Murillo, and several other master-pieces of his school.

A foreigner, on his arrival at Cadiz, never fails to inquire for the Exchange of such a celebrated commercial city; and with astonishment he learns that it has none. It might be sup-

posed that its inhabitants look upon the god of commerce in the light of one of those deities, whose majesty the ancient Germans thought it impious to pretend to circumscribe within walls of stone, and who could not be duly worshipped except under the canopy of heaven. At the same time the almost invariable serenity of the climate sufficiently accounts for a circumstance apparently so strange.

The walls which surround Cadiz contribute more to its embellishment than to its defence. The fortifications towards the land gate are in good condition. The entrance to the great bay would be very imperfectly defended by Fort St. Catharine on one side, and Fort St. Sebastian on the other. The lines of fire of these forts do not cross each other. One is situated on the continent opposite to Cadiz; the other is connected with the city by a very rugged beach, which is covered at high water. Upon its tower is placed the light that directs vessels entering the port.

The passage from the great bay into that of the Puntales is much better defended by the two forts of Matagordo and San Lorenzo, placed opposite each other, at the narrowest part of the bay. (Pl. XVI.)

It is the strait protected by these two forts that you cross to go to Chiclana, a place of recreation for the inhabitants of Cadiz. The situa-

tion of their city, almost entirely surrounded by the sea, deprives them of the pleasures of riding and walking. Half a league from the land gate, sterility again commences and prevails throughout a tract of several leagues, with the exception of a few kitchen gardens and orchards, contiguous to the Island of Leon, where the soil has been improved by irrigation.

To make themselves amends for this privation of verdure, the citizens of Cadiz repair in summer to Chiclana. With a favourable wind and tide, you may go thither from Cadiz in two hours. Leaving the Island of Leon to the right, and La Carraca to the left, you pass under the bridge of Suaço, which joins the whole island, on the north west part of which Cadiz is situated, to the continent. At this bridge the bay grows so narrow, that beyond this point, it is nothing but a broad canal, which soon afterwards separates into several branches. One of these conducts to Chiclana, a handsome village, built on the right bank of this canal, and commanded by several eminences, and by the ruins of an ancient Moorish castle.

Here many of the merchants of Cadiz have country houses. They have embellished and surrounded them with that verdure, of which, they are deprived in the city where they reside. In the two seasons of spring and autumn, Chiclana is particularly full of company.

The ladies of Cadiz, who, with all the fascinations of Andalusian females, combine that elegance of manners which is acquired by associating with foreigners, the amiable *Gaditanas*, bring thither for a few weeks all the pleasures of the city; splendid entertainments, balls, concerts, all the display of opulence, all the efforts of the toilette. It may be looked upon as a theatre opened by luxury and taste, to which the deepest speculators repair to smooth their brows, furrowed by calculations; and to be reminded, from time to time, that there are things still more precious than gold.

From the eminences which command the valley of Chiclana, the eye embraces at one view the island of Leon, Cadiz, the bay, all the places by which it is surrounded, and the sea beyond it. You follow the course of the river Santi Petri to its mouth. Turning to the east, you perceive Medina Sidonia, whence comes the *solano*, likewise denominated the wind of Medina, so dreaded by the inhabitants of Cadiz, because it seems to bring with it crimes and disorders into that city. From the same point of view you likewise survey the vast plains of the southern part of Andalusia, which we are about to traverse on our way to Algeziras and thence to Gibraltar.

The distance from Chiclana to Algeziras is fourteen leagues. I performed the journey on

the same horse, in one long summer's day, and found the country more thinly inhabited than perhaps any region which is not entirely uncultivated. I went, it is true, across the plains, avoiding circuitous roads which would have led through some villages. But the reader will scarcely believe me when I assure him, that with the exception of Véjer, which I perceived on my right, and Medina Sidonia on my left, the only habitations I met with in this whole journey were four or five groups of the miserable huts called *cortijos*, in which labouring people reside during part of the year.

