guſtines; who, for learning, good ſenſe, and liberality of ſentiment, would be an ornament to any country.

The ſtudents were formerly reckoned about ſixteen thouſand, but they are now much reduced; and, in 1785, the number of matriculas was nineteen hundred and nine. In a curious edict of Charles V. for the regulation of mendicity, we find a clauſe permitting ſtudents in the univerſities to beg, provided they have a licence from the rector: but in the preſent day they appear to be in a more reſpectable condition, and few, if any, take advantage of this privilege.

The library is ſpacious, and tolerably well furniſhed with modern books; yet the bulk is traſh, conſiſting principally of ſcholaſtic divinity.

Of all the public edifices, the cathedral is the moſt worthy of attention. The foundation of this ancient ſtructure was laid A. D. 1513, but it was not finiſhed till 1734. It is three hundred and ſeventy-eight feet long, one hundred and eighty-one wide in the clear, one hundred and thirty high in the nave, and eighty in the ailes. The whole is beautiful, but the moſt ſtriking part of this church, and of many public buildings in this city, is the ſculp-

ture,

ture, which merits admiration, not only for the taſte therein diſplayed, but for its excellent preſervation. Over the principal door is repreſented, in bold relief, the adoration of the ſages; and over another, the public entrance of Chriſt into Jeruſalem; all appearing as freſh and ſharp as if they were but recently put up.

The church of the Dominicans comes little ſhort of the cathedral in point of ſculpture. It has a repreſentation of St. Stephen ſtoned, with a crucifix above it, all as large as life, and not apparently injured by the weather. Indeed in both theſe edifices the carvings are in ſome meaſure protected, not from a driving rain, but from its perpendicular deſcent, becauſe they ſink back as much as the thickneſs of the wall will permit, which is at leaſt ſix feet, and are ſurrounded by mouldings projecting conſiderably beyond the wall. The precaution, without doubt, was prudent; yet I was not a little ſtruck when I obſerved the ornaments of baſs-relief preſerving their ſharpeſt angles, even when expoſed to the full force of the deſtructive elements. This circumſtance may be readily accounted for, when we conſider that the ſtone is a grit,

which

which when firſt taken from the quarry, is ſoft; but, upon being expoſed to the air, acquires hardneſs. Hence it is peculiarly valuable both to the architect and the ſculptor; and to theſe properties we may attribute the beautiful monuments of art which abound in Salamanca.

It would be tedious to deſcribe the convents and public ſeminaries of this once famous city; yet, to paſs them all in ſilence, would be inexcuſable. I therefore briefly mention ſuch as are moſt worthy of attention.

Among theſe may certainly be reckoned the old college. Here the quadrangle is ſmall, yet elegant; and the cloiſter, with its four and twenty columns, one of the prettieſt in Salamanca: the apartments are commodious, and thoſe of the regent are in a ſuperior ſtile.

The college of the archbiſhop is built upon a larger ſcale, more light and airy, and having four galleries of one hundred and thirty feet, with two and thirty columns ſupported by as many, which form the cloiſter, it may be called magnificent. The date of this building is 1550.

Cuenca college is remarkable at preſent for its neatneſs and ſimplicity; but the portico, when finiſhed, will place it among the moſt elegant buildings of this city.

The college of Oviedo, with the churches of the *Auguſtinos Calzados* and of the *Carmelitas Deſcalzos*, deſerve attention.

Of all theſe colleges and convents, it were endleſs to enumerate the treaſures and rich jewels deſigned for the ſervice of the altar. Whatever is moſt valuable, the produce of Europe, Aſia, Africa, and America, is here collected; and the beſt workmen, in every country, have exerted all their taſte and ſkill, each in his ſeveral branch, to ſhew the perfection of his art. The ornaments and dreſſes of the prieſts are both rich and beautiful; but the moſt coſtly piece of furniture, in moſt convents, is the Cuſtodia, that is, the depoſitory of the hoſt, or, according to the ideas of a catholic, the throne of the Moſt High, when, upon ſolemn feſtivals, he appears to command the adoration of mankind. It is not uncommon to expend ſix thouſand ounces of ſilver upon one of theſe, beſides gold and precious ſtones; yet, in moſt of them, the work-

workmanſhip ſurpaſſes the value of the materials.

The great ſquare, although laſt mentioned, is not leaſt worthy of attention. I had almoſt hourly occaſion to paſs through it, and never ſaw it without pleaſure. It is ſpacious, regular, built upon arches, and ſurrounded with piazzas. Such a ſquare would be admired *even* in London, or in Paris; but in a city like Salamanca, where all the ſtreets are narrow, it gives peculiar expanſion to the lungs, when you find yourſelf at liberty to breathe, when light burſts upon you by ſurpriſe, and when ſymmetry unites with greatneſs in all the objects by which you are encompaſſed.

The portico is not more to be admired for its beauty in the day, than for the protection it affords by night; becauſe in this city they have an execrable cuſtom, both offenſive to the noſtrils, and deſtructive of good clothes, ſimilar to that, for which the inhabitants of the Old Town in Edinburgh have been deſervedly reproached.

In the year 1030, there was not a ſingle convent in Salamanca; and in 1480, previous to the diſcovery of America, they had only ſix for men, and three for women; but now

there are thirty-nine. In 1518, they counted eleven thouſand virgins. At preſent the perſons under vows are happily reduced to one thouſand five hundred and nineteen.

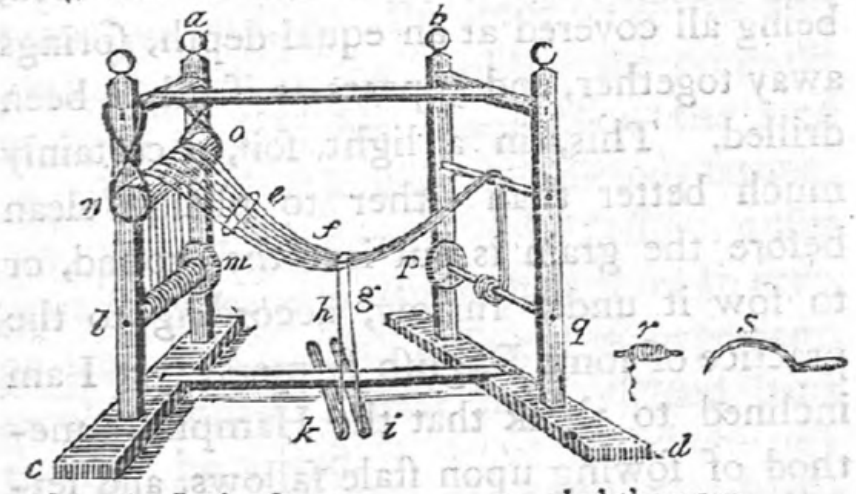
The houſes are no more than three thouſand, yet they have twenty-ſeven pariſh churches, with fifteen chapels, and the clergy are, of thoſe that are parochial, three hundred and ninety-nine; of the cathedral, one hundred thirty-two; beſides the royal clergy of S. Mark, forty-nine; amounting in the whole to five hundred and eighty.

In a city where the convents and clergy are ſo numerous, it may be well expected, that beggars will abound; and agreeably to this idea it is ſeen, that by the ample proviſion here made for lazineſs, every ſtreet ſwarms with vagabonds, not merely with thoſe, who are proper objects of compaſſion, but with wretches, who, if compelled to work, would be found abundantly able to maintain themſelves. There is indeed an hoſpicio, or general work-houſe, for their reception; but as the funds are limited, and do not amount to ſixteen hundred pounds a year, it can ſupport only four hundred and fifty paupers. Should, however, the government be inclined to in-

creaſe

creaſe theſe funds, it will make no great difference, becauſe the numbers both in the work-houſe and the ſtreets will always bear proportion to the food diſtributed. This truth can ſcarcely be inculcated too often; but I ſhall defer my obſervations upon it, till I come to treat of Cadiz.

Among the various implements in this hoſpicio, I was much pleaſed with one for weaving tape, both cheap and ſimple in its conſtruction, and ſo expeditious in its work, that a little child weaves near fifty yards, and a woman more than one hundred and twenty, in a day. I ſhall deſcribe it by the aſſiſtance of a drawing.



a. b. c. d. Is the frame.
e. f. The warp, or chain.
g. h. The two harneſſes.
i. k. Treadles to work the harneſs.
l. m. The roller and ratchet to wind the warp.
n. o. The lantern to ſtrain the warp.
p. q. The roller and ratchet-wheel to wind the tape.
r. The bobbin. *s.* The ſlaie.

The bobbin is worked by the left hand alone, the fingers being kept under the chain, and the thumb above it. The ſlaie is held in the right hand to beat up the work.

I was much pleaſed with the huſbandry in the vicinity of this city, as being ſuited to the ſoil. The plough has neither coulter, fin, nor mould-board; but near the tail of the ſhare it has two pins, ſo diſpoſed as to lay the furrow in high rafters or ridges, like the roof of a houſe. In this condition the land is left till ſeed time, when the ploughman firſt ſows the grain, then ſlits the furrow; and thus the ſeed, being all covered at an equal depth, ſprings away together, and appears as if it had been drilled. This, in a light ſoil, is certainly much better than either to plough clean before the grain is put into the ground, or to ſow it under furrow, according to the practice of ſome Engliſh farmers; yet I am inclined to think that the Hampſhire method of ſowing upon ſtale fallows, and letting in the ſeed by drags, would be found more profitable.

It is well known, that by this modern improvement, the value of land has been

more

more than doubled upon all the Hampſhire hills. When they were accuſtomed to plough often for their wheat, as in the low countries, and upon ſtrong land, it has frequently happened, that after ſowing four buſhels to an acre, they have reaped only eight, and ſometimes not more than half as much. But now, by ſuffering the land to ſettle, by ſcattering their ſeed upon the ground, when the whole perhaps is covered with thiſtles, and by paſſing their heavy drags twice over the field, moving each time the length-way of the furrow, they make a ſaving on the quantity of ſeed, and more than double the produce they were accuſtomed to receive. By improving on this practice, that is, by puſhing the principle ſo far as to fold his ſheep upon the land as faſt as he had ſown it, a judicious farmer, who lives at Cholterton in Wiltſhire, a few years ſince reaped forty buſhels from an acre, on land which, with different management, would probably never have yielded back the ſeed he ſowed.

When I expreſs myſelf ſatisfied with the huſbandry in the neighbourhood of Salamanca, it is only ſo far as it relates to

ploughing; for, in no other reſpect has it any claim to approbation. The ploughman and the grazier, inſtead of being united in the ſame perſon, are here eternally at variance; and as the latter is the beſt tenant, the great proprietors give him the preference. Hence the country has been depopulated, and the lands, which are in tillage, for want of cattle to manure and tread them, produce light crops of corn. This biſhopric formerly contained ſeven hundred and forty-eight corporation towns; but now it has only three hundred and thirty-three, the other four hundred and fifteen being deſerted, and their arable lands reduced to paſture. To ſuch an extent is the depopulation ſpread, that, in a ſpace of ſeven leagues in length, and five in breadth, which formerly contained one hundred and twenty-ſeven towns, each with its corregidor and council, only thirteen remain. Theſe have forty-ſeven churches.

The ſoil, I have ſaid, is light. It is a ſand, and evidently a decompoſed granite, becauſe, upon examination, it is ſeen to be plentifully charged with a fine white mica. The rock is chiefly granite, covered in ſome

places

places with ſchiſt, but in others with ſilicious grit, which, as it appears to me, is nothing but the fine ſand or broken quarts of the granite, united by a cement.

