this fort of pulse, its success depends much upon the weather.

A new bridge has been lately built over the river Almarza, whose banks are lined with poplar and elm; half a league further there is another plain, without a fingle tree, but water is found at two or three feet depth; fo that a very flight plough answers the purpose, it being sufficient to tear away the weeds, to secure a good crop of wheat; this is generally the case in Castile, where they have fine harvests without being obliged to wait for rain to fow their corn, the vicinity of of water and strong dews being sufficient to fertilize the foil, the reverse of what happens in the fouthern parts, where the water is deep under ground, the foil dry and tough, and strong ploughs must be used; besides waiting for rain, or an appearance of its falling, otherwife the grain hardens, and is in danger of being devoured by birds, infects, or rats. In these plains, the villages are numerous, as well as the vineyards, the foil is fandy, and yet, by means of the nearness of water, produces plenty of shumach; every house has its garden, and the fides of the road are chequered with the lychnis, and oak of Jerusalem. Though the plain I have just mentioned is of about eight leagues extent, without the appearance of a spring, or a brook, the inhabitants drink the waters of wells and cifterns, without any bad consequences, or being troubled with agues, as the water does not stagnate, but has a current near the surface, and regains from a higher region, what it loses by evaporation. This accounts for their having such fine grass and pasture in Castile, and so many herds of cattle, with such a variety of game, birds, and wild and domestic animals.

Near Valladolid there are groves of fir trees terminated by an extensive plain, covered with green wormwood, oak of Jerusalem, and thyme, of that beautiful fort called thymus legitimus Hispanicus. The city of Simancas (a) appears on the left, about two leagues distance, as you enter the once famous city of Valladolid,

(a) The records of the kingdom having been found to be in great confusion, and a large collection of valuable papers discovered at Valladolid, Philip II. ordered his chief architect, Juan de Herrera to construct proper apartments at Simancas for their preservation, and they were disposed of in nine grand divisions, or apartments, accordingly. In the strongest, called the Cubo, were those relating to Granada, Indies, right to Naples, Navarre, Portugal, Vicariate of Siena, monarchy of Sicily, establishment of the inquisition, wills of kings, capitulations of peace with France, with Moorish kings, with the House of Austria, marriages of Catholic kings, grants of military orders, and flate papers from the time of Ferdinand V. all which are preserved in wooden cases fixed in the wall. In the year 1592 the king visited them. All the proceedings relating to the imprisonment and death of Don Carlos his fon, were deposited here in a trunk, carefully locked. Another apartment was built for accounts, and other office papers; in another were papers relating to royal palaces, law fuits, grants, knights of military orders, and Indies; another for records of corporations; and in another the memorials and letters of kings, princes, and states, concerning Flanders, fince the rebellion. Vida de Philipe IId. Por Luis Cabnera de Cordova. Madrid, 1619. The American papers alone fill the largest apartment of this Archivo, and are faid to compose 873 large bundles. The prospect of such a treasure had excited the most ardent curiofity of the elegant historian of America, but the prospect of it was all that he enjoyed. Preface to Dr. Robertson's hist. of America.

fituated

fituated on the banks of the Pifuerga. This large city, exclusive of colleges and some churches that have good remains of gothic architecture, now only exhibits the difmal remains of its former grandeur; and the palace where Philip the second was born, has nothing but bare walls, where bats and spiders quietly inhabit the mansions of the great Emperor Charles, and the Philips his progeny.

Every thing is barren with dreary aspects of slat topped, barren sand hills as far as Caveron, where they have vineyards and make a tolerable light red wine. Leadwort is common on the side of the road, whose leaves pounded, are said to be good against the gangrene. The vineyards are numerous, near the town of Duenas (a), which belongs to the Duke of Medina Celi. The plain extends to Rodrigo, whose environs produce a little lavender, two sorts of shrubby Jerusalem sage, with a sage leaf, and meadow ragwort, which are the only plants the country affords. All the territory of Campos is so bare and destitute of trees, that the inhabitants are obliged for suel, to burn vineslocks, straw,

DUIELLI.

⁽a) A Spanish proverb says, "Ruyn con ruyn que assi se casan en Duenas---Mean with mean, for thus they marry in Duenas." In 1506, Ferdinand of Aragon, after the death of his wise Queen Isabella, of Castile, was married here a second time to the Lady Germana de Foix, daughter of John de Foix, viscount Narbonne, by Maria, sister to Lewis 12th of France. This match having been made by the political Ferdinand, to cement his union with France, might perhaps displease the Castilians, and have given rise to the proverb. At prefent Duenas seems ill prepared for such splendid guests, and indifferently provided, even to relebrate the nuptials of a reputable farmer.

dung, and the few aromatic shrubs they can find; their kitchens are like stoves, and they sit round them on benches, giving to these wretched hovels the emphatic name of Glorias. A solitary elm or a walnut tree now and then appears near a church, a sure sign that water is not far from the surface, and that its roots have partaken of it. When this happens, independent of every vicissitude of weather and climate, other trees would thrive in like manner, and the country might be rendered shady and pleasant, instead of being the most desolate in Europe; but it is no easy matter to conquer prejudices, or dissuade the Castilians from that erroneous notion, that an increase of trees would only augment the number of birds to eat up their corn, and devour their grapes.

On approaching the hills, the pebbles which had almost disappeared, shew themselves again, encreased both in number and bulk, and although from Labajos they were scarce larger than oranges, they are now double that size, and rounded, which the others are not, covering the tops of the hills: it is somewhat singular, that these stones, which are of a fine sandy grain, and are sound every where in this province, should be of the very identical fort and colour, as those of La Mancha, Molina de Aragon, and other parts of Spain.

Spring

tridges, harres, tabbits, and lamb. They do not few

dung, and the few aromatic fliribs they can find; their

The country from hence to Burgos, produces plenty of wheat, and some flax; the road is a continual though gentle afcent, with much conglutinated fand stone, of which there is a fort near Burgos, fo firmly conglutinated with small pebble that it forms a marble like the Breccia(a), and takes a good polish, specimens of which may be feen in the choir of the cathedral of Burgos. The environs of this ancient city are remarkably pleafant, and shady, with many beautiful avenues; the hills are no longer flat-topped, but have a chearful appearance; the waters are pure and falubrious, the rivers abound with trout, eel, and cray-fish. Though the air is tharp and rather piercing, it is esteemed very healthy, and Castile may justly be reckoned the country of partridges, hares, rabbits, and lamb. They do not fow their wheat before August, nor are grapes ripe before that time. The wild thiftle with yellow flowers, is feen every where near the roads, and plenty of meadow fweet. were fearce larger than oranges, they are now double

The city of Burgos is fituated on the fide of a hill, at the bottom of which, the river Arlanzon washes its walls, and has three stone bridges over it. The cathedral is a magnificent gothic structure, and one of the finest in

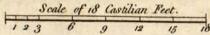
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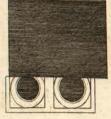
⁽a) The breccia filicia is the plumb pudding stone. This stone is of a very elegant appearance, when cut and polished; it is found in England. See Essay towards a system of minerology, by Axel Fred. Cronsted; second edition. London, 1772. Sect. CCLXXIII.