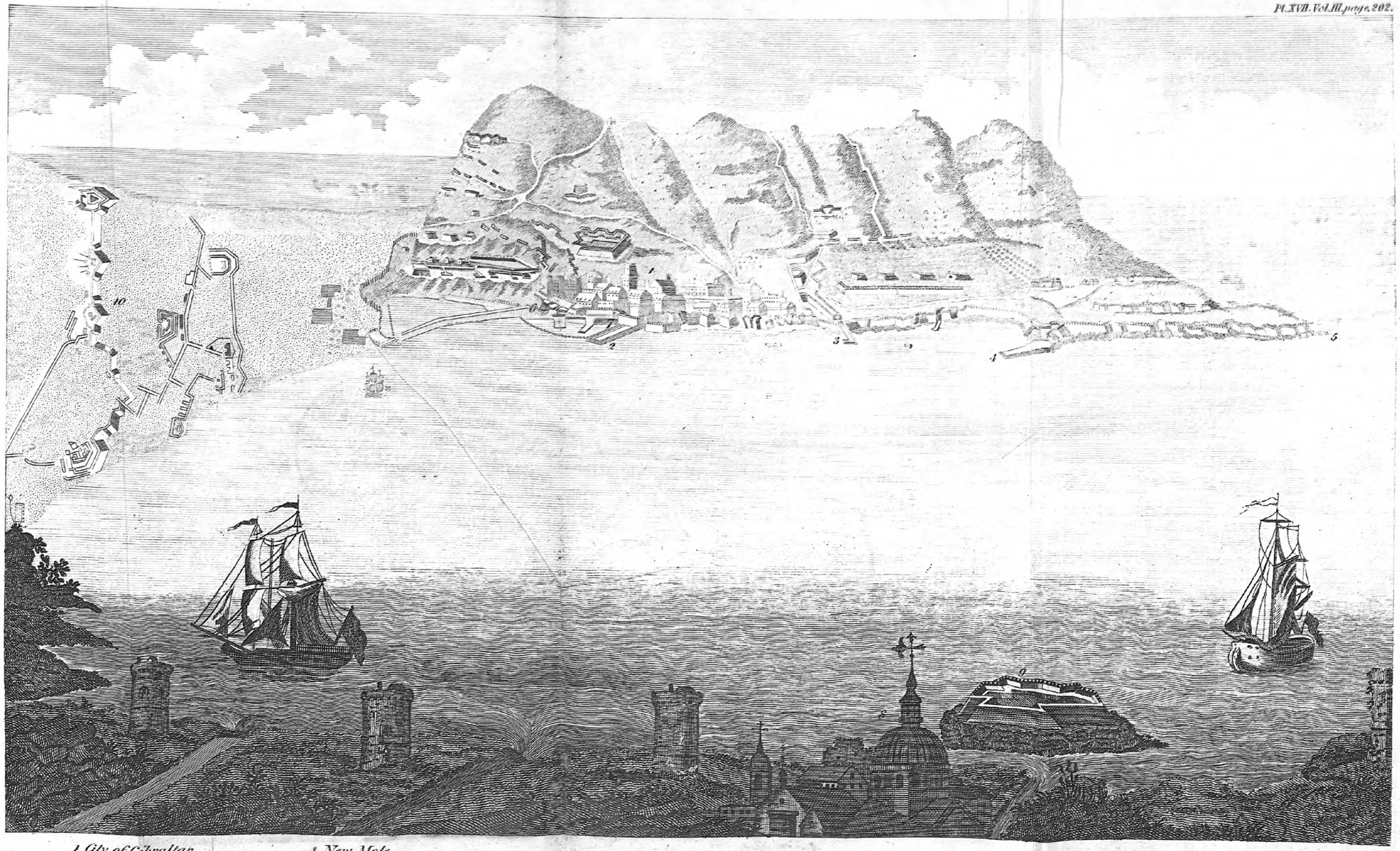
For ten leagues out of these fourteen, the road leads through the domains of the duke of Medina Sidonia, consisting entirely of cornfields and pasturage. In no part of them is there the least vestige of a human habitation; not an orchard, a kitchen garden, a ditch, or a stile. The great proprietor seems to reign there like the lion in the forest, by driving away all who would otherwise approach him. Instead of human inhabitants, I met with seven or eight numerous colonies of horned cattle and some troops of mares. On seeing them unshackled by yoke or bridle, roving at pleasure over a space unbounded, as far as the eye can reach, by enclosure or barrier, the traveller is disposed to fancy himself in the first ages of the world, when the animals in a state

of independence, divided with man the empire of the earth, found every where their own property, and were not themselves the property of any person.