All men are fond of ſyſtem: they aſſemble facts, and are never happier, than when from theſe they can deduce ſome general concluſion. The facts I wiſh to have recorded, are ſuch as may trace out the origin of grit; and I am at preſent much inclined to think, that hereafter it will be given to the granite. The connection, as it relates to vicinity, ſtands confeſſed, and may be ſo far uſeful in making out the hiſtory of that great revolution which once happened to our earth; but, from my own obſervations, I am ready to infer a more intimate connection, and that they ſtand related to each other as effect and cauſe, or as the parent and his offspring.

I have already ſuggeſted this idea, and have ventured to draw one concluſion from it in reſpect to Monjouy, near Barcelona. If well founded, this will aſſiſt us to account for the aſtoniſhing number of large grit ſtones, or grey whethers, as they are called, on the Wiltſhire Downs, and will confirm the diluvian ſyſtem firſt ſuggeſted

by

by Mr. King, in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of 1767. One of theſe large bowlder ſtones of grit, contains fragments of white opaque, and likewiſe of tranſparent quartz, with two flint ſtones of a conſiderable ſize. I muſt, however, reſerve what I have to ſay upon this ſubject, till I come to the deſcription of the Alps, on my return from Spain.

The government of the city is in a corregidor, one alcalde mayor, and forty-eight regidores.

When I had ſatisfied my curioſity at Salamanca, and found my ſtrength ſo far reſtored that I could with ſafety proſecute my journey, I made an agreement with a *Mozo del Camino*, for himſelf and mule, to go with me to the Eſcurial, not by the direct road, but by a ſmall detour, in order to ſee, at Piedrahita, a famous country-ſeat built by the Duke of Alba. The next day, after dinner, October 22, I took leave of Dr. Curtis with a cordial regret at parting, and ſet forward on my way, proceeding towards Alba.

For the firſt two leagues we aſcended gradually; then entered a foreſt of ilex, which, as my guide informed me, ſtretches

eaſt

eaſt and weſt near forty leagues. The acorns here are of the kind deſcribed by Horace, as the origin of war among the rude inhabitants of an infant world, "*glandem* "atque cubilia propter." Not auſtere, like thoſe of the oak, or of the common ilex, but ſweet and palatable, like the cheſnut, they are food, not merely for the ſwine, but for the peaſants, and yield conſiderable profit. Beyond the limits of this foreſt, we began to deſcend through a fine cultivated country, abounding with corn and wine; and at the diſtance of four ſhort leagues from Salamanca, we reached *Alba*.

This city contains at preſent only three hundred houſes, and has ſeven convents. One of them, that of the Carmelites, merits attention for its pictures, and for its treaſures; but the greateſt curioſity is the caſtle, with its round tower, ſupported by four ſquare ones, in which is depoſited the armour of all the dukes of Alba. To this ancient edifice they have added, at ſucceſſive periods, more modern habitations, forming a conſiderable quadrangle; but unfortunately all the rooms are ſmall.

About three leagues from hence, we entered another vaſt foreſt of the ilex, where

we ſaw many droves of ſwine, a village with a church, conſiſting of four cottages, including the habitation of the curate. Here we took up our quarters in the middle of the day; and having left it, were proceeding towards Piedrahita, when a fall of heavy and inceſſant rain compelled us to ſtop ſhort of it, and to have recourſe for ſhelter to a miſerable village called *Malpartido*. The poſada had only one bed for the uſe of the whole family; and as that was occupied by a lad, ſon to the good woman of the houſe, then dying of a putrid fever, we had a moſt uncomfortable proſpect for the night. Beſides the bed-chamber, they had, as uſual, a kitchen, a room of about ten feet ſquare, with an elevated hearth in the centre of it, over which a little opening in the roof afforded a vent for the ſmoke. Around the hearth was a wide bench, which by day ſupplied the place of chairs, and by night ſerved the purpoſe of a bed. Upon this they deſigned to ſcatter ſtraw for me, leaving my guide to meaſure his length on the bare board at the other end of this magnificent apartment. Happily, however, I had a paſs from count Campomanes in my pocket. This I ſent, with my humble duty

to

to the alcalde, requeſting that he would be pleaſed to procure me a lodging for the night. In a few minutes the meſſenger returned, and ſoon after the alcalde was announced. I roſe up inſtantly, prepared to meet him with profound reſpect; but, inſtead of a haughty magiſtrate, ſuch as my imagination had conceived him, behold a little inſignificant man, humble in his appearance, dreſſed in a coleto, or leathern jacket deſtitute of ſleeves, and bound cloſe round him with a girdle of the ſame materials. He informed me, that he had made all arrangements, and that the beſt bed in the village was preparing for me. He had ſcarcely finiſhed, when the young man, whoſe place I was to occupy, entered to expoſtulate; but the alcalde cut him ſhort with *no hay remedio*; and therefore, finding that it was to no purpoſe to complain, he quitted poſſeſſion with a good grace, and took up his lodging in the houſe of ſome relation. Having thus ſecured a bed, I left my guide to take good care of the alcalde, as a token of gratitude for his attention, and retired to my quarters for the night.

In

In my new habitation I met with a comfortable bed, clean ſheets, and a kind reception from the family; and when I was to quit them in the morning, they could not be prevailed upon to accept a recompenſe. I was much ſurpriſed at finding ſuch generous ſentiments in a cottage; but I have ſince had frequent opportunities of admiring the high ſpirit of the Spaniards, and, *in many inſtances*, their contempt for money.

The putrid fever was not confined to the poſada; it raged without reſtraint; and, not only in this village, but in thoſe of the vicinity, there was ſcarcely a houſe from which they had not lately buried one of the family. It is much to be lamented, that the curates in Spain are not taught the management of fevers. As they muſt attend the dying, to adminiſter the ſacraments, it would be a deed of mercy well ſuited to their character, and by no means inconſiſtent with their ſacred functions, ſhould they learn to preſcribe the medicines, which, in England, when properly applied, generally ſucceed in checking the diſeaſe, and reſcuing from death. This knowledge may be eaſily acquired; and whenever it ſhall be

univerſally diffuſed, fevers will ceaſe to be ſo deſtructive as at preſent, and will be feared in many caſes no more than fire, which, well regulated, is not only ſafe, but ſalutary; yet, if ſuffered to ſpread, is fatal to the houſe. It is not my intention to inſinuate, that the two profeſſions of phyſic and divinity ſhould be united, but only that in every place there ſhould be ſome one at hand, who might endeavour to extinguiſh this deſtructive flame the moment it appears; and, conſidering how ſmall and thinly ſcattered are the villages in Spain, and how wretched their inhabitants, the curate is the only perſon from whom they may naturally expect relief.

The country beyond Malpartido is exceedingly broken; and the granite rocks, expoſing their rugged fronts without a covering, ſhew clearly, that the ſummit of this great chain of mountains is not remote. We had been aſcending all the way from Salamanca; but having left the Tormes, as we draw nigh to Piedrahita, the waters take another courſe, and run into the Adaja.

Piedrahita is a village of one hundred and fifty houſes, with three convents and a beaterio, belonging to the dutcheſs of Alba, and famous

famous only on account of a country-ſeat erected here by the late duke, in imitation of the Engliſh. Inſtead of being built round a court, with a corridor, like the Spaniſh houſes, it preſents a front of one hundred feet, with two projecting wings of ſixty feet; and the ground floor, inſtead of being abandoned to coach-houſe and ſtables, is occupied by the kitchen, the offices, and the principal apartments; and over theſe, are bed-chambers for ſervants. Contrary to the Spaniſh cuſtom, every room is ceiled, and the walls are papered. Altogether, it is a comfortable reſidence; but, to an Engliſhman, it has no great pretenſions. Had not the faireſt part of its furniture been removed, it would have ſeemed more beautiful; for the dutcheſs, who had been there with her friends for a few weeks during the greateſt heats of ſummer, was lately returned to court, and her preſence would have made a more humble habitation appear enchanting.

In leaving Piedrahita, we continued along the valley, ſhut in between high mountains, all covered with the ilex and gumciſtus. Theſe, mixed with the grey granite rocks,

make

make a beautiful appearance. As we advanced, we overtook ſeveral Merino flocks returning to the ſouth. Near the *Caſas del Puerto*, we entered another valley, running eaſt and weſt near ten leagues, and never much more than a mile in breadth. At the end of it, ſtands *Avila*.

The ſoil is ſand; the plough is like that laſt deſcribed; the fields are divided into ſmall portions; and the paſture is common. Their ſheep are folded, and the ſhepherd remains all night with his dogs near his flock, ſheltered only by a ſtraw cabin, juſt large enough to ſtretch himſelf at length. They have no iron about their carts, either on the wheels or axle-tree; the whole is wood. The oxen are yoked in pairs, and draw heavy burdens by their horns. The dreſs of the peaſant is the *coleto*.

As ſoon as we arrived in Avila, I viſited the market, to make, as uſual, proviſion for the day; and having purchaſed a kid, which, when the Merino flocks are paſſing, ſells for about ten reales, or two ſhillings, I ſent it to the cook's ſhop, and then began my rambles. Whilſt I was making ſome inquiries, a gentleman accoſted me, gave

me the informations I required, undertook himſelf to be my guide, and, before we parted, made me engage to dine with him. This was D. Baltaſar Lezaeta, a prebendary of the cathedral; from whom I received as much attention as if I had been recommended by a friend.

Avila has at preſent only a thouſand houſes, or one-ſixth part of its former population; yet the convents are not diminiſhed, being ſixteen in number, nine for men, ſeven for women. Beſides theſe, it maintains eight pariſh churches, a cathedral with forty canons, five hoſpitals, and a univerſity. No wonder, then, that it ſhould ſwarm, as it does, with ſturdy beggars.

This city, built upon a granite rock, and incloſed by a wall, with eighty-eight projecting towers, has every where the appearance of great antiquity, but more eſpecially in the cathedral.

In this are many things worthy of attention, but principally the cloiſter, for its exquiſite neatneſs, and elegant ſimplicity. The ſacriſty is a good building, and the treaſure contained in it, both in plate and

jewels, would in England be called ineſtimable. The cuſtodia, as uſual, of ſolid ſilver, is four feet high, adorned with Ionic, Compoſite, and Corinthian columns, and diſplays much taſte both in its deſign and execution. Among their jewels they have the pectoral of the late archbiſhop of Toledo, the infant don Luis, valuable chiefly for its gems, all large and of the fineſt water. The choir has beautiful carvings.

Of the convents, the moſt remarkable are thoſe of the Carmelites; one for nuns, the other for friars; the latter built upon the ſpot where S. Tereſa was born, the former where ſhe took the veil. In this, the principal thing at preſent worthy to be noticed, is a picture by Morales, repreſenting a dead Chriſt in his mother's arms; of which, nothing need be ſaid after having named the painter, becauſe all his works have ſuch peculiar ſoftneſs and expreſſion, that men have univerſally agreed in calling him, divine. The Carmelites of Avila once poſſeſſed a treaſure infinitely more valuable to them, than all the pictures ever painted by Morales: this was the body of S. Tereſa. It was originally interred at Alba, A. D.

1582, but three years afterwards it was ſecretly taken up, and conveyed to Avila, where it was not ſuffered long to reſt; for the duke of Alba finding all other expedients vain, made application to the pope, and obtained an order for its return.