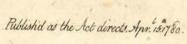
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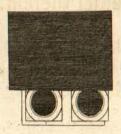












Spain. The city is well inhabited by ancient nobility, and was formerly the refidence of their kings. It gave birth to that illustrious hero Fernan Gonzales, and near the place where his house stood, a triumphal arch has been erected to his memory at the expence of the city, with the following inscription:

FERNADO GONSALVI CASTELLÆ ASSERTORI. SVÆ ÆTATIS PRÆSTANTISSIMO DVCI MAGNORVM REGVM GENITORI SVO CIVI INTVS DOMVS AREA SVPTV PVBLICO AD ILLIVS NOMINIS ET VRBIS GLORIÆ MEMORIĀ SEMPITERNAM.

The parish church of Santa Gadea (St. Agatha) more ancient than the cathedral, is remarkable for being the place, where that renowned champion Ruy Diaz de Bibar also a native of Burgos, commonly called the Cid Campeador (a), obliged king Alsonso the 6th, before he was proclaimed, to swear three times publicly, that he had no concern in the murder of the late king Sancho his brother, at the siege of Zamora, where he was treacherously slain by a Spanish knight, whose name was Heliel Alsons, though he is usually called Velido Dolsos. The words of this extraordinary oath were as follows,

You come to fwear, that you had no hand in the death of my lord the king, that you neither killed him, nor gave counsel therein.

Q

⁽a) The title of Cid is derived from an Arabic word which fignifies Lord. See Don Quixote. It must have been common in those days, for in the Spanish chronicles, it is sometimes given to Jews.

The king and his nobles answered, Amen.

If otherwise, may you suffer the same death as that of my lord; may a villain kill you, let him not be a gentleman, nor born in Castile, but come from foreign parts, nor be of the kingdom of Leon.

The king and his nobles answered, Amen. (a)

After this ceremony, Alfonso was solemnly proclaimed king of Castile, Leon, Galicia, and Portugal, in the presence of the infanta his sister, and the prelates, and nobles of his kingdom.

As Burgos was formerly a place of fo great importance in the affairs of Castile, it is impossible to look with indifference on these venerable remains, or view its magnificent cathedral, without calling to mind some particular period of its ecclesiastical history; none seems more striking, than when the son of a Jew was raised to that see, and became one of its most illustrious prelates.

⁽a) At the fecond time of tendering the oath the king changed colour, and at the third he was greatly displeased, saying, "Rodrigo Diaz why do you press me so hard and make me swear to-day, when you will come to kiss my hand to-morrow;" to which that warrior replied, "Yes, Sir, if my services are properly considered, for in other kingdoms, knights are also rewarded, and you must do the same, if you mean to retain me in your service;" which speech the king never forgave, and soon after ordered him to retire out of the kingdom, allowing him only nine days for that purpose. The Spanish chronicles are full of the achievements and seats of the Cid. He died in 1099, and is buried in the church of St. Pedro de Cardena, near Burgos, where his memory is held in the highest veneration.

Such was Paulus Burgensis, whose extraordinary elevation is worthy of notice. This great man was the son of a rich Jew at Burgos, of the tribe of Levi, whose name is not mentioned in history. In the year 1376 Paulus married Joanna, of the same tribe as himself, by whom he had sour sons and one daughter. Gonzalo, his eldest, bishop of Plasencia and Siguenza, Alsonso, who succeeded his father in the see of Burgos; Pedro, Alvaro, Sancho, and Maria, who all at the conversion of the father, took the name of Santa Maria, and when Paulus was made bishop of Carthagena, they assumed the sirname of Carthagena.

Paulus had been for many years firmly attached by education, and principle to the Jewish religion, and being a man of great learning, enforced his opinions with vehemence. At this time the Jews professed their religion publicly in Spain, and held offices of trust and emolument. At the age of forty, Paulus Burgensis embraced the Christian religion, and on the 21st of June, 1390, was publicly baptised in the cathedral, by Don Garci Alsonso de Cobarruvias, treasurer of the church, whose coat armour was assumed by Paulus, in memory of this event, which was a lilly argent, in a field vert. desiring to have the name of Paul in baptism, from his particular attachment to the sacred writings of that great apostle, of whom he used to say, "Paulus me ad sidem convertit.

Q 2

Pauli

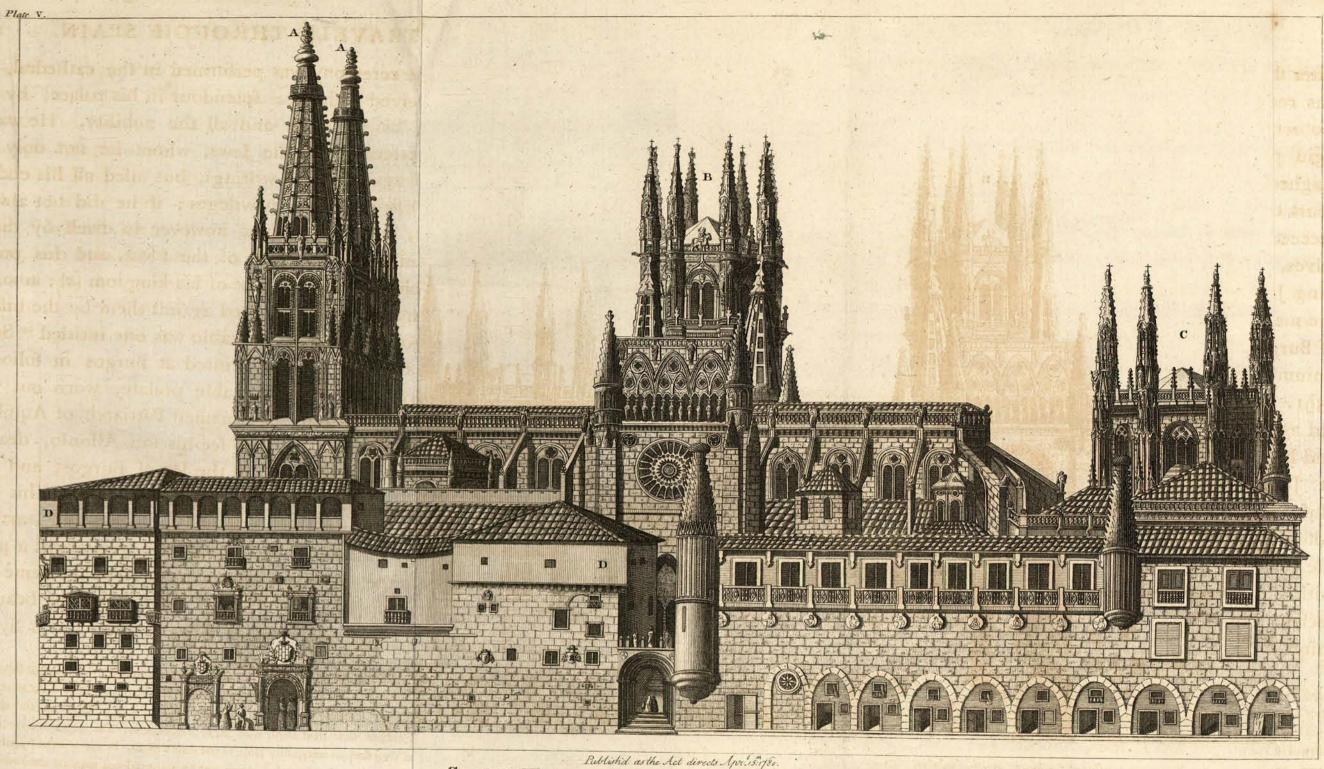
Pauli mihi indebile nomen una cum caractere assignari deposco."

