

Gador is another immense mass of marble, of which they make excellent lime. It dissolves intirely with acids, without leaving the least residue of clay or other matter, whereas the stone in other parts of Spain, particularly in Valencia, has a mixture of clay or sand, of these we are to understand the Spanish proverb, with respect to ore, which is literally true in that kingdom, *Donde hai yeso y cal, no hai mineral*; viz.

“Where of gypse and lime there’s store,

“Don’t expect to meet with ore.”

Notwithstanding the goodness of the marble of Gador, there is a great difference between the solidity of the old houses in the village, and the modern ones, the former being much more durable, owing to the builders having used the sand of the river Rambla, while the present generation, either from supineness, or ignorance, make use of sea sand, which from its saline nature attracts moisture, and dissolves, defeating the union necessary to be supported with the lime, which is not the case with fresh water sand.

Amongst other natural products of this country, the *Esparto*, or matweed (*a*), grows in great plenty, and deserves particular attention; they not only make cordage with it for boats, but also mats for floors, sackcloth,

(*a*) *Stipa tenacissima*. Linn.

baskets for raisins, and above forty other articles in domestic oeconomy. They even spin it like flax, which is made into linen, for which secret the inventor has been amply rewarded by his present majesty, and a large sum advanced him to set up his manufactory.

Cape de Gat is a huge promontory, consisting of an enormous rock, of a singular nature, different from any other appearance in Spain, eight leagues in circuit and five broad; the first object that strikes the eye is a rock two hundred feet high, about fifty paces from the sea, all crytallized in large stones of the size of a man's leg, with four or five plates chased one within another, of a cinereous colour, from eight to fourteen inches long, with a large grain that will take a good polish. Precious stones are said to be found in the mountain of Bujo, in a cavern with an entrance about fifteen paces wide and twenty feet high, where the agitation of the waves is very great in bad weather; Mr. Bowles went in there but could discover nothing of consequence. On the outside a large white patch serves as a land mark to mariners, and from thence called *Vela Blanca*. This is what is properly called Cape de Gat. Near the *Torre de las Guardas* there is a bed of jasper of a white ground veined with red, and further on near the *Torre de Nefte*, a low rock is seen almost covered with a stratum of white cornelian. They gather a black sand not far from the *Torre*

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de San Joseph, which proceeds from the demolition of the rock, added to the constant percussion of the waves, and is sold to throw over writing. They might find another sort of sand very near this place, less angular, which would answer for hour glasses, but they still import it from Germany for this purpose.

In the centre of this promontory there are four hills near to each other, called the Sacristan, the Two Fryars, the Captain, and the White Mountain, but nothing remarkable is to be observed from their outward appearance (a). The other side of the promontory, after passing these four hills, is called *El Puerto de la plata*, where the Moorish Corsairs lie lurking for Spanish vessels to intercept them, and carry their crews into dire captivity. There is a rock near this *Puerto*, which extends towards the sea, and called *El monte de las guardas*, where they find amethysts, but still more abundantly in a stratum of quartz of very difficult access, being in a precipice twenty feet high. The true amethyst resembles a pyramid reversed, while the rock crystal has six faces, and is larger at bottom than at top. But there is no probability of further researches for precious stones, or even for marble, as the exportation of this latter has

(a) Mr. Bowles says that Cape de Gat is the most meridional point of Spain, as may be observed by looking on the map, but such an inspection will convince us of the contrary, Europa Point at Gibraltar is more so, and often said to be the most southern point; but perhaps the *Punta de Carnero*, on the Algeziras side of the Bay is yet further to the southward.

been lately prohibited, by which a total stop has been put to the labour and industry of the inhabitants in that valuable branch. Were we to believe the boasted accounts of the green jasper found in a gully called *El barranco de San Juan*, in that part of the *Sierra Nevada* through which the river Genil passes to Granada, it is an universal remedy for all manner of complaints, and has singular effects if wore over the stomach, or applied to any part of the body where its efficacy is required. There are two sorts of it, some having black veins and very hard, others with white veins, less so, but reputed equally efficacious (a).

(a) All its supposed virtues are set forth in a paper printed at Granada, without any date, entitled, "Maravillosas virtudes de la Piedra Jaspe verde facadas de muchos autores y confirmadas con muchas experiencias." It is not only used in the applications abovementioned, but pulverized, and when mixed with milk cures old wounds, the bites of serpents, the piles, and is good for the sight; but what is best of all, an excellent remedy against enchantments and witchcraft! John Fragofo, in his *Cirurgia universal*, speaks of it in his index of simple remedies under the word *jaspe* on the authority of St. Epiphanius. Morales also in his "historia medecinal de lo que se trahe de Indias," fol. 18; as also Galen, lib. 9, de facultibus simplicium. Pliny, lib. 36, cap. 7, and lib. 37, cap. 9. Discorides, lib. 5, c. 117, and his commentator *Laguna*. According to the paper abovementioned, it has been in great demand since the year 1772.