The life of S. Tereſa, lately publiſhed among thoſe of other ſaints, by the Rev. A. Butler, is peculiarly intereſting. Her frame was naturally delicate, her imagination lively, and her mind, incapable of being fixed by trivial objects, turned with avidity to thoſe, which religion offered, the moment they were preſented to her view. But unfortunately meeting with the writings of S. Jerom, ſhe became enamoured of the monaſtic life, and quitting the line, for which nature deſigned her, ſhe renounced the moſt endearing ties, and bound herſelf by the irrevocable vow. Deep melancholy then ſeized on her, and increaſed to ſuch a degree, that for many days ſhe lay both motionleſs and ſenſeleſs, like one who is in a trance. Her tender frame, thus ſhaken, prepared her for extaſies and viſions, ſuch as it might appear invidious to repeat, were they not related by herſelf, and by her

greateſt

greateſt admirers. She tells us, that in the fervour of her devotion, ſhe not only became inſenſible to every thing around her, but that her body was often lifted up from the earth, although ſhe endeavoured to reſiſt the motion; and biſhop Yepez relates in particular, that when ſhe was going to receive the euchariſt at Avila, ſhe was raiſed in a rapture higher than the grate, through which, as uſual in nunneries, it was preſented to her. She often heard the voice of God, when ſhe was recovered from a trance; but ſometimes the devil, by imitation, endeavoured to deceive her; yet ſhe was always able to detect the fraud. She frequently ſaw S. Peter and S. Paul ſtanding on her left hand, whilſt our Lord preſented himſelf before her eyes in ſuch a manner, that it was impoſſible for her to think it was the devil; yet, in obedience to the church, and by the advice of her confeſſor, ſhe inſulted the viſion, as ſhe had been uſed to do the evil ſpirits, by croſſing herſelf, and making ſigns of ſcorn. Once, when ſhe held in her hand the croſs which was at the end of her beads, our Lord took it from her, and when he reſtored it, ſhe

ſaw it compoſed of four large gems incomparably more precious than diamonds. Theſe had his five wounds engraved upon them after a moſt curious manner; and he told her, that ſhe ſhould always ſee that ſame appearance: and ſo ſhe did; for from that time ſhe no longer ſaw the matter, of which the croſs was made, but only theſe precious ſtones, although no one ſaw them but herſelf. Whenever devils appeared to her in hideous forms, ſhe ſoon made them keep their diſtance, by ſprinkling the ground with holy water. She had often the happineſs of ſeeing ſouls freed from purgatory, and carried up to heaven; but ſhe never ſaw more than three which eſcaped the purifying flame, and theſe were F. Peter of Alcantara, F. Ivagnez, and a Carmelite friar.

It is acknowledged, that many of her friends, diſtinguiſhed for their good ſenſe and piety, after examination, were of opinion, that ſhe was deluded by the devil; yet ſuch was the complexion of the times, that ſhe was at laſt univerſally regarded as a ſaint. She had indeed every thing needful to conciliate the good opinion of her friends, and the admiration

admiration of the multitude. The graceſulneſs and dignity of her appearance, the ſoftneſs of her manners, and the lovelineſs of her diſpoſition, the quickneſs of her wit, the ſtrength of her underſtanding, and the fire of her imagination, all her natural accompliſhments receiving luſtre from her exalted piety and zeal, from the ſanctity of her life, and the ſeverity of her diſcipline, all conſpired to eſtabliſh her reputation, as one that had immediate intercourſe with heaven.

It is curious, yet moſt humiliating, to ſee a perſon of this deſcription, amiable and reſpectable as S. Tereſa, deceived, and, with the beſt intentions, deceiving others. In this inſtance, we can readily account for the deluſion from the delicacy and weakneſs of her frame, the ſtrength of a diſturbed imagination, and the prevalence of ſuperſtition. But when we ſee men of the fineſt underſtandings, in perfect health, of different and diſtant nations, in all ages, treading upon the ſame inchanted ground, we can only wonder; for who can give any rational account of the aberrations of our reaſon? The hiſtory of myſticiſm, if well

written, would be highly intereſting, as embracing ſome of the fineſt characters that were ever admired in the world. Should any able writer be engaged to undertake this work, he will explain to us the principles upon which Boſſuet, that prodigy of learning, perſecuted Fenelon, the moſt amiable of men, whilſt S. Francis of Sales was the object of his adoration; and why he poured contempt upon Madame Guion, whilſt he had the higheſt reverence for S. Tereſa.

This extraordinary woman, cheriſhed by ſovereign princes, univerſally admired whilſt living, and worſhipped when dead, had the happineſs of leaving behind her ſixteen nunneries, and fourteen convents of friars, founded by herſelf, and ſubject to the order of Carmelites, which ſhe had reformed.

Avila, although it no longer poſſeſſes her remains, yet, as the place of her nativity and chief reſidence, is much reſorted to at the ſeaſon of her feſtival. It has no manufactures. Some years ſince they began making cloth, but the ſituation not being favourable, the project was abandoned, and their dependence at preſent is on the produce

of

of the ſoil. The country abounds with ſaffron, and this for a ſeaſon finds employment for the women and the children. Were it not for the cathedral and the convents, the city would be deſerted, becauſe not one proprietor of land reſides here; the whole being either rented, or held in *adminiſtration*, as they expreſs it; that is, cultivated by ſtewards on the proprietors account.

No country can ſuffer more than Spain for want of a rich tenantry; and, perhaps, none in this reſpect can rival England. We find univerſally that wealth produces wealth; but then, to produce it from the earth, a due proportion of it muſt be in the pocket of the farmer. Many gentlemen among us, either for amuſement, or with a view to gain, have given attention to agriculture, and have occupied much land; they have produced luxuriant crops, and have introduced good huſbandry; but, I apprehend, few can boaſt of having made much profit, and moſt are ready to confeſs that they have ſuffered loſs. If, then, reſiding on their own eſtates, with all their attention, they are conſiderable loſers; how great would be the loſs, if in diſtant provinces

vinces they employed only ſtewards, to plough, to ſow, to ſell, and to eat up all the produce of their lands? In France they are ſo ſenſible of this, that for want of wealthy farmers, the proprietor finds ſtock, and takes his proportion of the produce; but in Spain, excepting a few provinces, the lands are commonly in adminiſtration; and hence, extenſive diſtricts yield only a contemptible revenue to their lord.

From Avila we proceeded about a league through a rich valley, and then began to climb thoſe mountains, which, dividing the two Caſtilles, formed for many ages the ſtrong barrier between the Chriſtians and the Moors; till Ferdinand I. deſcending with the united forces of Caſtille and Leon into the plain, drove the infidels before him, and diſplayed his victorious banners in Guadalajara, Alcala, and Madrid.

On theſe high mountains we travelled near five leagues without ſeeing a human face, or habitation, and ſcarcely a beaten track.

At a lower level we found the ilex. As we aſcended, theſe were ſucceeded by the roble oak; but near the ſummit we ſaw only

only pines, with the juniperus europeus, the daphne mezereum, the matricaria ſuavis, the geniſta, and a variety of aromatic herbs, but chiefly thyme. At almoſt every level, the ciſtus tribes abound upon the granite mountains, excepting where, like theſe, the ſummits are covered with an eternal ſnow.

The firſt little village we paſſed through, is called *Naval Peral*; the next, at the diſtance of a league, *Navas del Marqués*: this, although it has only fifty cottages, has a church, a chapel, and a convent. From hence we proceeded about three leagues, and then began deſcending into the plains of New Caſtille.

All the way from Salamanca I obſerved ſaffron growing wild, which, if collected, would help to employ the poor in their villages, and yield conſiderable profit.

As we approached the Eſcurial, we entered upon the king's hunting road, made like thoſe of England, rather for uſe than beauty. Had the Spaniards been every where ſatisfied with ſuch; where they have finiſhed one league, they might have completed twenty. Their ambition aims in every

every thing at perfection, and by ſeeking too much, they often obtain too little. The idea they have formed to themſelves of a perfect road, in point of utility, is moſt undoubtedly well founded; but in attempting to reduce this to practice, they are forced to loſe much time, and to expend more money than the benefit to be derived from it is worth. Had their ambition been leſs aſpiring, ere now a communication would have been opened between all their great cities, and much of their produce, now loſt, would have found a market. This hunting road ſhould convince the theoriſts among them, that a high-way may be firm without ſide walls, and ſupport any given weight without ſuch a foundation of huge rocks as would be needful for a caſtle. And although, for the mere purpoſe of expedition, to be perfectly both ſtrait and level would be deſireable, yet the traveller is better pleaſed where he finds variety, and is charmed, as he proceeds, with a conſtant ſucceſſion of new proſpects.

On my arrival at my journey's end, I found a letter from our miniſter, Mr. Liſton, to inform me, that when the court

left

left S. Ildefonſo, where he had been for ſome time expecting me, he had viſited Madrid, and that he ſhould not come to the Eſcurial till the beginning of the week,

Having therefore ſome time to ſpare for the excurſion, I immediately proceeded to repaſs the mountains, not returning by the ſame road, but going eaſtward by Guadarrama, and croſſing by the *Puerto de Fuenfria*, a paſs ſo called from the coldneſs of its waters. This puerto is elevated, and the proſpect from it is delightful; but with the ſcorching ſun, the aſcent to it is ſcarcely bearable. In looking down towards Segovia, the whole country appears level, like the ſurface of a lake, and extended like the ocean; but, as we deſcend into this plain, we ſee the mountains riſe before us. The country immediately around us, near this ſummit, is majeſtically wild, with deep ravins and projecting rocks, covered with pines, wherever pines can grow, and torn by raging torrents.

In a deep receſs, open and expoſed only to the north wind, ſtands S. Ildefonſo, enjoying freſhneſs, and gathering the fruits of

ſpring,

ſpring, when all to the ſouth of theſe high mountains, fainting with heat, are engaged in reaping, and collecting the autumnal crops. This change of climate, in the ſpace of eight leagues, for that is the diſtance from the Eſcurial to S. Ildefonſo, induced Philip V. to build a palace here.

S. Ildefonſo occupies three ſides of a ſquare, the two wings of which being joined, each by a long range of buildings, deſigned for the king's retinue, and cloſed in at bottom by iron gates and rails; the whole forms a beautiful and ſpacious area. The principal front, of five hundred and thirty feet in length, is to the ſouth, looking to the garden, and through its whole extent the apartments communicate with all the doors on the ſame line.

To give ſome idea of the pictures, it may be ſufficient to name the maſters, whoſe works have been here collected by Philip, and by ſucceeding princes. The principal are Leonardo de Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Hannibal Caraci, Guercino, Guido, Carlo Maratti, Correggio, Rubens, Pouſin, Paul Veroneſe, Woverman, Teniers, Martin de Vos, Andrea del Sarto, Vandyke,

Vandyke, Dominicini, Tintoret, Albert Durer, Jordano, Velaſquez, Ribera, Ribalta, Valdez, Murillo, Mengs. In the church, the freſco paintings are by Bayeu, Mariano, and Maella.

In the lower apartments is a collection of antique ſtatues, made by Chriſtina, queen of Sweden, and conſidered as ineſtimable.

The church is dark, but elegant; and, with reſpect to treaſures, has few to rival it in Spain. Among the vaſt variety of gold and ſilver ornaments, the moſt ſtriking is one of the *cuſtodias*, valued originally at ſeventy thouſand ducats, or £. 7,690. 8 *s.* 6 *d.* ſterling.

The garden occupies a ridge, riſing to the ſouth, and falling both to the eaſt and to the weſt. Near the palace it is laid out in the old taſte, with clipped hedges and ſtraight walks, highly adorned and refreſhed with numerous fountains; but in proportion to the diſtance, it becomes more wild, till it terminates in the uncultivated and pathleſs foreſt, where the cragged rocks appearing among oaks and pines, preſent a ſtriking contraſt with the works of art.