His two fons were baptized at the fame time, his eldest being eleven, and the youngest only two years of age. His father had been dead some time in the Jewish religion, and his mother still continued so with remarkable steadiness, though she yielded at last to the arguments of her fon, but his wife was inflexible; for which reason the marriage was dissolved, and Paulus took upon him the clerical habit, purfued his studies with new zeal, and foon after went to Paris, where he received the degree of master of arts, and continued writing to his late wife, using every argument to convince her of the fublime truths of the Christian religion, in which at last he had the happiness to succeed. He then set out for Avignon, was made archdeacon of Trevino, in the fee of Burgos, and a canon of Seville. At the age of fifty-two king Henry the third of Castile, appointed him bishop of Carthagena, and he became so great a favorite with that monarch, that he made him chancellor of the kingdom, one of the executors of his will, and tutor to his fon and heir, John, then only two years of age, and afterwards king of Castile: finally Paulus was nominated to the see of Burgos with universal approbation, which he refused for a twelvemonth, but at last acquiesced, and took possession of, in 1415, being sixty-five years of age.

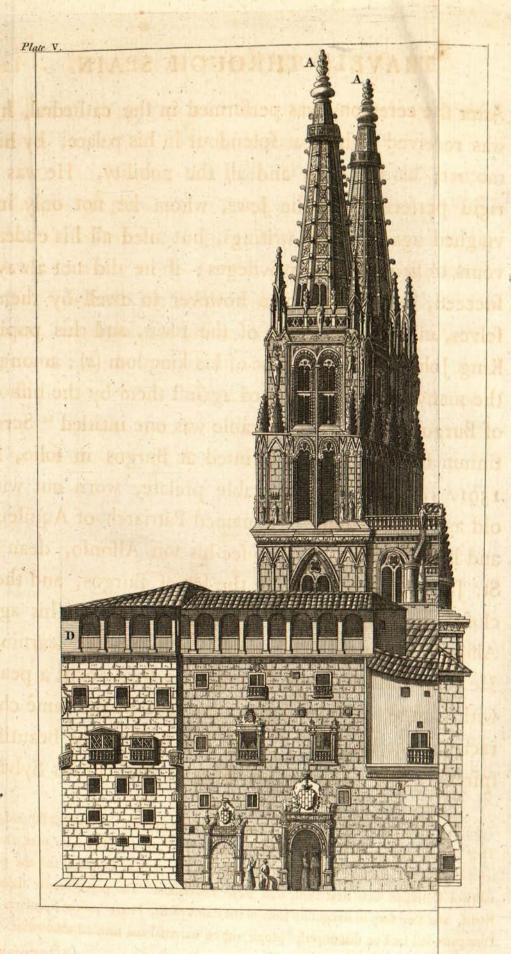
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SOUTH VIEW OF THE CATHEDRAL OF BURGOS.



AA . Steeples at the principal Front . B . Tower in the Cent Page Sculp!

After the ceremony was performed in the cathedral, he was received with great splendour in his palace, by his mother, his late wife, and all the nobility. He was a rigid perfecutor of the Jews, whom he not only inveighed against in his writings, but used all his endeavours to strip of their privileges; if he did not always fucceed, he obliged them however to dwell by themfelves, in particular parts of the town, and his pupil, King John, drove them out of his kingdom (a); amongst the many treatifes published against them by the bishop of Burgos, the most remarkable was one intitled "Scrutinium scripturarum," reprinted at Burgos in folio, in 1591. At last, this venerable prelate, worn out with old age and infirmity, was named Patriarch of Aquileia, and had the satisfaction to see his son Alsonso, dean of St. Jago fucceed to him in the fee of Burgos, and then closed his career in the eighty-third year of his age. Alfonso was equal to his father in virtue and learning. He went ambassador to Portugal, to treat about a peace with Castile, and was afterwards sent in the same character to the Emperor Albert. He finished the beautiful spires of the cathedral of Burgos, and Æneas Sylvius

LETTER

(afterwards

⁽a) England was the first country that expelled the Jews (in 1281, the 19th of Edward 1st.) They had a similar fate in France much about that time; Spain banished them next, and afterwards Portugal. Oliver Gromwell permitted them to return to England, and the generality of Christians now treat them with more moderation. The popes receive them in Rome, and they sleep in tranquility close to the shrine of St. Peter; but the Spaniards and Portugueze still look on that dispersed people with an universal and national abhorrence.

(afterwards Pope Pius 2d.) stiles him, "Deliciæ Hispaniarum Burgenfis." He made an attempt, at the council of Basil, to support the precedency of the kings of Castile, before the kings of England, on which occasion he published his treatise, entitled El tratado de las sessiones. He also wrote many works on historical subjects; in a word, he lived in fuch high estimation, that when Pope Eugenius, heard that the bishop of Burgos intended to come to his court, he publickly declared in a full confiftory of cardinals, "That if Alfonso of Burgos should ever come to fee him, he should be in a manner ashamed, to fit in the chair of St. Peter (a)."

and had the fatisfiction to fee his fon Alfonfo, dean of

(a) Espana Sagrada por Fr. Henrique Flores. Tom 26. Madrid, 1771.

1501. At Iala, this rememble prolate, worn out with

old age and infrarity, was named Patriarch of Aquileia,

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Date being trades of a frage range about tractioned the of hardbed storm read, regard season's Normagel. Other Commend associated department to English, and the gene-

raing of Christians was treat them and more moderation. The popes ners we them in

Romes, and they fleep in trappolity chile to the fixing of St. Peters but the Spanistels at a Foregreen hill look on that disperfed people with an univerfel and melional abborrence. (alterwards

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Don Joseph Minuari, and Don Christoval Velezante

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ter cinto ference diffrient of Antialolia, it was found

that Spain alone could procure instructions in first in

Remarkable objects on the road from Burgos to the provinces of Alaba and Guypuscoa, as far as Irum, the last town on the frontiers of Spain, towards France.

thomal concrete it larged about the dear days but

YOU no sooner quit Burgos, than new objects appear worthy of attention; for, in croffing an extensive plain, the gum-bearing ciftus is feen in great plenty (a); it is an evergreen, with long, narrow, leaves, gummy and gloffy; the flower is inodorous, and composed of five white petals, of the fize of a common rose; each petal having a little purple spot on the tip of it. The old branches diftil a liquid matter, which the heat of the fun condenses into a white fugary fubstance, like a piece of gum, of the fize of one's finger, and yields a true manna; it is gathered and eat greedily by shepherds and boys. The Spaniards were little apprifed of the advantages to be drawn from this plant, till of late years, when, on the representation of the royal college of physicians at Madrid, in 1752, orders were given to two of its members, to make a

and the Realize of the Equar is double. "See the will

further investigation of this production; these were Don Joseph Minuart, and Don Christoval Velez, the former went into the mountains of Avila, and the latter, into several districts of Andalusia; it was sound that Spain alone could procure manna sufficient to supply all Europe, equal in goodness to that of Calabria, in the kingdom of Naples; for not only an incredible quantity of it, was gathered in the parts abovementioned, where it is formed about the dog days, but likewise in the mountains of Asturias, Galicia, Cuenca, Aragon, and Catalonia, though no use had hitherto been made of it (a).