L E T T E R XIII.

Excursion from the city of Granada to Cordova and Anduxar, in Andalusia.

IN going from Granada to Andalusia, the first stage is at Loxa, a journey of ten hours, through that beautiful plain called *La Vega de Granada*, and then ascending a mountain, through another cultivated vale, with wheat, flax, hemp, and pulse. Loxa is a middling town, pleasantly situated on a high hill of conglutinated stone, which forms a kind of *brechia* or pudding-stone, in the centre of olive grounds having plenty of fruit, notwithstanding its elevated, cold and dry situation.

From Loxa to the westward, the country is fertile, producing wheat and barley, in a limy soil well furnished with oak. The soil of these hills seems to proceed from the decomposition of former rocks, many of which appear in broken lumps, intermixed with the arable land. Alameda is the first town in the kingdom of Seville: swallows make their appearance there in February, a few corn fields are seen in the low lands, but in general the

western

western boundaries of Granada are made up of steep rocks and craggy mountains. The *Solano* winds prevail much here, and do a great deal of mischief, destroying the harvest if they blow early in the season. The country people are fond of tobacco, and though they have near them those excellent wines of Malaga and Xerez, they seldom or ever drink them, preferring distilled liquors (a), without any visible prejudice, for the men are robust, and the women have good features, with lively sparkling eyes full of expression and fire. The country is extremely pleasant to Herrera, with a white and red earth which is remarkably fertile, divested of any loose stone, pebble, or flint, so common in other parts of the kingdom. This rich soil is a perfect marl, and under the olive tree yields plentiful crops of wheat and barley. Estepa, about a league from Herrera, stands in a picturesque manner, on the top of a hill surrounded with olive trees. The olive of Estepa is small, but delicious, and gives an oil as clear and delicate as that of Valencia. The Seville olive, though often as large as a dove's egg, does not yield near so good oil, for which reason they are more frequently pickled. Even so far back as the days of Cicero they were in high estimation, for in writing to his friend in Andalusia he compliments him on being intendant of so fertile a province, and re-

(a) Called in Spain *rosoli* and *mistela*.

minds him to send him some Seville olives to Rome. They are very careless notwithstanding in making their oil, leaving the fruit a long time collected in heaps, so that it rots before it is ground, part of the oil turns into mucilage, and acquires a rank and disagreeable flavour, and as there are few mills in proportion to the quantity of fruit, each person is obliged to wait for his turn sometimes for months, from whence in this warm climate a fermentation ensues, which of course occasions bad oil. Others deceive themselves through a principle of avarice, for though the olive yields more juice from having lain by for some time, it is at the expence of its quality, such thin fermented matter hardly deserving the name of oil, for which reason, and from their little care in putting it into proper vessels, and carrying it about the country in skins, the oil in general is wretchedly bad at Madrid.

The olives are gathered from the middle of October to the middle of November. If a good year they sell from 20 to 24 reals the arroba (about 5s. 4d. sterling) but in years of scarcity will rise to 36 or 40 reals. A *fanega* of olives will yield an arroba of oil. In the south of France they are not gathered till they are perfectly ripe, and have acquired a reddish hue inclining to black; if this period passes, they wrinkle, moulder, and rot. Those that are green give a bitter taste to the oil, and they carefully separate such as are worm-eaten, which would vitiate

vitiate the flavour of the sound ones, they grind them as in Spain, then the substance is laid under the press; the first juice that runs out is called virgin oil, and is the most delicate for the table, its goodness arising from the freshness of the fruit. The second sort is obtained by pouring boiling water on the substance remaining in the press; but this oil is like that of Spain, acrimonious, and subject to corruption. In general all oil obtained by fire or hot water, is of a bad quality; much will also depend upon its being put into proper vessels, clarifying it with judgment, and placing it in commodious cellars with a proper medium of heat and cold, both extremes being equally prejudicial. In the year 1769, Mr. Sieuve of Marseilles, presented a memorial to the academy of sciences, describing the best method to make oil, having invented amongst other improvements, an instrument to separate the fruit from the stone, by which the olive is freed from those viscous, fetid, and sulphureous particles which are found in the stone, and alterate the juice of the fruit; but these hints seem to have little weight with the Spaniards, who continue the old method, implicitly following the customs of their forefathers.