This

This garden, delightful for its walks, which, although ſhady, are neither damp nor gloomy, is moſt to be admired for its fountains. Of theſe, the moſt remarkable are eight, dedicated to the principal heathen deities, and adorned each with its proper emblems. In one, Diana appears attended by her nymphs, who are hiding her from Acteon. In another is ſeen Latona with Apollo and Diana, ſurrounded by ſixty-four jets of water. The moſt ſurpriſing is Fame ſeated on Pegaſus, with a trumpet to her mouth, throwing up a ſtream of more than two inches in diameter to the height of one hundred and thirty-two feet. But the moſt pleaſing ſight is the *Plazuela de las Ocho Calles*, where eight walks unite, each with its fountain in the centre, and where eight other fountains, under lofty arches, ſupported by Ionic pillars of white Italian marble, form an octagon, adorned with the images of Saturn, Minerva, Veſta, Neptune, Ceres, Mars, Hercules, and Peace, ſtanding round it; and Apollo, with Pandora, in the middle. The ſtatues are all of lead, varniſhed in imitation of braſs, and were made by Fermin and Tierri.

Beſides

Beſides fountains innumerable, here are vaſt reſervoirs and falls of water, ſo diſpoſed as to contribute much to the beauty of the place.

When we conſider, that the whole of the garden was a barren rock, that the ſoil is brought from a great diſtance, and that water is conveyed to every tree; when we reflect upon the quantity of lead uſed for the images, and of caſt iron for the pipes, with the expence of workmanſhip for both, we ſhall not be ſurpriſed to hear that this place coſt forty-five millions of piaſtres, or, in Engliſh money, near ſix millions and an half.

Nothing is more whimſical than taſte; but, if it be true, that beauty is founded in utility; this place will always deſerve to be admired. In the preſent day, it is not uncommon to build the manſion in the middle of a field, open and expoſed to every wind, without ſhelter, without a fence, and wholly unconnected with the garden. Near the habitation all is wild, and art, if any where, appears only at a diſtance. In all this we can trace no utility, nor will ſucceeding generations diſcover beauty. On the contrary, in the garden of S. Ildefonſo,

we find every thing, which in a ſultry ſeaſon is deſirable; a free circulation of air, a deep ſhade, and refreſhing vapours to abſorb the heat; whilſt from its contiguity to the manſion, the acceſs to it is eaſy, and at any time theſe comforts may be inſtantly enjoyed; yet, without theſe numerous fountains, the clipped hedges, and the narrow walks, the circulation would be leſs rapid, the ſhade leſs deep, and the refreſhing vapour would be wanting.

The glaſs manufacture is here carried to a degree of perfection unknown in England. The largeſt mirrors are made in a braſs frame, one hundred and ſixty-two inches long, ninety-three wide, and ſix deep, weighing near nine tons. Theſe are deſigned wholly for the royal palaces, and for preſents from the king. Yet, even for ſuch purpoſes, it is ill placed, and proves a devouring monſter in a country where proviſions are dear, fewel ſcarce, and carriage exceedingly expenſive.

Here is alſo a royal manufacture of linen, employing about fifteen looms; by which, as it is ſaid, the king is a conſiderable loſer.

Being now within the diſtance of two ſhort leagues from Segovia, I could not re-

turn

turn without paying a viſit to that intereſting city. In the way to it, there is little appearance of cultivation, and the obvious reaſon is the continual depredations occaſioned by the royal deer. As we paſſed through the woods, before we came into the open field, we ſaw vaſt herds of them, unconfined, and free to range unmoleſted over all the country.

In Segovia, the firſt object to attract the eye, is the aqueduct. It contains one hundred and fifty-nine arches, extends about ſeven hundred and forty yards, and, where it croſſes the valley, it is ſomething more than ninety-four feet high.

The cathedral has no great pretenſions; yet in one of the chapels there is a good altar, with the Deſcent from the Croſs well executed in mezzo relievo, by a diſciple of Michael Angelo, and finiſhed A. D. 1571. The church is nearly upon the model of the great church at Salamanca, but it is not ſo highly finiſhed.

The Alcazar, or ancient palace of the Moors, has been ſo often deſcribed, that I ſhould paſs it over in ſilence, did not the attentions I received there deſerve a particular remembrance. I had no letters, and

count Lacy, the inſpector, was abſent; but, upon preſenting myſelf to his lieutenant, as a ſtranger, he received me with politeneſs, and conducted me to every apartment. This ſtrong tower is no longer, as formerly, a ſtate priſon: it ſerves a more honourable purpoſe, and is devoted to one hundred cavaliers, who are here inſtructed in the military ſcience. The ſight of this building gave me pleaſure, more eſpecially the great hall, with the images of all their monarchs; but the higheſt ſatisfaction was, to ſee the Spaniſh character ſtrongly marked in the countenances of many among the young gentlemen who are educated here. A Spaniard may poſſibly grow rich in trade; he may make a progreſs in the ſciences; but, were he left to follow his natural inclination, he would certainly betake himſelf to a military life; and for that, if generoſity, if patience and fortitude, if a ſpirit of enterprize, are requiſite, in all theſe the true Spaniard will excel.

Segovia was once famous for its cloth, made on the king's account; but other nations have ſince become rivals in this branch, and the manufacture in this city has been gradually declining. When the king gave

it

it up to a private company, he left about three thouſand pounds in trade; but now he is no longer a partner in the buſineſs. In the year 1612, were made here, twenty-five thouſand five hundred pieces of cloth, which conſumed forty-four thouſand ſix hundred and twenty-five quintals of wool, employed thirty-four thouſand one hundred and eighty-nine perſons; but at preſent they make only about four thouſand pieces. The principal imperfections of this cloth are, that the thread is not even, and that much greaſe remains in it, when it is delivered to the dyer; in conſequence of which, the colour is apt to fail. Yet independantly of imperfections, ſo many are the diſadvantages under which the manufacture labours, that foreigners can afford to pay three pounds for the arroba of fine wool, for which the Spaniard gives no more than twenty ſhillings, and after all his charges can command the market even in the ports of Spain.

In the year 1525, the city contained five thouſand families; but now they do not ſurpaſs two thouſand: a ſcanty population this for twenty-five pariſhes: yet, beſides the

twenty-five churches, together with the cathedral, they have one and twenty convents. When the canal is finiſhed, and the communication opened to the Bay of Biſcay at S. Ander, the trade and manufactures of Segovia may revive; but, previous to that event, there can be nothing to inſpire them with hope.

As we returned (October 28,) towards New Caſtille, my intention was to have travelled at our leiſure; but, obſerving ſome degree of impatience in my guide to repaſs the mountains before night, I was happy to indulge him; and the next morning, when I looked back and ſaw the lofty ſummits covered deep with ſnow, I comprehended the reaſon of his ſolicitude. The ways behind us were rendered thus for the time impaſſable, whilſt all before us had been only watered by ſoft and refreſhing ſhowers.

In the Old Caſtille, the uſual price demanded by a muleteer is four reals a day for himſelf, as many for his mule, and ſix for barley, altogether equal to 2*s*. 9*d*.; but ſhould you omit to make a bargain, you muſt depend upon his mercy. The whole expence of travelling may be reckoned at ten

ſhillings

ſhillings a day, if you go ſtraight forwards; but if you make a circle, or return with the ſame mule, it comes to about 7*s*. 6*d*.

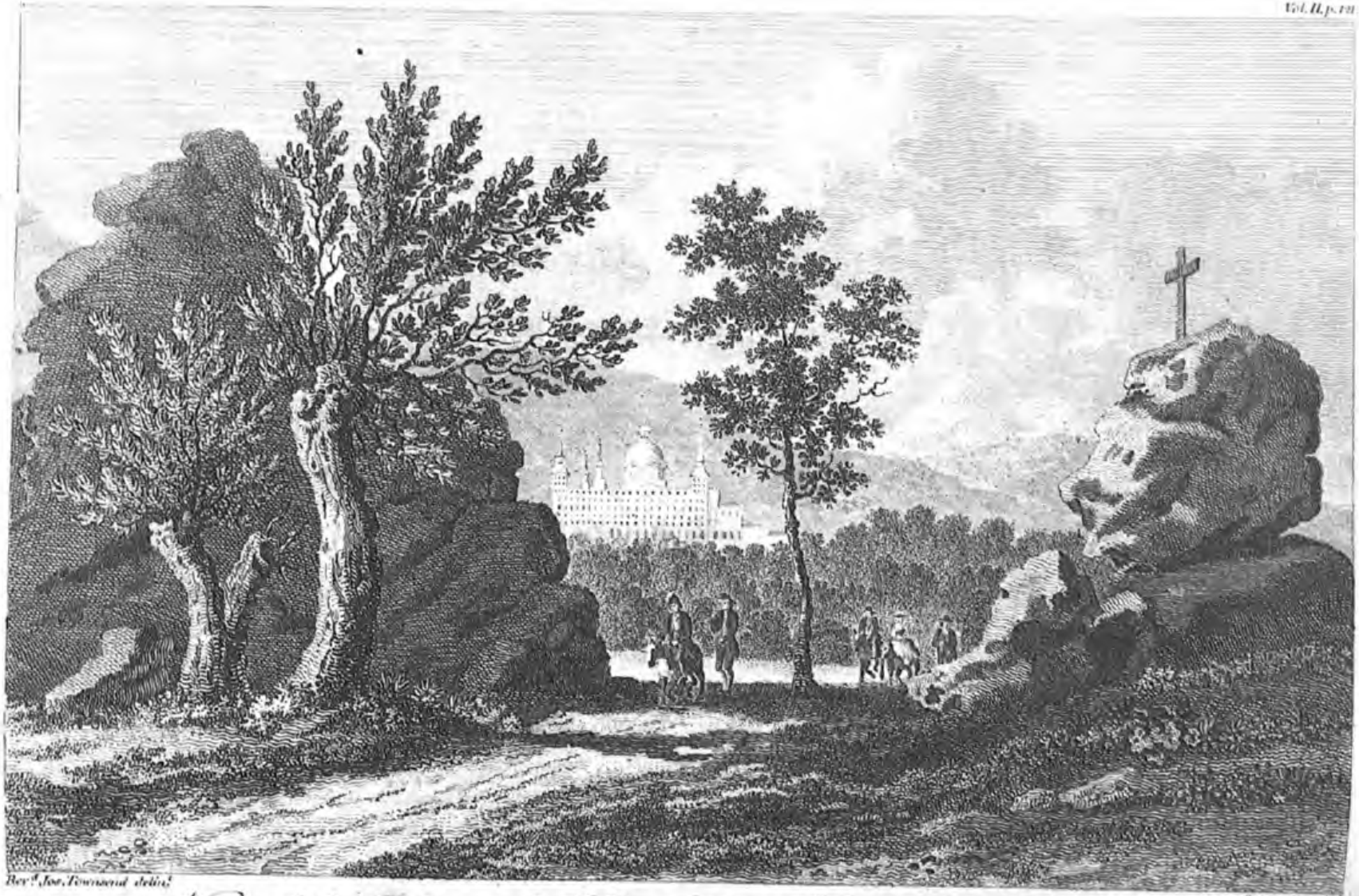
The convent of S. Lorenzo is ſeated in a deep receſs, at the foot of thoſe high mountains, which ſeparate the two Caſtilles; and, protected from every wind, except the ſouth-eaſt, it looks down upon a wide extended plain, with all the neighbouring hills covered by thick woods, whilſt the mountains to the north are bare, or covered almoſt perpetually with ſnow. It was built by Philip II. in obedience to his father Charles V. to accompliſh his vow made after the battle of S. Quintin, which he gained by the interceſſion of S. Lorenzo. In honour of that ſaint, the architect, Juan Bautiſta de Toledo, took his idea from a gridiron, the inſtrument on which he ſuffered, making the royal reſidence project by way of handle, and repreſenting, not only the bars by multiplied diviſions, but the legs, by four high towers placed in the angles of this edifice. The dimenſions of the convent are ſeven hundred and forty Spaniſh feet by five hundred and eighty, and the height is ſixty; but the dome of the church is three hundred and thirty. The whole was finiſhed under the

inſpection of Juan de Herrera, who was pupil to Bautiſta.