Andalusia is thus deserted in almost all the districts devoted exclusively to the cultivation of corn and pasturage. It has been divided into immense possessions ever since the period of its conquest from the Moors. The principal Castilian noblemen who accompanied the victorious monarchs, obtained grants of prodigious tracts in perpetuity, according to the fatal custom introduced throughout almost the whole monarchy. The extinction of the males in many families is continually aggravating this inconvenience. Rich heiresses transfer their ample portions into families not less opulent; so that in time, the greatest part of the landed property in Spain, may devolve to the few families that shall survive the others. As a single individual cannot manage such vast estates, they are let to different persons, but for the short space of three or at most of five years. Another circumstance concurs with these pernicious customs to prevent the improvement of agriculture in Andalusia. The land is divided into three portions; one is cultivated, another remains fallow, and the third, which is set apart to feed the cattle of the farmer, is augmented by him as much as pos-

sible, that he may reap all the advantage he can from his short lease. This it is that gives an appearance of depopulation to extensive districts, susceptible of the highest cultivation. The first improvement to be made in the agriculture of Andalusia would therefore be, to grant longer leases. The example of Catalonia, Galicia, and the Asturias, should serve as a lesson. There leases are granted for a long term of years, and cannot be broken by the caprice of the proprietors; there too every branch of agriculture is in a flourishing state. Each farmer creates for himself a little establishment; he takes pains to fertilize and embellish the land, which he is sure of holding for a considerable time. What a contrast between this picture and the appearance of the country for the ten leagues after leaving Chiclana!

At the end of these ten leagues you begin to climb the steep ascent of the enormous chain of mountains, which terminates at the west coast of the bay of Gibraltar. From their summit you perceive the famous promontory rising from the bosom of the waves, like the genius of the cape of storms described by Camoens (Pl. XVII.) The eye commands the the fortress, the outlines of which when the weather is serene may be clearly distinguished in the horizon. It embraces in the same view the town of Algeziras, the whole circum-



1. City of Gibraltar.
2. The Old Mole.
3. The Mole of the Algade.
4. New Mole.
5. Europa Point.
6. Gate to the Land.
7. Gate to the Sea.
8. Algesiras.
9. Isle of Algesiras.
10. Camp of St. Roch.

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ference of the bay, two small rivers which fall into it, the town of St. Roch, the descent leading from it to the lines of the same name, and the flat and narrow neck of land which separates them from Gibraltar; and in the distance to the right, if you cannot distinctly discern, you may at least imagine the indentations of the African coast.

CHAP. IX.

Algeziras—Lines and Camp of St. Roch—Particulars relative to the Floating Batteries—Appearance of Gibraltar.

ALGEZIRAS, at the end of the fourteen leagues which separate Chiclana from the bay of Gibraltar, is a town agreeably situated on an easy slope close by the sea side. A very small river, La Miel, which rises in the neighbouring mountains, washes it on one side, and gently falls into the bay. On its right bank is a little dock-yard, where some of the gun-boats employed in the siege of Gibraltar were built. At the time of the freshes, it has water enough to float these small vessels to the sea, which is but a few paces distant. Close to it are the ruins of the ancient citadel of Algeziras, where the Moors defended themselves for some time after their town was taken. Algeziras, as well as St. Roch, is peopled with the descendants of the Spanish inhabitants of Gibraltar, who would not live under the dominion of the English. In order to entice refugees from that place, the government conferred on the town

of Algeziras the privileges which it still enjoys.

Facing Algeziras, and very near the shore, is situated the very small island of Palomas, also called the Green Island. It has a fort in which a detachment from the garrison of Algeziras does duty. It is so regular, and so diminutive, that you would suppose it had been built for an ornament to an English garden.

Algeziras is watered in a splendid manner. Water is conveyed thither, from the distance of a quarter of a league, by an aqueduct of hewn stone.

A packet-boat sails twice a week from this town for Ceuta, a Spanish sea-port, at the distance of five leagues, on the coast of Africa, opposite to Algeziras: this voyage is often performed in three or four hours, but sometimes takes nine or ten. The passage costs only four reals each person; no great sum to be carried from one quarter of the world to another.

The commercial speculations in which the little port of Algeziras is engaged, are of a very limited extent. It receives a few cargoes of corn and brandy by Catalonian vessels, and its exports chiefly consist of charcoal from the neighbouring mountains.