It is five hours journey from Herrera to Ecija, agreeably situated, but one of the hottest towns in Spain. The horses of Ecija are reckoned the best in Andalusia, and remarkable for the goodness of their hoofs, owing to the dryness

dryness of the ground, while at Seville, and in the flat country on the banks of the Guadalquivir, they are spongy, and liable to crack in hot weather; but in point of shape, the beautiful horse of Cordova is the most perfect, though of late their studs are greatly neglected (*a*).

Nothing can be more delightful than the face of the country from Ecija to Cordova, a space of nine leagues, yet without a single village, or even a spring; for which reason they must have a great deal of rain to have any crop, but when they are blessed with plentiful showers their harvest is very great. The city of Cordova is seated on the banks of the Guadalquivir, about a league from the Sierra Morena, and has ever been famous for the magnificence and splendour of its nobles. Even the Jews in former times are said to have vied with the others in pomp and parade (*b*). Its cathedral is famous for its

(*a*) There is a curious Arabic manuscript in the Escorial, marked DCCCXCVII. on horses and horsemanship, written by a Moorish general, and dedicated to Abdalla king of Cordova III^d, of the race of Bennaffaret, who reigned A. D. 1301, which if ever made public, might perhaps illustrate what we have already received from the illustrious names of Newcastle and Pembroke. The title as given by Casiri in his catalogue of Arabic manuscripts in the Escorial is as follows: "Theatrum equestri Abu Mahommed Abdala Latkamita Cordubensi, viro genere dignitate ac laude bellica præclaro. Is naturas equorum, proprietates, colores, formas, adnotatas etiam multis eorum nominibus erudite atque eleganter hoc opere perfecutas librum suum Regi Abdalla Mahommed Ben Naffor Almanzor dedicavit. Accedit in extremo codice equitandi disciplina synopsis."

(*b*) If any credit is to be given to David Ganz in his edition of Vorstius, quoted by Sarmiento. Quotidie tunc exhibant Korduba in Hispania Septingenti viri Israelitici qui veheban-

antiquity and structure, with numerous pillars of different marble, which seem to have been taken from old Roman structures. The country from Cordova to Anduxar is extremely well cultivated, and beautifully varied with corn, olive and vines; as the ground is in general of a hard nature, and does not give way, the rains have no other effect than gently washing away a small part of its surface, for which reason those deep gullies, so common in Murica and Valencia, are not seen here, where the soil is composed of different kinds of earth, alternately with rock, and easily carried off by the waters. This accounts for their having such plentiful crops in Andalusia after heavy rains, with such deep sloughs; but after a drought they have scarce any harvest, and travellers are smothered with dust. They are famous about Anduxar for making those little pitchers of a white argillaceous earth that preserve water so cool in summer. In other parts of Andalusia they have earth of the same quality of a red colour, with which they make elegant drinking bowls that keep the water equally cool as the others, being light, thin, porous, and having the surface always damp: but they are not so fine and delicate as those earthen vessels from the West-Indies called *bucaros*, nor made with such neatness and art. The Spanish la-

tur septingentis curribus, omnes vestiti indumento regio et redimiti tiaris Juxta legem magnatum Ismaelitarum."---Memorias para la historia de la poesia y poetas Espanoles. Madrid, 1775.

dies are so fond of them, that not content with putting broken pieces thereof into their boxes to give a flavour to their snuff, they will frequently eat them with singular pleasure. Besides what is used in this manner, they have boxes reserved for it solely, and their attachment to *bucaro* is so great, that the old ladies pile it up in cabinets like valuable china; in these jars and basons they occasionally put water, which diffuses a fresh earthy smell, which they are very fond of in their apartments.

X x 2

LETTER

L E T T E R X I V .

Observations made in a progress from Cadiz to Carthagena.

THE city of Cadiz is built on a peninsula upon rocks stretching out into the sea, composed of a great variety of matter, such as marble, spar, pebble and shells incorporated in the sand, and combined together by a glutinous substance in the sea, which seems powerful in this place, as may be observed by the rubbish thrown into it, inasmuch that bricks, stone, sand, shells, &c. after a certain time become consolidated, and form one single mass.

In 1440, John king of Castile gave this city to Don Pedro Ponce de Leon, with the title of Count thereof; his grandson Don Rodrigo was afterwards made Duke of Cadiz in 1484, by Ferdinand and Isabel, but thinking it a place of too much consequence after the discovery of America, they took it from him again, and made him Duke of Arcos. In queen Elizabeth's reign, it was taken by storm by the English forces under the Earl of Essex with a trifling loss, Sir John Wingfield, quarter-master
general

general of the army, being the only Englishman of note killed in the expedition (*a*). In old Spanish chronicles it is called *Calis*, from whence our English mariners generally call it *Cales*.