The friars of this convent are one hundred and ſixty, and their annual revenue is five millions of reals, or about fifty thouſand pounds, ariſing partly from land, and partly from their flock of thirty-ſix thouſand Merino ſheep, beſides one thouſand kept conſtantly near home, for the conſumption of the family.

Their library conſiſts of thirty thouſand volumes, contained in two magnificent apartments, each, one hundred and ninety-four Spaniſh, or ſomething more than one hundred and eighty-two Engliſh feet in length. In the lower room, are chiefly printed books; yet in it is depoſited the famous manuſcript of the Four Goſpels, written in gold letters, a work of the eleventh century. Over theſe are collected four thouſand three hundred manuſcripts, of which five hundred and ſixty-ſeven are Greek, ſixty-ſeven Hebrew, and one thouſand eight hundred Arabic, the latter well deſcribed in a catalogue lately publiſhed by Caſiri.

In the middle of the lower room is a temple, with a great variety of figures, containing one thouſand four hundred and forty-



Rev.d Jos.h Townsend delin.t

Sparrow sculp.t

View of the Palace of the Escurial and Convent of S.t Lorenzo.

forty-eight ounces of ſilver, and forty-three of gold, beſide rich gems.

To a connoiſſeur in paintings, no place can afford higher entertainment than the convent of the Eſcurial. In every part of it are ſeen the works of the beſt maſters, and ſome of their moſt capital performances. It were endleſs to enumerate particulars. Suffice it to ſay, that during the reſidence of a month, I never failed a ſingle day viſiting the convent, and never left it without regret; always giving a more minute attention to the productions of thoſe artiſts who are the leaſt known in England. I had peculiar pleaſure in finding here, ſo many monuments of Titian, who, during a reſidence of five years in Spain, conſtantly exerciſed his pencil to enrich this nation, and to immortalize his name. The pictures which moſt rivetted my attention, were the famous Supper of Chriſt with the diſciples, by Titian; and a Holy Family, by Raphael; the latter once in the poſſeſſion of our Charles, but ſold by Cromwell, and purchaſed by the Spaniſh ambaſſador, for two thouſand pounds: it is called *La Perla*. The beſt of the pictures are collected in five principal apartments: in the ſacriſty, a room

of

of one hundred and eight by thirty-three; in the *igleſia vieja*, which is one hundred and five by thirty-four; and in two halls of eighty by twenty, with their antichamber. Theſe laſt are called Las Salas de los Capitulos, and, whilſt the court is here, are occupied by count Florida Blanca, on his public days. The great ſtair-caſe is beautiful, adorned with freſco paintings of the battle of St. Quintin, by Luca Jordano.

The pantheon, or catacomb, where the royal family, beginning with Charles V. are buried, is a ſubterranean vault of beautiful marble, highly finiſhed, capable of receiving twenty-ſix bodies, each in its own receſs.

As for the treaſures of the church, they are ineſtimable. The image of S. Lorenzo alone contains four hundred and fifty pounds of ſilver, with eighteen pounds of gold; yet this bears a ſmall proportion to the reſt.

At a little diſtance from the convent, the prince of Aſturias, and one of his brothers, the infant Don Gabriel, have each a little box, fitted up with exquiſite taſte, and hung with the beſt pictures, to which they often retire with their friends. That of the prince is the moſt elegant, and, as far as can be warranted by one ſpecimen, forms a happy

preſage for the arts, whenever he ſhall mount the throne.

The Eſcurial, as a reſidence, is far from pleaſant. Were it low, and ſheltered, like Aranjuez, it would be agreeable in ſpring; or, were it elevated, hanging to the north, and covered by thick woods, like S. Ildefonzo, it might be delightful as a retreat in ſummer; but expoſed, as it is, to the full ſtroke of the meridian ſun, and raiſed up near to regions covered with eternal ſnow, without ſhelter, and deſtitute of ſhade, it has no local charms at any ſeaſon of the year. The miniſters, foreign and domeſtic, give good dinners, and do every thing they can to make this ſolitude ſupportable; but, as few ladies can be accommodated here, the aſſemblies want that gaiety which is peculiar to the ſex.

The king ſpends moſt of his time in ſhooting. In the middle of the day, after a ſhort excurſion, he returns to dinner, converſes with the foreign miniſters, retires for a few minutes with his confeſſor, and, generally before three, ſometimes much ſooner, leaves the palace, and goes to the diſtance of twenty or thirty miles before he begins to hunt. When the light fails, he gets into

to his carriage, and returns. No weather deters him, becauſe he is not afraid of either thunder, lightning, hail, rain, or ſnow, but when one cloak is wet, he puts on another; and as for his attendants, he tells them coolly, "Rain breaks no bones." No holidays detain him from his ſport, except two in the paſſion-week; and then, although he is naturally of a moſt placid temper, he is ſaid to be ſo croſs, that no one chooſes to come near him. Even when one of his ſons was thought to be at the point of death, he went out as uſual, always inſiſting that he would certainly recover; and when informed that his ſon was dead, he replied, with his accuſtomed calmneſs, "Well, then, ſince "nothing can be done, we muſt make the "beſt of it." His uſual attendants are the prince of Aſturias, the captain of the guard, his maſter of the horſe, his groom of the ſtole, his phyſician, and his ſurgeon. All theſe occupy five carriages; beſides which, there is one for medicines, guns, ammunition, dry clothes, &c. Each carriage has ſix mules; and as, upon the road, there are ſeveral relays for them and for the guards, the number required for daily uſe is about two hundred. Their rate of travelling is twelve miles

miles an hour; in conſequence of which, accidents happen frequently to the men, and to the mules.

In hunting, the king does not depend altogether on his dogs: he has commonly about two hundred men employed to beat up the game, and drive it towards him at convenient places, where he and the prince are ready, with ſervants attending to charge the guns, and to hand them forwards as faſt as they are fired. No game comes amiſs to him; but he is peculiarly flattered with the idea of delivering the country from wolves, of which he keeps an exact account; and, when I was at the Eſcurial, the number he had ſhot was eight hundred and eighteen. Whenever one is heard of within a reaſonable diſtance, a multitude of people, from ſixteen hundred to two thouſand, according to the extent of the mountain, are ſent out to watch, ſurround, and drive it into ſome ſpot, where the king may have the beſt chance for killing it. To theſe he gives ſix reals each; but if he kills the wolf, the watchmen have double pay. This expence, it muſt be confeſſed, is needleſs; becauſe a few peaſants would often be ſufficient, either to deſtroy the enemy, or make him

him quit the country; but where a good ſovereign has pleaſure in a purſuit, his ſubjects will be the laſt to think, that he can purchaſe it too dearly. It were happy, however, for Spain, were this the whole expence; but it certainly bears a ſmall proportion to the ſum total of what the nation loſes by the king's rage for hunting. All round the *ſitios*, or royal manſions, the waſtes are of vaſt extent. I am informed, that the foreſt of the Pardo is thirty leagues in circumference; and if to this be added, all the uncultivated land near Aranjuez, S. Ildefonſo, and the Eſcurial; if, moreover, we conſider that the deer, being unconfined, range freely over the intermediate country, how high will be the eſtimate! It is true, the king pays the farmers to the utmoſt for the damages they ſuffer; but then, the injury ſuſtained by the community cannot be ſo eaſily compenſated, becauſe the country, wanting food, is depopulated, and the villages are gone to ruin.

I have been told by thoſe, who are beſt acquainted with the king, that in his youth he had acquired a taſte for letters, but being checked in that purſuit, he had given

ſcope

ſcope to the family propenſity, a propenſity not only now confirmed by inveterate habits, but encouraged in himſelf with a view to avoid entanglements. He is certainly a man of principle, and is univerſally allowed to be one of the moſt virtuous men in his dominions; but this purity of morals he himſelf attributes to his mind being conſtantly amuſed, and not to his natural conſtitution.

I prolonged my ſtay at the Eſcurial, chiefly for the purpoſe of being preſent at the *Batida*, or royal hunt, of which there are four every year. This was ordered for the 28th of November, previous to the departure of the court.

On the day appointed, Mr. Liſton had the goodneſs to place me with the Neapolitan ambaſſador, who, as repreſenting one of the family, gave a ſumptuous repaſt upon the occaſion; and in his carriage I proceeded to the ſcene of action. It was an extenſive plain, with a riſing ground commanding it, and, at the diſtance of about half a mile from this eminence, roſe a little wood, in which the king, with his three ſons, were hid, attended by their ſervants.

For

For many days previous to this, two thouſand men had been diſperſed in parties over the whole country to diſturb the game, and to drive it towards the common centre, by patroling night and day, and conſtantly, yet ſlowly, drawing nearer to each other. Soon after we had occupied our ſtation on a riſing ground, we began to ſee the deer at a vaſt diſtance bounding over the plain from every quarter, and making towards the fatal ſpot. As they approached, we heard, faintly at firſt, then more diſtinctly, the ſound of guns, and ſaw the confuſion of the game, moving quick in all directions, but changing their courſe at every inſtant, as if uncertain where to look for ſafety. When the ſcouring parties came firſt in ſight, they appeared to be ſeparated by intervals, and to confine the game merely by their ſhouts and by the firing of their arms; but as they advanced upon the plain, they formed a wall, and as they drew nearer, they ſtrengthened this by the doubling of their ranks, compelling thus the game to paſs in vaſt droves before the royal markſmen. Then began the carnage; and for more than a quarter of an hour the firing was inceſſant. Some of the

the deer, who had either more diſcernment than the reſt, or a better memory; who were actuated by ſtronger fears, or, perhaps, by more exalted courage, abſolutely refuſed to proceed, when they approached the ambuſcade; and, making a quick turn, notwithſtanding the ſhouts, the motions, and the firing of the guards, they leaped clean over their redoubled ranks, and eſcaped into the woods.

When the firing ceaſed, the carriages all advanced towards the wood, and the company alighted to pay their compliments, and to view the game. We found part of it ſpread in two rows upon the field of battle, and the king, with his ſons, ſurveying it. The game-keepers were returning loaded with ſuch as had been mortally wounded, but had yet eſcaped to a conſiderable diſtance; and, as faſt as they arrived, they depoſited the ſpoil at the ſovereign's feet. Having the curioſity to count the numbers, I found one hundred and forty-five deer, with one wild boar. Whilſt thus engaged, I heard a murmer, and ſaw every one in motion. Directing my attention to the ſpot

to which all were preſſing, I ſaw at a diſtance a little company coming with a boar tied neck and heels together, and ſlung upon a pole. As they approached; the monarch and his ſons, arming themſelves afreſh, drew up in a line, and ſtanding at a convenient diſtance, the burthen was depoſited; the cords, one after another, were cut; and the poor crippled animal was aſſaying to move, when a well directed volley freed him from his fears.

The expence of that day's ſport was reckoned at three hundred thouſand reals, or, in ſterling, three thouſand pounds.