The descent to Monasterio leads to a valley sertile in corn, soon after the district of Bureba begins, which is a champaign country, and populous, with numerous gardens, well stocked with fruit trees. Near Bribiesca they manure their land with a fort of white marl, of a

⁽a) Manna is a medicinal drug, of great use in the modern practice, as a gentle purgative, and cleanser of the first passages, and is now become a considerable article of trade. It may be reckoned among the number of gums which exsuding from the juice of a tree, and mixing with some saline particles of air, is condensed into those slakes in which it is brought to England. The manna of Calabria is not gathered from the cistus, but from the branches of the ash tree; and we are assured by Robert More, Esq; of Lindley, in the county of Salop, that the Neapolitans have many ways of counterfeiting the several appearances of manna, and that the most common, is with Glauber's salt, and sugar, with a small mixture of manna. It yields to his Sicilian majesty so large a revenue, and he is so jealous of it, that during the feason, the woods are guarded by soldiers, who even fire upon people, that come into them, and the stealing of the liquor is death. "See the method of gathering the manna in the kingdom of Naples, in Rolt's dictionary of commerce."

blueish cast; marl, being in its nature, a compound of different properties of argillaceous, and calcareous earths, is of great use in agriculture; it is sometimes soft, at other times hard, like stone, or slate, but generally crumbles by exposure to the air. The strongest fort, which abounds with clay, cannot be fo proper for the argillaceous, and stony land of Biscay; but when the foil is light, calcareous, and fpungy, not retaining the water, or too much worn out by cultivation, then, a clayish marl will be of fervice, to procure the additional substance required; and if the land is stiff clay, a calcareous quality is most proper, as it always contains some fand, which helps to loofen the foil, and will give it fertility for a number of years. I linnered to

The road to Pancorvo traverses calcareous mountains. forming part of those called "Los Montes de Oca," by which the Pyrenees are joined to the northern mountains of Spain. The town of Pancorvo lies in the narrowest part of a valley, closed in by these high hills, having a brook where there is excellent trout. The new road has been cut through the rock, which formerly offered the most horrid aspect to the traveller, threatening, as it were, every moment, to fall on his head, but now is fafew and commodious, the paffage having been confiderably widened. The new road from Bilboa reaches as far as

thorny reftharrow, the kermes oak, and many lorts of

From

togorvogos Pancorvogos the same and Robbied to go over in a ferry was same

thely repaired when I went over it in July, 1378;

Pancorvo, a distance of seventeen leagues, over a continual chain of mountains.

The boundaries of Old Castile are at Miranda de Ebro, three leagues beyond Pancorvo, where there is a bridge over the Ebro (a); on the other fide of which, the province of Alaba begins, whose inhabitants have likewise made a fine road at their own expence, to the confines of Guypuscoa. The road continues almost to Vitoria, bordering on the river Zadorra, in which the water lilly grows plentifully. The hills are of fmall, and various coloured calcareous stone, conglutinated together: the plants are the arbutus uva urfi, or perennial leaved strawberry tree, box, thorny furze, thorny restharrow, the kermes oak, and many forts of orchis. The first village in the province of Guypuscoa, is Salinas, fo called from its briny springs, which they evaporate with a boiling heat, and make falt. It is remarkable, that fuch springs in France, and Lorraine, are always in vallies, but in Spain are constantly found on the tops of mountains, or in elevated places. Thisjust mentioned, is on a very high hill, with numerous petrefactions of shells, in a kind of blueish marble, veined with spar, which has been used in making the road. This hill of Salinas is the highest part of Guypuscoa.

⁽a) This bridge, which had been fo much damaged, and part of it carried away by inundations, when Mr. Swinburne passed this way, and was obliged to go over in a ferry, was entirely repaired when I went over it in July, 1778.

From hence, it is four leagues to Mondragon, so famous for its iron mine in this neighbourhood, of which I shall speak more particularly hereafter. From Mondragon it is a journey of fix leagues to Legaspia, passing by a forge on the banks of the river Onate, where they mix the ore of two mines, viz. that of Somorrostro in Biscay, noted for the slexibility of its metal, with the ore of this neighbourhood, which being more abundant and hard, takes forty hours in roasting, and is then sufed once without any castina (a), getting at each sussing a quintal of iron, sollowing the same method observed with the iron of Somorrostro, as will be described in a sussequent letter.

Onate is a populous and affluent town; the church, the colonade, and statues of the college, are of sand-stone, sull of Mica(b); the soil of the hills, and vallies, is a tenacious clay, formed by the total decomposition of the sand-stone, slate, and rotten vegetables. The

R 2

⁽a) Castina is a hard calcareous stone, of a whitish grey, used in forges, where iron is sufed, in order to absorb the sulphureous acid, that mineralizes the iron, and renders it brittle.

⁽b) Mica, the glimmer, daze, or glist. See Cronstedt's mineralogy, sect. xciii. London, 1772. Mica, or talk, is an earthy or stony substance, consisting of thin, slexible, shining plates; micas have a soft touch, resembling that of unctuous substances. They are not soluble by acids. They are incapable of eliciting sparks when struck by steel, as slints do, for which reason they are called Apyri, that is, without fire; nor do they form a tenacious taste with water, as gypsum does. Mica is therefore neither a calcareous, siliceous, argillaceous, nor gypseous earth.—

farmers used to manure it with lime, to loosen the strength of the clay, and absorb its acid, but they now begin to use marl.

It is five hours and a half from Legaspia to Villafranca, paffing by Villareal, where the houses are of fand-stone. They prune the oaks every where in this country, in the same manner as the mulberry trees in Valencia; that they may throw out more branches, to make charcoal for the forges, and they cut them every eight or ten years, as in Bifeay. There are few fprings in all these hills, though it so frequently rains, owing to the tenacity of the foil, which impedes the filtration of the water, fo that they are obliged to drink melted fnow from the mountains, yet without being troubled with the fullthroat, so often attributed to this cause, though more probably arifing from obstructions in the glands for want of perspiration (a). Two thirds of the inhabitants of this province, pass the days and nights in their smoaky cabins, without chimnies, affirming, that the closeness, and fmoak, are conducive to health, as they diffipate

⁽a) An ingenious traveller lately returned from Switzerland informs us, that he had been at feveral places where the inhabitants drink no other water than those of rivers and torrents which descend from the Glacieres, and yet are not in the least subject to the full throat; so far from it, he had been told, snow water was esteemed a preservative, as well as the clear air of the mountains, and that they had been observed to diminish in elevated places, though always increased in the vallies, when once they had begun.—Sketches of the natural, civil, and political state of Switzerland, by Will. Coxe, A. M. London, 1779.

dampness, and promote perspiration. The inhabitants are certainly not only robust, but are even seldom troubled with rheums: they are moreover chearful and sociable, having nothing of that shyness observed in the meridional provinces.

From Villafranca (a), it is three leagues to Tolofa, one of the three principal cities of Guypuscoa, and from hence the road continues in fight of St. Sebastians, and Pasage, to Irum, the last town in Spain. Near this place the river Bidasoa enters the ocean, dividing Spain from France, and at a small distance from its mouth, the island of Pheasants is remarkable for having been the place where the Pyrenean treaty was concluded, in 1660, between cardinal Mazarin, on the part of France, and Don Lewis Mendez de Haro y Guzman, on the part of Spain, and the match was agreed upon, between Lewis XIV. and Dona Maria Teresa, daughter of Philip IV. mother to the Dauphin, and grand-mother to the Duke of Anjou, afterwards Philip V. of Spain, father to his present Majesty Charles III.