For a great part of the two leagues between Algeziras and St. Roch, the road leads along the side of the bay. You are ferried across

two small rivers which fall into it, el Rio de los Pulmones and the Guaraïpe, which might be taken for an arm of the sea. After passing the latter, you leave the bay and ascend the back of the hill, on which stands St. Roch, an ill-paved town of miserable appearance, but the environs of which are agreeable and highly cultivated.

Two years after the peace it was no easy matter to pass the lines of St. Roch. An express order, originating in the puerile vexation of the minister Florida Blanca, had been issued to prevent all communication between Gibraltar and the Spanish continent. I, however, obtained permission of the commandant of the lines to approach Gibraltar. I set off on horseback with an aid-major of the place. Leaving on our left to Buena Vista, a large house on an eminence, where general Crillon and his staff resided, and which commands a view of Gibraltar,* the two seas and the coasts of Africa. We arrived on the spot occupied by

* The Moors, on their arrival in Spain, gave to the ancient Mount Calpe, one of the pillars of Hercules, the name of Ghibaltath, which has been transformed into Gibraltar, which in their language signifies the mountain of the entrance. By this appellation they distinguished Mount Calpe, because they looked upon it as the key of the straits by which the ocean communicates with the Mediterranean: It actually proved the key which opened to them the door of Spain.

the celebrated camp of St. Roch. Destroyed by peace, as many other human establishments are by war, it exhibited, after an interval of two years, nothing but a heap of ruins.

We crossed it diagonally, to go straight to the Mediteranean, and to follow the coast to Fort St. Barbe, which forms the right of the lines. On shewing the order with which we were furnished, the great gate leading from the lines to the fortress was opened, and a petty officer was sent with us to watch, rather than to direct our motions.

We discovered the traces of the works of the besiegers, the trenches and epaulements of General Alvarez, which made so much noise in the newspapers of Madrid; the large stone tower, called the Tower of the Mill, which, placed between the besieged and the besiegers, was the only object that had escaped their combined ravages; and the site of the little gardens which the English had been permitted to make before their fortress, beyond the limits within which they were confined by the peace of Utrecht.

After proceeding for some time along the shores of the bay, we crossed over to the side of the Mediterranean, that we might survey nearer and in different points of view, that rock, which, for five years, had been the object of so many speculations; but with so rigid a

conductor as ours, we durst not advance beyond a very small tower, close to the water, near which the first English picquet is stationed. On this side, the rock is covered with batteries; the line of fire of most of them is nearly perpendicular. Here we were shewn the mouth of a mine, which the duke de Crillon had formed within the rock, and by which he intended to revenge the destruction of the floating batteries, when peace obliged him to desist, and placed the fortress in a state of security.

This was not the only point, which M. de Crillon had secretly prepared to attack. On the Mediterranean side, the rock, though perpendicular, does not continue so to the surface of the earth. Between the foot of the mountain and the sea, there is a kind of path which leads to point Europa. At the beginning of this path, the French general had made a second hollow in the rock.

Notwithstanding the sarcasms occasioned by these two secret attempts against Gibraltar, I have been assured, by persons who were present, that when General Elliot, after the cessation of hostilities, walked with M. de Crillon about this place, he appeared surprised at the progress made in the first of these mines, and observed, that if he had known this circumstance, he should not have been so easy. Whether the

British hero was perfectly sincere in this declaration, or it was only a trait of French politeness, is a question which I shall not pretend to decide.

In my opinion, it will be much more to the purpose, to present the reader with a brief account, derived from authentic sources, of the grand enterprize which engaged the attention of all Europe, and had such a fatal termination.

The court of Spain, weary of the fruitless blockade of Gibraltar, which excited the ridicule of all Europe, and of the besieged themselves, seriously determined to take this fortress by some extraordinary expedient or other, against which its steepness, its formidable artillery, and all the skill of General Elliot, should prove unavailing. Plans poured in from all quarters; some bold to extravagance, others so whimsical, that it was scarcely possible to look upon them as serious. Several of this kind I received myself. One of those sent to the ministers, formally proposed to throw up, in front of the lines of St. Roch, a prodigious mount, higher than Gibraltar, which would consequently deprive that fortress of its principal means of defence. The author had calculated the quantity of cubic fathoms of earth, the number of hands, and the time that would be required by this enormous undertaking, and proved that it would be less expensive and less