In the evening, the game, as uſual, was all depoſited in the room where the king took his ſupper, and there the family ambaſſadors attended to pay their compliments. By family ambaſſadors are underſtood thoſe of Naples, Portugal, and France, who having more free acceſs, and being expected to pay more minute attention, think it incumbent upon them to expreſs their intereſt in every thing, which gives him pleaſure, and not only congratulate him upon theſe great occaſions, but every night, whilſt he is at

ſupper,

ſupper, make inquiries, and afterwards inform their friends, what the king has killed.

Mr. Liſton, deſirous of quitting the Eſcurial previous to the departure of the court, ordered a *Coche de Colleras* to be ready the day after the Batida. This precaution is taken by the foreign miniſters to ſecure mules, becauſe, when the court is in motion, no leſs than twenty thouſand being required for their uſe, the whole country is laid under an arreſt, and neither horſe nor mule can be obtained for any other purpoſe.

In this little journey I was exceedingly diverted and ſurpriſed with the docility of the mules and the agility of their drivers. I had travelled all the way from Barcelona to Madrid in a *Coche de Colleras*, with ſeven mules, and both at that time, and on ſubſequent occaſions, had been ſtruck with the quickneſs of underſtanding in the mule, and of motion in the driver; but till this expedition, I had no idea to what extent it might be carried. The two coachmen ſit upon the box, and, of the ſix mules, none but the two neareſt have reins to guide

them; the four leaders being perfectly at liberty, and governed only by the voice. Thus harneſſed, they go upon the gallop the whole way, and when they come to any ſhort turning, whether to the right or to the left, they inſtantly obey the word, and move all together, bending to it like a ſpring. As all muſt undergo tuition, and require frequently ſome correction; ſhould any one refuſe the collar, or not keep up exactly with the reſt, whether it be, for example, Coronela or Capitana; the name pronounced with a degree of vehemence, rapidly in the three firſt ſyllables and ſlowly in the laſt, being ſufficient to awaken attention, and to ſecure obedience, the ears, are raiſed, and the mule inſtantly exerts her ſtrength. But, ſhould there be any failure in obedience, one of the men ſprings furious from the box, quickly overtakes the offending mule, and thraſhes her without mercy; then, in the twinkling of an eye, leaps upon the box again, and calmly finiſhes the tale he had been telling his companion. In this journey I thought I had learnt the names of all the mules, yet one, which frequently occurred, created

ſome

ſome confuſion, becauſe I could not find, to which individual it belonged, nor could I diſtinctly make out the name itſelf. It ſounded like *Caglioſtra*, and led me to imagine that the animal was ſo named after the famous impoſtor Caglioſtro, only ſuiting the termination to the ſex, becauſe the mules in harneſs are uſually females. In a ſubſequent journey the whole difficulty vaniſhed, and my high eſtimation of the mule, in point of ſagacity, was confirmed. The word in queſtion, when diſtinctly ſpoken, was *aquella otra*; that is, *you other alſo*; and then ſuppoſing Coronela and Capitana to be pairs, if the coachman had been calling to the former by name, *aquella otra* became applicable to the latter, and was equally efficacious as the ſmarteſt ſtroke of a long whip; but if he had been chiding Capitana, in that caſe, *aquella otra* acted as a ſtimulus to Coronela, and produced in her the moſt prompt obedience.

We did not leave the Eſcurial till four in the afternoon, and at half after ſeven arrived at the duke of Berwick's, where we had been engaged to ſpend the evening, having travelled ſeven leagues in about three hours and an half.

MADRID.

BEING thus returned to the capital of Spain, where I ſpent the ſubſequent winter, it may not be improper to give ſome idea of the life a ſtranger leads here, with a few obſervations on the manners of the age.

Having been once introduced at court, you are at liberty to go as often as you pleaſe. I availed myſelf frequently of this privilege, both for the ſake of viewing the paintings at my leiſure, and for converſation, becauſe at court is the general rendezvous, where men of diſtinction aſſemble every morning to pay their compliments to the ſeveral branches of the royal family, whilſt they are at dinner, and to talk of what is paſſing in the world.

When the king gets into his coach, to go out, as uſual, to his favourite amuſement, the

the company retires; and, as the corps diplomatique is here remarkable for hoſpitality, a perſon well recommended is never at a loſs for the moſt genteel ſociety at all hours of the day. Gratitude requires that I ſhould expreſs my obligations, in this place, to thoſe, not only of the foreign miniſters, but others, who honoured me with their friendſhip and protection. I ſhall therefore take the liberty of deſcribing briefly the kind of life I led whilſt I was near the court.

Count Florida Blanca muſt certainly claim the firſt place in my remembrance; for although at Madrid he gave no entertainments, yet in the ſitios he had always the goodneſs to admit me into the number of his gueſts, when he gave his weekly dinners. From our own miniſter I every where experienced, not merely that general protection, which he gives to all, and thoſe minute attentions, for which he is univerſally admired, but the kindneſs, hoſpitality, and friendſhip of a brother. His houſe was at all times open to me, and when he gave a dinner to his friends, I never was forgotten.

My invitation to the duke de la Vauguion's was both general and ſpecial. Here the dinners were magnificent, the company numerous, and the converſation intereſting; and here I dined more frequently, than at any other table in Madrid, attracted, however, neither by the magnificence of the entertainment, nor by the company which reſorted to the houſe, ſo much as by the eaſe and elegance of the duke and dutcheſs, and the lovely ſimplicity of their children.

With the American, Ruſſian, and Pruſſian miniſters, I felt perfectly at home; and not much leſs ſo with thoſe of Genoa and Venice. The other foreign miniſters often honoured me with invitations, and I was always happy in accepting them.

Whenever I wiſhed to cultivate the ſciences, or to converſe with men of letters, I frequented the more humble, but not leſs hoſpitable, tables of ſome native Spaniards, where I never failed to meet with a kind reception. With Izquierdo and Angulo, I increaſed my knowledge in mineralogy; and on whatever ſubject I was deſirous of gaining information, I was ſure to meet with ſatisfaction, either from them or from

their friends. Ortega has been already mentioned as a botaniſt; D. Fr°. Bayer will always be remembered as a polite ſcholar; and D. Juan Bautiſta Muñoz will be celebrated as an hiſtorian, whenever he ſhall favour the public with his work on the conqueſt of America. Don Joſeph Clavijo deſerves the higheſt commendation, as a faithful and elegant tranſlator, and as a man of general information. Beſides theſe, I met with two brothers Fernandez, who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in chemiſtry, and the Abbé Guevara, who excels in his knowledge of Spaniſh hiſtory, and political œconomy. With all theſe gentlemen I was upon a moſt friendly footing.

I dined frequently with the marquis Imperiali, a grandee of Spain, moſt deſervedly admired for the goodneſs of his heart, and the ſoftneſs of his manners; and once I had the honour to dine with the marquis de Ovieco, who is likewiſe a grandee.

This gentleman is pointed out as an example of an old Spaniard; and, if from one individual we might venture to form a general idea of a community, the politeneſs, probity,

probity, and true dignity, conſpicuous in his whole deportment, muſt fill us with the higheſt reverence and eſteem for the Spaniſh nation.

Like the French, the Spaniards drink their wine at dinner; but as ſoon as they have finiſhed their deſert, and taken coffee, they retire to their couch.

When they riſe from the ſieſta, they get into their carriages to parade up and down the parado, never going faſter than a walk. As they move ſlowly on in one direction, they look into the coaches, which are returning in the other, and bow to their acquaintance every time they paſs. On ſome high days I have counted four hundred coaches, and, on ſuch occaſions, it requires more than two hours to proceed one mile.

At the cloſe of day, people ſay the uſual prayer; then wiſh each other a good evening, and begin retiring to their houſes, where they take their refreſco of chocolate, with biſcuits and a glaſs of water.

When you are properly introduced into a Spaniſh family, you are told at parting, "Now, Sir, you are maſter of this houſe;"

but

but the extent of the grant muſt be judged of by your own natural ſagacity; becauſe, ſuch is the politeneſs of a Spaniard, that he makes uſe of this expreſſion, when nothing more is meant than that you are at liberty to call upon him; accordingly you ſee many retire before each meal, or drop in after it: but when it is taken in its full extent, the grant means dinner, refreſco, ſupper, any or all, whenever it may ſuit you to partake of them.

Moſt families, eſpecially the great, have their tertulla, or evening ſociety for cards and converſation, after which, they, who are upon a footing of intimacy, ſtay and partake of a little ſupper. At theſe evening meetings you ſee the ſame faces from day to day. The ſociety I chiefly frequented was at the dutcheſs of Berwick's; but I went often to the dutcheſs de la Vauguion's, ſometimes to the counteſs del Carpios, and too ſeldom I viſited count Campomanes. Now and then, with a view to get an inſight into the nature of ſociety, I wandered away to other families, but not meeting any one, with whom I had been previouſly acquainted, beſides the lady of the family, I was ſoon weary,

weary, and could ſeldom prevail upon myſelf to prolong my ſtay.

Without any diſparagement to the reſt, I may venture to ſay, that the ſociety at the dutcheſs of Berwick's was the moſt pleaſing. It was frequented by the foreign miniſters, and, not only were the dutcheſs and her ſiſter, the princeſs of Stolberg, moſt engaging in their manners, but the eaſe and freedom, which every one enjoyed, made the time paſs delightfully. The dutcheſs herſelf, and three of her friends, occupied a whiſt table, ſome ſeparated themſelves for converſation, and the princeſs commonly, for a part of the evening, amuſed herſelf with drawing, under the inſpection and tuition of the Pruſſian miniſter, who, for taſte and execution, is one of the firſt maſters in that line. Others were engaged at the piana forte. For my part, I commonly took up my pencil, and profited by the leſſons given to the princeſs. At eleven o'clock we ſat down to an elegant ſupper, and about one in the morning I retired, having nearly two miles to walk. The duke generally came home to ſupper, but

he

he ſeldom ſat long before he retired to his bed.

At the dutcheſs de la Vauguion's the ſociety was chiefly French. The amuſements were cards, tricktrac, and cheſs, concluding with a ſupper.

At the counteſs del Carpio's all were Spaniards, excepting one Italian, and the amuſement was ſome game at cards. The evening cloſed with a light ſupper. The count was commonly at home before ten, and, except when at the play-houſe, he ſpent his evenings in his family. He is a ſenſible man, and well informed; and the counteſs muſt give life to every ſociety, where ſhe is found. She is far from handſome; yet, from the ſprightlineſs of her wit, and the ſoftneſs of her manners, ſhe is highly intereſting, and the more ſo from her delicacy of conſtitution, and the weakneſs of her health.

Count Campomanes gives no ſuppers, and cards are ſeldom ſeen; but his converſation fills up the time, and renders all other ſpecies of amuſement needleſs. The ſociety is chiefly from the Aſturias, where he was born.

Beſide

Beſide theſe quiet tertullas, all through the winter the dutcheſſes of Berwick and Vauguion gave balls once a week, and the counteſſes of Cogulludo and Peñafiel gave concerts and balls, attended with ſplendid ſide-boards of ices, cakes, and jellies. After the ball, every one retired to ſupper with his own ſociety.