⁽a) Neither Legaspia, Onate, Villareal, Villafranca; nor Irum, are to be found on the well-engraved map of Spain, by Thomas Lopez, in 1770, who is geographer to the king, and of the academy of St. Ferdinand, and dedicates it to the Prince of Asturias, saying of this map, that it is, "construido con lo mejor, que ay impresso, manuscrito, y memorias de los naturales;" but on the "mapa de las carreras de postas de Espana," dedicated to Charles the 3d, by Don Ricardo Wall, in 1760, and engraved by the said Thomas Lopez, I find Villasranca, Tolosa, and Irum, but not Legaspia, Onate, or Villareal.

LETTER XIII.

ciable, having nothing of that firme & referred in libe

dampage of and patement of the stands of better inhabitations

Of the iron ore of Mondragon, in Guypuscoa, with some account of the famous Toledo blades, so greatly valued formerly in England.

I Shall now relate some particulars concerning the famous iron mine of Mondragon, which is about a league distant from the town of that name, in Guypus-coa. It is called, by the Spanish miners, "Hierro Elado," frosen iron, is sound in a red clay, and produces natural steel, with this remarkable circumstance, that it is not to be met with any where else in the kingdom (a). They even preserve to this day, a traditional story that this ore was used for those samous swords, which Catherine of Aragon, made a present of, to her consort, our Henry the VIIIth; some of which still remain in re-

⁽a) Steel, considered chemically, is nothing else than iron reduced by art to a particular state, which occasions some changes in its properties, but these properties are essentially the same as those of iron; that is, iron and steel are not two different metals, but the same metal, in two different states. Steel may be made by susion or cementation: the first method is used to convert iron into steel, immediately from the ore, but more frequently from crude, or cast iron; but all ores of iron are not used indifferently, for this purpose, because some of these, which are therefore called ores of steel, are much fitter than others, to surnish good steel, and the steel extracted from them is called natural steel. Dictionary of chemistry, London, 1777.

pute in the highlands of Scotland, being suitable to their dress, and are called Andre Ferrara, the name of the maker, which is marked on the blades. mous Toledo blades, those also of Zarragossa, called Del Perrillo, mentioned in Don Quixote (a), and others, were also supposed to be made of the ore of this mine, which gives forty per cent. metal, though rather difficult to fuse: good steel may be obtained from it with very little trouble, because the iron has in itself the proper disposition to receive in the forge, the necessary phlogiston to make excellent blades, but without cementation it perhaps may not answer for files, or razors. These blades were generally broad, to wear on horseback, and of great length, suitable to the old Spanish dress, but this being altered at the beginning of this century, when the duke of Anjou ascended the throne of Spain, the French swords were introduced with their dress, which even now is commonly called in Spanish, a military dress, vestido de militar, in opposition to the long black cloak univerfally worn there before

⁽a) These swords were called Del Perrillo, from the figure of a little dog on the blade; Cervantes endeavours to heighten the courage of Don Quixote, when he attacked the lion in the cage, by adding, "That his sword was of the common fort, and not so sharp as those samous ones, with the Perrillo mark." Tu magnanimo! con sola una Espada, y no de las del Perrillo cortadorus. Don Quixote, part II. cap. 70. Madrid, 1771. The Zarragossa artists had three distinct marks on their blades; viz. El Perrillo, a little dog; El Morillo, a Moor's head; and La Loba, a wolf. Swords with the Loba mark, have the name of Andre Ferrara on them, and are not uncommon, at this day, in England. They shew a sword in the small armoury of the tower of London, with the name of Andre Ferrara, and no other mark, which was taken in the Scotch Rebellion in 1715.

that epocha. So that the old Toledo blades fell into disuse, and the manufacture declined; but his prefent majesty has again encouraged it, and a new manufacture has been lately fet up, by his orders, at Toledo, for the use of the troops, and they are said to be as well tempered as the old ones, and are able to bear most extraordinary proofs; but these are not made of the ore of Mondragon. There are various opinions relating to the old blades, we have been speaking of; fome fay, they were only tempered in winter, and when taken out of the forge, for the last time, were vibrated in the air, in the coldest weather; others relate, that they were heated till they acquired that colour, the Spanish artists call cherry, and then, were steeped in a tub of oil, or greafe, for a moment or two, then plunged, in the fame manner, in warm water, all which was done in the depth of winter: others will have it, they were made of the natural steel of Mondragon, with a list of common iron in the middle, to make them more flexible, and then tempered in the common way, in the winter feafon. Such are the prevailing opinions about the blades of Mondragon, which are certainly excellent; but as to the present workmen of Mondragon, or in any part of Guypuscoa, they are yet unacquainted with the fecret of converting iron into steel, or tempering it properly, and even in the making of tools, are far inferior to the artists in England: it is somewhat particular,

particular, that to this very day, they have no other word in the Spanish language, for a bickhorn, or a bench vice, than Vigornia, the Latin name for the city of Worcester, thought to have been once famous for works of that kind (a). As many of the most capital workmen of Toledo, quitted that city, on the decline of their trade, and fettled in different parts of the kingdom, where they supported the reputation of their art; and as their blades have fince been dispersed all over Europe, those who are curious in these matters, will, perhaps, not be displeased to see a list of their names; as by this means they may know them, whenever they fall in their way.

Bilboa

Pedro de Lagaretea

Orgaz Pedro Lopez

and has award (Melchior Saanz

Lifbon

Uuan Martinez Machacha

(Sebastian Hernandez

l'oledos, and executed

de Ramon de Hoces el

Seville I samon fiel of Pedro de Lezama bald blo yna

Juan Martinez el Mozo Ibato botto

by the molt caprasoolA coliner Telates further relates

Madrid Dionifio Corrientes of moment and

CAntonio Ruiz Man Spraniog lo

Cuenca Julian Garcia

Valladolid Luan S. L.

Calatayud

Luis de Nieva sau a mot otosing not (5)

Andres Munefter to eving spiratudo (6)

⁽a) Tesoro de la lengua Castellana per el licenciado Don Sebastian de Cobarruvias Orosco. Madrid 1611.

Cordoba

Zaragossa

San Clemente

the molt

the reputation of their

Cuellar,

and

Badajoz

Alonfo Rios de de de la religione

Julian de Rey

Lopez Aguado

Bartholome de Nieva

Calcado

Campanero

The following workmen still remained in Toledo.

Zamorano

Thomas de Ayala

le baltoque moed con Juan de la Horta

Francisco Ruiz, and sons

will, perhaps, not segral de Juan de Vargas ton equality

names as by this obliging the Luizalde with vides as a senser

Francisco Lardi wanied ni liel worth

Andres Garcia

Heras, father, fon, and grandson

Alonfo de Sahagun and fons

Fernandez

Martinez

Any old blades found with these last names, may be undoubtedly considered as true Toledos, and executed by the most capital artists. Cervantes surther relates that Ramon de Hoces was samous at Seville for making of poinards. Debia der ser el tal punal de Ramon de Hoces el Sevillano (a.) Nor should I forget the samous Montante of Spain (b), a huge weapon, used with both hands, at once

nez Marhachn

8

⁽a) Don Quixote, tom 3, page 298. Madrid, 1771.

⁽b) Cobarruvias gives to the word Montante, an Italian derivation, "Montante, espada de dos manos, arma de ventaja y conocida, de Montar palabra Italiana que quiere decir, subir, o

so well described by Milton, speaking of Michael's sword:

" With huge two-handed fway

- " Brandish'd alost, the horrid edge came down,
- " Wide wasting." PARAD. Lost, Book vi.

In the king's armoury at Madrid, besides many curious and compleat fuits of armour, they have a fine collection of antique fwords, amongst the rest, they shew those, faid to have belonged to Pelagius, to the Cid, and Bernardo del Carpio; also the sword of king Francis 1st, and that of John George, duke of Saxe-Weimar, taken from him by Charles 5th, at the battle of Horlingen. The fwords of the Cid, and Bernardo del Carpio, were made at Zaragossa, but that of Francis, at Valencia, as was also the fword, likewise in this armoury, of that famous hero Garcia de Paredes, with his name on the blade, and on the other fide " plus ultra operibus credite." Though these details may perhaps be considered of very little moment, it was not fo with our ancestors, who fet a high value on these Spanish blades, particularly the Toledos, as may be collected from various passages in our favourite writers, Shakespear, Johnson, and Butler.

porque el montante excede la estatura del hombre o porque se juege por lo alto.--Tesoro de la lengua Castellana, por Don Sebastian de Gobarruvias. Madrid; 1611. This curious book may truly said to be a treasure, according to its title, sor those that study the Spanish language, and are desirous of understanding the true spirit and sense of its most difficult words, though the witty Quevedo passes rather a severe censure on it, in his novel intitled, Cuento de Cuentos, adding, Tambien se ha hecho tesoro de la lengua Espanola donde el papel es mas que la razon, obra grande, y de erudicion desalinada.

MIOD-

ARAD, LOST, BOD

LETTER XIV.

all definited by Millon, feeaking of Michael's fword:

Environs of Reinosa, source of the river Ebro, and intended canal of Cashile.

lection of antique twords, among the reft, they thew

HAT part of Spain called "Montana de Burgos," may be thrown into two grand divisions. The first takes in all that space from the highest part of the mountains, to the Bay of Bifcay, and the other, the space extending from the fame height towards Castile. The highest part of these mountains, is that intermediate fituation between Santander, and Burgos, it being a continual afcent of fourteen leagues from Santander to Reinofa, descending afterwards from thence, as far as Bur-The fource of the Ebro is within half a mile of Reinofa, and runs eafterly, till it falls into the Mediterranean, while the Pifuerga runs into the Duero, whose course is westerly, and empties itself in the ocean; from whence it may be inferred, that Reinofa divides the waters between the two seas, and is therefore one of the most elevated districts in Spain, as well as the coldest, its lofty mountains raising their heads as high as the line of congelation, being constantly covered with snow. The foil of Reinofa produces the best oaks in the kingdom,

dom, equal to any in Europe, and fome thousands of them, are occasionally felled for the service of the navy. Good oaks will not fucceed fo well in a rich limy foil, abounding with moisture, but require on the contrary, that it should be of an argillaceous nature, stiff and compact, as well as dry, where they fuffer no injury from dampness, and thrive by flow and proper gradations. The foil of Reinofa is in general, composed of fandy rock, mixed with quartz, as large as chefnuts, cemented in the rock in the fame manner as in the warm climate of Granada. About a league to the north of Reinosa there is a very high mountain called Arandillo, whose summit is at present so much decomposed, as to form an extensive plain where there is very good grass. The people of the country, fay there was formerly a town here, and the quantities of loofe stones still remaining, feem to confirm the report. The nature of this mountain is fingular, its basis being of gypseous stone, its fummit of fand stone, and its centre of limestone, with large impressions of cornu ammonis, and several scallop shells fixed in the rock. On the road to Reinosa, black marble veined with white is feen in great quantities; the fame may be observed at the Puerto between Aspeitia, and Vidana, where there is a mountain of fimilar marble, from top to bottom. Two leagues to the fouthward of Reinosa, there is another high mountain, with an hermitage at the top, where there is great plenty of bilberry whortle

whortle, the vaccinium of Linnæus (a); and to the west-ward, there is a height where great numbers of Roman coins have been dug out, which indicates its having been formerly a Roman colony: near this place several large lumps of emery are seen above ground, fixed in the sand stone (b).

from campagis, and thrive

The famous river Ebro, which once ferved as a boundary between the Carthaginians and Romans, has its fource in a little valley at a fmall distance to the eastward of Reinosa, and proceeds from a copious spring at the foot of an ancient tower, called Fontibre; at a few paces from hence, its waters turn a mill, and abound in excellent trout, and plenty of cray fish; in passing by Reinosa, it is encreased by the waters of several other brooks, and fprings; two leagues lower, it runs by the narrow pass of Montesclaros, receives different supplies in the course of its passage through the vallies, is considerable when it comes to the confines of Alava, and after traverling many open and fertile districts, passes by the city of Tortosa, where there is a bridge of boats over it, and then falls into the Mediterranean at the Alfaque islands, but on account of its many rocks, and shoals is not navigable higher than Tortofa, and even fo far, only for small crast.

SUBBILLY.

from top to bettem.

⁽a) Vitis idea of Gerard and Ray.

⁽b) A more particular account of emery will be given in the fecond part of this work.

There is a fmall briny lake near the fource of the Ebro, where they might obtain falt, as is done near the source of the Tagus, in the same manner as in Guypuscoa already mentioned. In winter this lake is covered with wild ducks, and other aquatic fowl; the country is well provided with game, they have partridges and quails in abundance, as well as hares, and in the mountains there are bears. The meadows are covered with usual plants, such as round birthwort, squinancy berries, yellow-weed, parsley leaved vervain, privet, and cockscomb; but of the aromatic forts, none but pennyroyal. Beech trees are common hereabouts, bearing the mast, which is a kind of a triangular seed in form of a nut, or rather an acorn, containing a whitish oleaginous pith, of an agreeable tafte, but the inhabitants are ignorant of the method of drawing oil from this fruit, as in France: they gather it in the same manner as they do acorns, in Estremadura, getting up into the trees and striking them with poles, and use it to fatten the swine. When put under the press and formed into cakes, it makes an excellent fodder for cows, on being mixed with water, and is of great service when they cannot go into the fields on account of the fnow(a). The intended ca-

⁽a) An attempt was made some years ago to introduce the extraction of beech oil in England, and a patent was granted for that purpose, but it did not succeed, the country people choosing to keep their mast to fatten their swine, rather than sell it to answer the purposes

nal of Castile, is to begin at the village of Olea, near Fontibre, about a league and a half from Reinosa, is to pass by Comesa, Cabria, Villaescusa, Estrecho del Congosto, Mave, Villella, Estrecho de Nogales, Herrera de Pisuerga, Osorno, Fromista, Convento de Calahorra, and Grijota; where it is to meet the branch of Campos, that is to come from Medina de Rio Seco, then to continue by Palencia, Duenas, Venta de Trigueros, and La Veruela, and enter the river Pifuerga, below Valladolid; by which means, it will communicate with the Duero, and meet another branch, which is to begin at Segovia, and país by Hontenares, Bernaldos, Nava de Cocos, Olmedo, Mata-pozuelos, and villanueva de Duero; but when all this will be executed, those who have travelled through Spain, and observed the flow progress of all public works, may form a tolerable judgment, fo that this grand improvement with many other projects, of a less solid foundation, may be faid to be yet closely enveloped, and hidden in the bosom of time.

and private views of any individual.—Rolt's dict. of commerce. London, 1761.—The nuts, when eaten, occasion giddiness, but when well dried, and powdered, they make whole-fome bread. They are sometimes roasted and substituted for coffee. The poor people in Silesia use the expressed oil, instead of butter.—Dr. Withering's botanical arrangement, &c.

and technic tech felling better that held bed move the

other fouthern climates, it is found in none fo common

is in that kingdom. Don Joseph Quer discovered it near the Eleura VX at of Hart T T T T Herris, on the

Natural history of the Spanish plant Gayuba, or perennial leaved.