When you pay a viſit to a lady, (for, wherever there is a lady in the family, the viſit is to her) you neither knock at the door, nor aſk any queſtions of the porter, but go ſtraight forwards to the room where ſhe uſually receives her company, and there you ſeldom fail to find her, morning, noon, and night; in winter, ſitting near the braſier, ſurrounded by her friends, unleſs when ſhe is gone out to maſs. The friends are moſtly gentlemen, becauſe ladies ſeldom viſit in a familiar way; and, of the gentlemen thus aſſembled, one is commonly the *Cortejo*; I ſay commonly, becauſe it is not univerſally the caſe. During the whole of my reſidence in Spain, I never heard of jealouſy in a huſband, nor could I ever learn, for certain, that ſuch a thing exiſted; yet, in the conduct of many ladies, whether it proceeds

proceeds from the remains of delicacy, from a ſenſe of propriety, or from fear, you may evidently ſee caution, circumſpection, and reſerve, when their huſbands are in ſight. Some have addreſs enough to keep the cortejo in concealment; and this, in Spain, is attended with no great difficulty, becauſe, when the ladies go to maſs, they are ſo diſguiſed, as not to be eaſily diſtinguiſhed. Their dreſs upon that occaſion is peculiar to the country. They all put on the *baſquiña*, or black ſilk petticoat, and the *mantilla*, which ſerves the double purpoſe of a cloak and veil, ſo as completely, if required, to hide the face. Thus diſguiſed, they are at perfect liberty to go where they pleaſe. But ſhould they be attended by a ſervant, he is to be gained, and therefore he becomes little or no reſtraint. Beſides this, every part of the houſe is ſo acceſſible by day, and the huſband is ſo completely nobody at home, ſo ſeldom viſible, or, if viſible, ſo perfectly a ſtranger to thoſe, who viſit in his family, that the lover may eaſily eſcape unnoticed. This, however, will not always ſatisfy the Spaniſh ladies, who, being quick of ſenſibility, and remark-

able

able for ſtrong attachment, are miſerable, when their cortejo is out of ſight. He muſt be preſent every moment in the day, whether in private or public, in health or ſickneſs, and muſt be every where invited to attend them. There have been recent examples of women, even of high faſhion, who have ſhut themſelves up for months, during the abſence of their cortejos; and this, not merely from diſguſt, but to avoid giving them offence. If the lady is at home, he is at her ſide; when ſhe walks out, ſhe leans upon his arm; when ſhe takes her ſeat at an aſſembly, an empty chair is always left for him; and if ſhe joins in the country dances, it is commonly with him. As every lady dances two minuets at a ball, the firſt is with her cortejo, the ſecond with a ſtranger; with the former, if ſhe has any vivacity, ſhe makes it viſible, and if ſhe can move with grace, it then appears; but with the latter ſhe evidently ſhews, not indifference, but diſguſt; and ſeems to look upon her partner with diſdain.

As ſoon as any lady marries, ſhe is teaſed by numerous competitors for this diſtinguiſhed favour, till ſhe is fixed in her choice; when

when the unſucceſsful candidates either retire, or ſubmit to become, in future, what may be called cortejos of the braſier, without any pretenſions beyond that of ſitting round the embers to warm themſelves in winter.

It is reckoned diſgraceful to be fickle; yet innumerable inſtances are ſeen of ladies who often change their lovers. In this there is a natural progreſs; for it cannot be imagined, that women of ſuperior underſtandings, early in life diſtinguiſhed for delicacy of ſentiment, for prudence, and for the elevation of their minds, ſhould haſtily arrive at the extreme, where paſſion triumphs, and where all regard to decency is loſt. As for others, they ſoon finiſh the career. It is, however, humiliating to ſee ſome who appear to have been deſigned by nature to command the reverence of mankind, at laſt degraded, and ſunk ſo low in the opinion of the world, as to be never mentioned but with contempt. Theſe have changed ſo often, and have been ſo unfaithful to every engagement, that, univerſally deſpiſed, they end with having no cortejo.

I have obſerved, that jealouſy is ſeldom, if ever, to be diſcovered in a huſband; but this cannot be ſaid in favour of the new connection, becauſe both parties are tormented by ſuſpicion. This, it muſt be confeſſed, is natural; for, as both are conſcious that there is no other bond between them, but the precarious tie of mutual affection, each muſt tremble at the approach of any one, who might interrupt their union. Hence they are conſtantly engaged in watching each other's looks, and for want of confidence, renounce, in a great meaſure, the charms of ſocial intercourſe. Even in public, they ſeem to think themſelves alone, abſtracted and abſorbed, attentive only to each other. He muſt not take notice of any other lady; and if any gentleman would converſe with her; in a few minutes ſhe appears confuſed and filled with fear, that ſhe may have given offence. In all probability ſhe has; and ſhould ſhe be the firſt dutcheſs in the kingdom, and he only a noncommiſſioned officer in the army, ſhe may be treated with perſonal indignity; and we have heard of one who was dragged by the

hair about the room. But if, inſtead of giving, ſhe ſhould happen to have taken the offence, even the more delicate will fly like a tygreſs at his eyes, and beat him in the face till he is black and blue. It ſometimes happens, that a lady becomes weary of her firſt choice, her fancy has fixed upon ſome new object, and ſhe wiſhes to change; but the former, whoſe vanity is flattered by the connection, is not willing to diſſolve it. In lower life, this moment gives occaſion to many of thoſe aſſaſſinations, which abound in Spain; but, in the higher claſſes, among whom the dagger is proſcribed, the firſt poſſeſſor, if a man of ſpirit, maintains poſſeſſion, and the lady dares not diſcard him, leſt an equal combat ſhould prove fatal to the man of her affections. In this conteſt the huſband is out of ſight, and tells for nothing.

In a catholic country, with ſuch depravity of morals, it may be naturally inquired, what becomes of conſcience, and where is diſcipline? It is well known, that all are under obligation to confeſs, at leaſt once a year, before they receive the euchariſt. Every one is at liberty to chooſe his con-

feſſor and prieſt; but before he leaves the altar, he takes a certificate that he has been there, and this he delivers to the curate of his own pariſh, under pain of excommunication, ſhould he fail to do ſo. When, therefore, a married woman appears, year after year, before her confeſſor, to acknowledge that ſhe has been, and ſtill continues to be, living in adultery, how can he grant her abſolution, or how can he be moderate in the penance he enjoins. Without penance, and unleſs the prieſt is ſatisfied that there is contrition, with full purpoſe of amendment, there can be no abſolution; without abſolution, no participation of the euchariſt; and, in the neglect of this, excommunication follows. Yet, from the univerſal prevalence of this offence, we may be certain, that there muſt be ſome way of evading the rigour of the law. Nothing is more eaſy. As for the penance, it is impoſed by thoſe, who can have compaſſion on the frailties of mankind, and is therefore ſcarcely worthy to be mentioned. In many inſtances, it is ridiculous. Were any confeſſor ſevere, he would have few at his confeſſional. The abſolution is commonly a

more

more ſerious buſineſs; becauſe the penitent muſt not only teſtify contrition, but muſt give ſome token of amendment, by abſtaining, at leaſt for a ſeaſon, from the commiſſion of the crime, which is the ſubject-matter of confeſſion. The firſt abſolution may be eaſily obtained; but when the offender comes, year after year, with the ſame confeſſion, if he will obtain abſolution, he muſt change his confeſſor; and this practice is not only diſgraceful, but ſometimes ineffectual. Here, then, it is needful to adopt ſome new expedient. Two naturally preſent themſelves: for, either ſome prieſt, deſtitute of principle, may be found, who, for certain conſiderations, will furniſh billets; or elſe, which is a prevailing practice at Madrid, the common proſtitutes, confeſſing and receiving the holy ſacrament in many churches, and collecting a multitude of billets, either ſell, or give them to their friends. I have certificates before me. As theſe carry neither name nor ſignature, they are eaſily transferred. They are ſimply thus: *Comulgò en la Igleſia parroquial de San Martin de Madrid. Año de mil ſetecientos ochenta y ſeis.*

The principal cortejos in the great cities are the canons of the cathedrals; but where the military reſide, they take their choice, and leave the refuſe for the church. In the country villages, the monks bear rule; at leaſt within their limits, and even in the cities, they ſet up their pretenſions. As for the parochial clergy, one thing is certain, that many of them have families, and all are involved in the common cenſure. Even in the Aſturias, my friend, the good biſhop auxiliary of Oviedo, a man of high principle, yet of great humanity, ſevere only to himſelf, but compaſſionate to others, made it a rule, that none of his curates ſhould have children in their families. This ſacrifice, at leaſt, he inſiſted they ſhould make to decency. Beyond this he did not think it right to be too rigid in his enquiries. In ſhort, during my reſidence in Spain, I never found one perſon inclined to vindicate the curates from the common charge; but, at the ſame time, all, with united voices, bore teſtimony to the ſuperior virtue of the biſhops. Indeed, theſe venerable men, from all that I could hear, and from what I ſaw in the near approach, to which they graci-

ouſly

ouſly admitted me, for purity, for piety, for zeal, can never be ſufficiently admired; but too few of the clergy, either ſecular or regular, till they begin to look towards the mitre, ſeem to think it neceſſary, that they ſhould imitate theſe bright examples, or aſpire after ſuch high perfections.

This univerſal depravity of morals, if I am not much miſtaken, may be traced up to the celibacy of the clergy. It is true, the example of the court, ſince the acceſſion of the preſent monarch, has given prevalence to practices which were before reſtrained, and made that honourable, which had been attended with diſgrace; but the effect muſt always, in a meaſure, have been coeval with its cauſe. Nay, ſhould we be inclined to blame, in the firſt inſtance, the Italians, who are ſaid to have brought this practice into Spain, we ſhould be obliged at laſt to trace it up to this miſtaken principle, that *conjugal affection is inconſiſtent with the due diſcharge of the miniſterial functions*. In converſing freely with the clergy on this ſubject, I never met any one, beſides the archbiſhop of Toledo, who attempted to vindicate this principle; and

wherever I was, I had no difficulty in declaring war againſt it, becauſe they do not conſider it as an article of faith. The principle is abſurd; yet upon it is founded the celibacy of the clergy, and from that, in my opinion, is derived the corruption of their morals. It has been common for proteſtants, who travel in a catholic country, to inveigh againſt the clergy, and to laugh at the people, as prieſt-ridden: ſuch abuſe is exceedingly illiberal. The prieſts themſelves are to be pitied; but the law which binds them, the cruel law which requires, that they ſhould offer violence to nature, or, more properly, the power which can abrogate that law, ſhould bear the blame.

The purpoſe of the law is however fruſtrated; for nature is like a rapid river, which, checked in its progreſs, ſcorns reſtraint, and, when diverted from its proper courſe, either overflows the country, or forms new channels for itſelf. What then is gained? The parochial clergy, and theſe are the only clergy who ſhould be ſuffered in a ſtate, have their connections and their children, but not as they ought, in the

moſt

moſt honourable way. They are diſgraced in the eyes of the people, who are taught by their example to live in the violation of the laws; and their children, for want of a proper education, are fitted only for the vileſt employments in the community. How different is the picture, where marriage is allowed. The miniſter is like the father of his pariſh, and his wife performs the office of a mother; both ſet an example of virtue, and in every village teach the peaſants how to value their domeſtic comfort. In the ſtreet, their children, commonly a numerous offspring, are diſtinguiſhed by their look of health, by their cleanlineſs, and by the decency of their conduct; and, when ſent out into the world, they form the moſt valuable members of ſociety.

Should the Spaniſh government reſolve to ſet the clergy free; more ample proviſion muſt be made for their maintenance, becauſe at preſent it is ſcarcely ſufficient for their own ſupport; and this might be eaſily accompliſhed out of the vaſt revenues of the biſhops, or by the ſuppreſſion of ſome uſeleſs convents.