Strawberry-tree.

places: it is particularly common near all the villages,

HE Spanish plant gayuba, having been described by the late Don Joseph Quer, surgeon to his Catholic majesty, and first professor of botany in the royal garden at Madrid, I shall lay before my readers a summary of his treatise (a), with the observations which occurred to him in the course of his practice, respecting this plant.

The gayuba, or arbutus uva ursi, of Linnæus (b), is indigenous to Spain, for though it grows in Italy and

(a) Differtacion physico botanica sobre la passion nephritica, y su verdadero especissico, la uva ursi, o Gayubas. Su autor Don Joseph Quer Cirujano de S. M. Consultor de sus reales exercitos, academico del instituto de Bolonia, de la real medica matritense y primet prosessor del partir de plantas de Madrid. Madrid, 1763.

(b) Uva urst. Clus hist. 63. Hispanic 79, & Tournefort inst. R. H. 599. Class xx.

Tabern Icon 1080. Boerhaave Ind. A. 11. 219. Scheuchz Itin vii. 520.

Vitis Idæa foliis carnofis, et veluti punctatis, five Idæa Radix Dioscoridis, C. B. Pin 476. Raii hist. 11. 1489.

Radix Idea putata et uva urfi I. B. i. 523. Idea Radix Lugd. 193.

Uva uifi Galeni Clufio. Park, 1458-1 10 gidlinol bas sirisal alilla al

Vaccinia urfi, five uva urfi apud Clusium Ger. 1230. Emac 1416.

Arctoflaphylon. Siegesb. flor. 13.

Arbutus caulibus procumbentibus, foliis integerrimis. LINN. H. cliff. 163. Idolud al

Officin. Vitis Idaa, ac antal egalir to guillage male, balles of a fin libeacourou A (4)

In Spanish Gayuba.

In Leon.

other fouthern climates, it is found in none fo common as in that kingdom. Don Joseph Quer discovered it near the Escurial, and on the hills of Buytreras, on the mountains of Manzanares, in different parts of the Alcarria (a), such as the district of Lupiana, mountains of Buen Dia, Albalete de Zorita, Fuente Novilla, and other places: it is particularly common near all the villages, and lands, belonging to the extensive Serrania of Cuenca, all the stony mountains of the lordship of Molina, and near the fource of the Tagus. In Aragon, on the mountains of Daroca, Puertos of Atea, and Acere, on the mountains of Burgos, and Leon, and county of Niebla, and Carrera de Leon, from Contorno de Villalmanso, to Cogollos; and from Manciles, to Villadiego, as you go from Burgos to Cervera, in fo copious a manner, that the place is called Gayubal: also on the skirts of the Pyrenees of Catalonia, in Bifcay, and Navarre, and in the kingdoms of Granada and Valencia; infomuch that the before-mentioned professor adds, that he does not recollect ever to have gone upon a botanical party, without feeing it. It is fo univerfally known in Spain, that it has its particular names in almost every province, as for example:

In Castile, Alcarria, and Iordship of Biscay, Gayubas
In Leon, - - - - - - - Agauja
In Bureba, - - - - Gaulla

⁽a) A populous district is so called, when consisting of villages, farms, and rural improvements.

In Rioja, ism seloidie a neon went the w	Avuguas
In Asturias, the fruit is called	Rebellones
In Albalate de Zoritæ,	Aguavillas
In the Villages of the Alcarria, indiffe-	Gayuberas
rently,	Gaubillas
In Utiel, Partido de Requena,	Galluva
In Real de Manzanares,	Uba dus
In Catalonia	Buxarolla.

The great variety of these names shew, how universal. it is all over the kingdom, and proves what little dependance is to be had on the relations of travellers, who only see the high roads, and never deviate from them, to inspect into remote places: even Clusius, the most intelligent, and curious of those writers, tells us, he only faw it at the Venta del Baul, when it can be made appear, that in all those parts of Spain, which he traversed, it grows in great quantities; and were all the uncultivated places to be mentioned, where the Gayuba is found, particularly, fuch as are called Rubiales, it would form a lift of almost all the stony and uncultivated places in the kingdom. It is perennial and an evergreen, flowers in March, and April, and the berries are ripe in September, and October. The leaves are narrow, rounded at the extremity, and contain only one fibre. The berry is as large as the kernel of a hazle nut. Its fingular mode of multiplication is curious, proceeding from the old branches, which trailing on the ground and

gently rifing, throw out new roots, which maintain its brothers, though the fire should be cut off, or decay; it is pleafing to observe a shoot of two or three plants adorned with stems and branches, with others iffuing from them, fo that one plant occupies a great space of ground, covered with its green foliage and red berries; but what makes this plant more worthy of attention, is its excellent qualities in calculous cases, being in a manner an unique in those cases, where every other specific has its contraindication, while this admits of no kind of danger, nor has ever been complained of by those who have written concerning it; and none of those who used it by the advice of Don Joseph Quer, and acknowledge themselves to be perfectly cured, have ever complained of the least inconvenience, though some were not wanting, who remarked its effects with the greatest exactness; fuspecting, that its fingular efficacy in the cure of the stone, might perhaps hide other obnoxious qualities, which however the most accurate scrutiny has not been able to discover. form a lift of almost all the flowly a

The method generally used, says professor Quer, in administering this simple remedy, is to give the powder of the leaves only, or a decoction in water. Foreigners frequently use the first method, and I have chiefly sollowed the latter, though I have observed the like good effects from both. When the berry is perfectly ripe, which

which is upon its acquiring a red colour like coral, it is given in powders from ten grains to a scruple, or half a dram, and from half a dram to one or two drams. The root when in decoction, according to Christian Hermann, from half a dram to two drams: the fame with the leaves, or in an infusion, and about a handful, or handful and a half of the leaves or more, and in powder from half a scruple to a dram; but according to my constant practice, I have fixed the dose to two drams of leaves in a pound of water, and when in powders, I always give a dram, because a less quantity only excites pain, and does not come up to the defired effect. It should be used, three or four times a day in the paroxysm, taking a copious draught of the decoction, and if it feems more palatable to a delicate stomach to fweeten it with fugar, it may be done, but must be continued for weeks and months. When the pains have ceased, one dose given daily two hours before breakfast will be sufficient, observing the usual diet, in which case it may also be esteemed an excellent preservative, without being repugnant to those few convivial hours which may fall to the lot of the wifest of men.

It appears to be particularly useful in scorbutic cases, from the testimony of two learned writers of the faculty, Marcus Mappi, and J. Christian Hermann, in the historia plant. Alsat. written by the former, and after his decease published by the latter, where it is faid, "Baccæ maturæ awonday

hyemis

hyemis tempore acescunt; valde gratum habent saporem, fub nive vigent et conservantur diu, in locis septentrionalibus, maxima copia crescunt, et cum aliis ibidem crescentibus, adæquatum et sufficiens remedium scorbuti præbent, annotante id etiam Joanne Frid. Bachstrom, qui etiam horum myrtillorum rubrorum ingentem vim in istis locis provenire confirmat, provido omnis necessitatis humanæ numinis beneficio."---Pag. 331.

In the year 1734, after the conquest of Naples, continues Don Joseph Quer, I returned to the court of Madrid, and practifed in my profession, and prescribed the gayuba, whose virtues were unknown, though in many provinces, they were well acquainted with the name of the plant. In 1762, I gathered it at Fuente Novilla, to have it delineated; in many places, the country people were furprised to see me take notice of it, when according to their notions it was fo pernicious to children, who eat of its berries. I prescribed it to a patient, ordering him to boil two drams of the leaves, in a large vessel of water, which had the happiest effect. By this means I introduced the use of it at court, and believe I was the first in Spain who administered it. In further proof of its efficacy, I shall add, that the illustrious Senor Lupia bishop of Leon, having applied in several places, as well abroad as in Spain, for a remedy for a nephritic complaint, they fent him a plant from Rome, with the name of Buxarola, whose virtues, as well as name, were totally althord

unknown

unknown to us, yet the vegetable exists in great quantities, and is known in the kingdom of Leon by the name of Agauja.

In the year 1740, being at Barcelona, I went on a botanical party, to visit the famous mountain of Montserrate, in company with that celebrated botanist Don Juan Minuart, professor of botany of the royal garden, and we spent two and twenty days in that excursion; my friend was much troubled with nephritic complaints, which were extremely painful, particularly at that moment when we were at the very summit of the mountain, from whence he sound the utmost difficulty to descend; luckily we met the gayuba on that very spot, and when he had reached the convent, he had the most violent symptoms of his complaint, therefore I immediately ordered the following decoction:

R. Gayuba leaves - - 2 drams

Camomile flowers - \frac{1}{2} dram

Refined nitre - - 1 fcruple.

In a proper vessel, boiled in a pound of water, and left to simmer, over a slow sire, the vessel kept covered, and when removed, not to be shaken; the above to be drank lukewarm, adding half an ounce of refined sugar, and to be taken twice a day; that is, in the morning early, fasting, and in the evening, by which method the sits ceased, and the patient continued it, during

MOTIFIE

during the course of our tour, with the most happy esfects, having been enabled to complete his researches with comfort and ease.

Thus far our author, who enters into many details, relating to nephritic complaints, and their method of cure, amongst the antients and moderns, adding also the practice of Dr. de Haen, of Vienna, with respect to this plant; but as it is so well known to our physicians in England (a), I have only made use of the historical part of his narrative, passing over some trisling reslections on the system of Linnæus, with which he did not seem to be persectly acquainted; we shall therefore the less regret his Spanish Flora, which he had begun, but only lived to finish the letters A, B, and C; and from so injudicious a method of treating this science, his more enlightened successors will probably never be tempted to continue it.

(a) "Arbutus uva urli, the petennial leaved strawberry-tree, the stems trailing leaves very entire, cup purple, blossoms white. In the Highlands of Scotland, and in Wales, upon the mountains. The berries are insipid, pulpy, and mealy. The plant is much used in Sweden to dye an ash colour, and to tan leather. Half a dram of the powdered leaves, given every, or every other day, hath been sound useful in calculous cases. It was first used for this purpose at Montpelier, and afterwards Dr. de Haen, at Vienna, relates several cases in which it proved of the greatest service; its success in England has been uncertain, sometimes the patients found no relief, but thought their complaints rather aggravated, than alleviated; whilst in other calculous and nephritic cases, the symptoms have been almost entirely removed. Perhaps, upon the whole, we shall find it no better than other vegetable aftringents, some of which have long been used by the country people, in gravelly complaints, and with very great advantage, though hitherto unnoticed by the regular practitioners"—Botanical arrangement of all the vegetables growing in Great Britain, &c. by William Withering, M. D. Birmingham, 1776.

Many of their mountains, could of hill pilodelin

apon each other, like that of Gorveya, which takes five

hours to afcend; its function affords a beautiful plain, with abundan IVX pat R A T T T B I I so Sifery

and Alaba remain for fome months. Amongst other

Description of the lordship of Biscay, and its products.

ful in goaty complaints. Mear Divising tille hills lare

bare, and from their Reepnels, very difficult to

HE lordship of Biscay is a mountainous country, about twelve leagues in length, from east to west, and eight from north to fouth, confisting entirely of hills, and mountains, of various dimensions, most of which are cultivated to the very fummit, the vallies being checquered as well as the hills, with villages, farms, arable land, and pasture; the whole with such infinite variety and beauty, as to form a delightful landscape, with the most pleasing and romantic aspects the mind can conceive: the furface of earth generally lies over maffes of stone, or detached rocks, limestone, fandy or grit stones, and sometimes valuable marble of various colours, particularly that dark grey inclining to black, streaked with white. The pillars in the king's chapel at Madrid, are of this fort, and come from Manaria; at other times, the furface extends over iron mines, though that of Somorrostro, is the most considerable, and employs the greatest number of forges,

Many of these mountains, consist of hills piled up upon each other, like that of Gorveya, which takes five hours to ascend; its summit affords a beautiful plain, with abundance of pasture, where the herds of Biscay, and Alaba remain for some months. Amongst other plants, it produces the Ribes, or black current, whose leaves have a flavour of pepper, and are reckoned useful in gouty complaints. Near Durango the hills are bare, and from their steepness, very difficult to ascend. Serantes, near Portugalete, is another high hill, in the form of a pyramid, and being seen at a great distance, is a good land mark for mariners, failing into the river of Bilbao: from its shape it seems as if it had been a volcano; many have erroneously taken it, for the mine of Somorrostro, but this is at a league distance. There are other mountains of half a league or a league in length, with craggy peaks, whose fides nevertheless admit of cultivation, and dwellings, fuch as that of Villaro; others are low and flat topped, covered with earth, having farms and habitations, besides wood for charcoal, and even meadows for pasture, extending to their fummit, but none yield products in proportion to their furface: for the vegetative system rising in a perpendicular line, an oblique superficies cannot support more: trees or plants than a plain of equal basis; as on a triangle one cannot raise more perpendiculars, than such as. fall on its immediate basis. Today and allowing out avoid

Small rivers and brooks iffue from the crevices and clefts of these mountains; from Gorveya there run sour, which uniting with that from the great mountain of Orduna, added to other torrents bursting through gullies where there is no water in summer, serve to form the river of Bilbao: these are so tremendous in winter, when swelled by heavy rains, as even to threaten the town with destruction, if they unfortunately met the tide at high water; the inhabitants are often alarmed in this manner, and it is common with them to go about the streets in boats at this season of the year.

If we except the ploughed fields, and the bare tops of fome jagged mountains, all the rest are covered with woods, either for timber, or charcoal; some are natural, such as the holm, and arbutus, others are sowed, or planted, particularly oaks, which grow very fast. Where there are no woods, and a good depth of soil, it produces impenetrable thickets of the shrub called Argoma, as well as Cantabrian heath(a), and sine gorze. Higher up, where there is less earth, the sides of the hills, and the vallies, have plenty of grafted chesnuts, which the Hamburgh ships carry away in great quantities from Bilbao. The apple tree seems here to be in its natural soil, and thrives admirably without cultivation; the whole country pro-

equally

⁽a) Erica cantabrica flore maximo foliis myrti, Iubtus incanis. Ray's Sym. 472.----

⁽a) The French diffinguish peaches into two forts, viz. pavies and peaches. Those are called peaches which quit the stone, and those whose slesh adheres closely to the stone, pavies, which are more esteemed in France than the peaches, though in England the latter are preferred by many.—Miller.