The

The play-houſes in Madrid are not much frequented: the genius of the people does not aſſimilate with this ſort of amuſement. This will evidently appear by the receipts at the two theatres; for, taking the average between them in December, they each produce fifty pounds a night, but ſome nights leſs than twenty pounds; and, even in the Chriſtmas week, not more than ſeventy-ſix. They have lately introduced the opera, but with little proſpect of ſucceſs; becauſe moſt of the genteel people keep to their own ſocieties, except when they attend the balls.

Few people here diſcover any love for the ſciences. The cabinet of natural hiſtory is open to all the world, but it is not frequented; and although D. Antº. Fern. Solano, the royal profeſſor of experimental philoſophy, in point of clearneſs, elegance, and preciſion, may be reckoned among the firſt in Europe, and delivers his lectures gratis, yet nobody attends him. Books are little read; all who are not engaged in buſineſs, are occupied in their attendance on the ladies, with whom nothing of this kind is heard of.

In

In conſequence of proper introductions, I had an opportunity of ſeeing moſt of the principal manſions in Madrid. The firſt, without exception, in point of magnificence, is the duke of Alba's. The principal front is to the ſouth, and is two hundred feet in length, with eighty-five windows. The eaſtern and weſtern fronts will be ſix hundred feet when finiſhed; yet in this vaſt pile there is not one room ſuitable to the rank and fortune of its lord. The upper ſtories will be occupied by four hundred bed-chambers, which are ſcarcely ſufficient for the family, conſidering that all the ſuperannuated ſervants, with their wives and children, are to be lodged and penſioned there. The duke informed me, that he paid one hundred thouſand reals, that is, one thouſand pounds, a month, in wages only at Madrid.

For commodiouſneſs and elegance, no houſe in Madrid is equal to the duke of Berwick's. Built on a declivity, with the principal front towards the weſt, it occupies, like other Spaniſh houſes, the four ſides of a ſquare, yet is perfectly modern, both in ſtyle and furniture. You enter

ter a ſpacious hall, then, aſcending a wide ſtaircaſe, you find a ſuit of magnificent apartments, communicating all round, and, upon the ſame level with the garden to the ſouth and to the eaſt. From this circumſtance, all the ground floor is kept exceedingly cool for a ſummer's reſidence, and the principal apartments are warm and comfortable in winter. Such an habitation would be ill ſuited for the accommodation of numerous domeſtics, with their widows and their children, deſcending by tradition from his anceſtors; and therefore the duke, very wiſely, is ſatisfied with giving them ſmall penſions, and leaves them to provide a lodging for themſelves.

He was ſo obliging as to let me ſee his accomptant's offices, in which he has introduced a ſyſtem of œconomy little known in Spain. They conſiſt, as uſual, of four departments, but then in theſe he has only one accomptant general, with three clerks; one principal ſecretary, with three under him; one treaſurer, and one keeper of archives, with an aſſiſtant. On all his eſtates he has ſimilar eſtabliſhments, but upon a ſmaller ſcale. His whole property produces,

duces, groſs, one million eight hundred and eighty-eight thouſand ſix hundred and eighty-three reals, and from this deducting three hundred and forty-one thouſand nine hundred and eight, for the charge of management, it netts one million five hundred and forty-ſix thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-five reals, or £. 15,467 ſterling.

The late duke of Arcos had more than three hundred people in his eſtabliſhment at Madrid. The marquis of Peñafiel, who is married to the young dutcheſs of Benevente, and is at once duke of Oſſuna, of Arcos, of Vejar, of Candia, &c. &c. with an income of about fifty thouſand pounds ſterling, employed, when I was at Madrid, twenty-nine accomptants, including his two ſecretaries, and I underſtand that he has ſince increaſed their number; beſides theſe, he has an advocate, and a family phyſician, for whom, with his principal ſecretary and his treaſurer, he keeps four carriages.

The duke of Medina Cœli has thirty accomptants in Madrid, beſides vaſt eſtabliſhments on his eſtates, more eſpecially in Catalonia, moſt of which belongs to him,

and

and in the province of Andaluſia, where he has extenſive property. His ſon, the marquis de Cogolludo, who has a ſeparate eſtabliſhment, informed me, that he himſelf paid, only at Madrid, thirty thouſand reals a month, or near four thouſand pounds a year in ſtipends to his ſervants.

It is difficult to eſtimate what, with good management, would be the revenue of theſe great lords. Such a property as the duke of Alba's, producing under adminiſtration eighty thouſand pounds a year; what would it not yield, if let out to ſubſtantial farmers? If, whilſt they plough, and ſow, and reap, and thraſh, and ſell, and eat, and drink, upon the duke's account, he receives ſuch an income; what would it be if every inch of land were made productive, and if that produce were expended with œconomy? With ſuch vaſt poſſeſſions, well managed, he might live in ſplendor little inferior to the greateſt ſovereigns of Europe. But, inſtead of this, devoured by their ſervants, they are moſt of them in debt; and, under the feeling of poverty, live exceedingly retired, ſcarcely

venturing

venturing at any time to give a dinner to their friends.

In many of their houſes you find good pictures, collected by their anceſtors; but, as for the preſent generation, they ſeem to have little taſte for the polite arts: their time and attention appear to be loſt in trifles. Among the houſes where the works of the beſt maſters are to be ſeen, the principal are thoſe of Alba, Medina Cœli, Santiago, Infantado, and Santeſtevan. In the former is a very numerous and ineſtimable collection; and, among them, the portrait of the preſent duke, by Mengs; and the great duke of Alba, by Titian; a Venus, by Velazquez; a Holy Family, by Raphael; and the famous School of Love, by Correggio. In this beautiful picture, Venus and Mercury are teaching Cupid to read: it was ſold in London, with other valuable pictures of Charles I. All theſe pictures were, when I ſaw them, crowded in the old manſion of the family, and therefore appeared to diſadvantage; but, whenever they ſhall be cleaned and properly diſpoſed, this will be evidently a moſt capital collection. All the other collections are in the higheſt preſervation,

vation, except thoſe of the late duke of Santeſtevan, now the property of his ſon-in-law, the marquis of Cogolludo, which, although ineſtimable, as being the works of the moſt ancient artiſts, are wholly neglected, and ſuffered to decay. The marquis was ſo polite as to attend me and the Pruſſian miniſter to ſee them, and witneſſed our lamentations over them.

During my winter's reſidence at Madrid, I endeavoured to get ſome inſight into the revenue, and, I truſt, it will be found that my labour was not in vain: yet, after all my enquiries, I am inclined to think, that till ſome great financier, like Mr. Necker, ſhall ariſe in Spain, the confuſion which reigns at preſent will continue to prevail in this department of the ſtate.

Whilſt the taxes were collected by farmers general, it was eaſy to know the rent they paid; but now that all is in adminiſtration, to come exactly at the produce and expenditure will be attended with ſome difficulty. Were the whole peninſula on the ſame footing, were all punctual in their payments, and were the diſburſements from one common treaſury, this reſearch would

be

be expedited; but, as not one of theſe circumſtances exiſts, we muſt take the materials as we find them, and do the beſt we can. I ſhall endeavour to give ſome idea both of the revenue and its expenditure, founded on authentic documents, procured from the foreign miniſters, and compared with an official paper, with which I was favoured from the treaſury. But firſt, it will be neceſſary to point out the various articles which yield revenue, and to explain the terms relating to finance, briefly premiſing ſuch an hiſtorical relation as can be collected from Spaniſh writers on the ſubject.

The principal reſources of the crown for ſupporting its dignity, were anciently found in the demeſnes of the ſovereign; but when, during a minority, or a diſputed ſucceſſion, theſe had been plundered by the great nobility, he was obliged to ſolicit grants from the national aſſemblies. Thus it was with Alonzo II. who, after he had compelled ſome of his barons to reſtore the lands taken from himſelf and from his immediate predeceſſor during their infancy, finding theſe unequal to his wants, in the year

1342, he obtained from the cortes, then aſſembled at Burgos, an *alcavala*, or tax upon all property transferred, to defray his expences at the ſiege of Algeciras. Many cities had given him a fifth on the value of all commodities diſpoſed of by ſale or barter, but when granted by the ſtates, the tax was fixed at ten per cent. and made univerſal over Caſtille. Whilſt Peter, ſurnamed, but perhaps improperly, the Cruel, driven from his kingdom, was a fugitive in France, Henry, his natural brother, having been proclaimed king (A. D. 1361.) the cortes granted the alcavala, without any limitation with reſpect to time, as a mark of their ſtrong attachment to the ſovereign of their choice. But neither was this grant, nor the aid of France, ſufficient to eſtabliſh the uſurper on the throne; for Peter, powerfully ſupported by Edward, prince of Wales, at the head of thirty thouſand men, gave him battle, and compelled him to retire. When Peter had thus regained his ſceptre, and began to meditate revenge againſt the pope, Urban V. who had excommunicated him; his holineſs readily found means to appeaſe the indignation

of the offended monarch, by granting him the royal thirds, or two-ninths of all the tythes collected in Caſtille, under pretence of a croiſade. Peter took the money, and increaſed his army, but not with the leaſt intention of ſtrengthening himſelf againſt the infidels. He had more formidable enemies at home, and to them he bent his whole attention; but in vain, for the prince of Wales having retired in diſguſt, his father, Edward III. was not inclined to continue his ſupport. When, therefore, Henry appeared in the field once more, attended by moſt of the principal nobility, Peter fell. This was in the year 1369.

At the commencement of the ſucceeding century, Henry III. being obliged to aſſume the reigns of government, when he was aged fourteen, in order to prevent a civil war; on his acceſſion to the throne he found his treaſury exhauſted, and whilſt his great barons were rioting over the ſpoils, which they had ſeized during his minority, he himſelf was reduced to the laſt extremity of want. It is related of him, that returning one day from hunting, and aſking

for ſomething to eat, his ſteward told him plainly, that he had neither money nor credit to procure a joint of meat; "Then," ſaid he, "take my cloak, and pawn it." He was not, however, ſatisfied with venting his indignation in empty words; but, rouſed by hunger, he obliged his nobles to reſtore the caſtles, and to renounce the penſions, which the regent had been compelled to grant them.

A. D. 1500, when the wealth of America began to flow into Spain, the internal revenue of the country ceaſed to be an object of attention, and the miniſters of finance looked chiefly to the mines of Peru and Mexico for their ſupplies. But before one century had elapſed, the phantom vaniſhed: the treaſury, exhauſted by inceſſant wars, had contracted a load of debt, ſuch as the country was unable to ſupport; and, to pay the expences of the invincible armada, new taxes were invented, under the denomination of *Millones*, ſo called, becauſe the grant was for eight *millions* of ducats. (£.878,906. 5s.) To this the cortes, ſome years after, added twenty-four millions, to be collected in ſix years; of which, four and an half

was

was impoſed on ſalt, the other nineteen and an half on wine, oil, vinegar, and butcher's meat.

The country was not in a condition to be taxed. Rich in mines, but poor in money; exhauſted by continued wars in Italy, in Flanders, and by emigrations to America; wanting, at the ſame time, every encouragement to induſtry at home; wretchedneſs ſo univerſally prevailed, that Dr. Moncada, in the year 1660, and Oſorio, in 1686, reckoned more than three millions in Spain, who wore no ſhirts, becauſe they could not afford to purchaſe linen. Money was at that period lent commonly for twenty, and even thirty, per cent.; and if remitted to Italy or Flanders, the diſcount was from fourteen to fifty per cent. being the difference of value between *vellon* or copper, in which the taxes were received, and gold or ſilver, in which remittances were made; and this heavy diſcount was independent of the exchange, which, as may be readily conceived, was very high. (Camp. E. P. Apend. 4. p. 274.) Such was the ſtate of their finance in the reign of Philip IV. His ſucceſſor, Charles II.