The *Solano* wind is still more prejudicial here than in Seville, and when it has blown for eight or ten days, in-

(*a*) Sir John Wingfield was grandson of Sir Anthony Wingfield, knight of the garter, vice-chamberlain of the household, and captain of the guard to king Henry VIII. immediate ancestor to Sir Mervin Wingfield, Bart. who dying without issue male, the title became extinct, and his only daughter, Mary, married Francis Dillon Esq; late of Proudston in the kingdom of Ireland, and was mother to John Talbot Dillon, who dedicates this note to her memory.

Sir Richard Wingfield of Kimbolton brother to Sir Anthony Wingfield above-mentioned, was appointed marshal of the town and marshes of Calais, by Henry VIII. 14th November 1511. The next year he was one of the embassadors to treat with the pope and emperor. In 1514 he was made a banneret at the siege of Tournay, and joined with Sir Gilbert Talbot in the deputyship of Calais, was sent into Flanders embassador to Charles prince of Spain, and appointed with the duke of Suffolk, to receive the queen dowager of France, and conduct her into England in 1521; he was one of cardinal Wolfey's retinue to meet the emperor in Flanders, was chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster, and on the 23d of April 1522, having had the honour to be elected knight of the garter in the same scrutiny with Ferdinand afterwards emperor, he was installed the 11th of May at Windsor. That year, with Sir William Sanders, knight of the garter; he led the rear of the English army sent into France; attended on the emperor into Spain, at his return from whence he was present at the burning of Morlaix. In 1525 he was sent embassador into Spain, with Cuthbert bishop of London, and died at Toledo 22d July, where he was buried with great solemnity in the church of the friars observants of St. John, by the directions of Navera king of arms of Spain, assisted by Christopher Barker Richmond herald. He married to his first wife Catherine daughter of Richard Widville Earl Rivers, widow first of Henry Stafford Duke of Buckingham, and after of Jasper de Hatfield Duke of Bedford, by which marriage Sir Richard became great uncle to king Henry VIIIth.

Sir Richard Wingfield, another descendant of this family, was constituted marshal of Ireland, by queen Elizabeth, and one of the lords justices by king James the 1st, who also on the 1st of Feb. 1618, created him viscount Powercourt of that kingdom.

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troduces such an acrimony in the blood, and causes such a tension of the fibres, as to have the most alarming effects on the fair sex, with every unpleasing symptom, like the *Scirocco* in Italy.

In the capucin's garden there is a dragon tree, supposed to be the only one in the kingdom, though it grows naturally in the Cape de Verd islands, as well as at the island of Madeira (*a*). Modern writers have fully described the extensive commerce, affluence, and hospitality of the citizens of Cadiz: they are badly supplied with water, and their flesh market is indifferent, but the bay affords them a variety of excellent fish, particularly dories, called here St. Peter's fish (*b*), soals, and red mullets, with many other sorts, of an excellent flavour (*c*).

(*a*) Professor Vandelli, of Lisbon, principal botanist to the king of Portugal has published a treatise on the dragon tree. See "Vandelli dissert. de arbore Draconis Olisp. 1768."

(*b*) So called from a legendary tale of St. Peter, who when he found money in the fish's mouth to pay tribute, left the marks of his fingers upon the fish.

(*c*) Suarez Salazar, a prebendary of Cadiz, has published the antiquities of this city, and has given a design of the famous statue of Alexander the Great, which he saw in his time, and supposes may be the same that stood in the temple of Hercules, visited by Cæsar, which drew tears from that illustrious warrior; but if, says our author, Cæsar was to behold it again, he would weep once more to see it in so bad a condition. This reverend prelate the more clearly to evince the spirit and vivacity of the women of Cadiz, has collected, with the gravity of a schoolman, the most obscene lines of Martial, Juvenal and Catullus, to illustrate their libidinous conduct, and this he dedicates to cardinal Don Antonio Zapata. "Grandezas y antiguedades de la Isla y Ciudad de Cadiz por Juan Bantista Salazar Racionero en la Santa Iglesia de Cadiz." En Cadiz, 1610.

Port St. Mary is a large and handsome city; on the north side of the bay, from whence it is a journey of three leagues to the city of Xerez, remarkable for its excellent wine so well known by the name of *Sberry*. The best and richest sort is called *Pagarette*, from the Spanish word *Pago*, a district, and particularly applied to this vintage. In one *aranzado* (an acre of vineyard) they plant 1800 vines at regular distances. It is reckoned a good year if it gives three butts per acre, middling if it gives two, bad if it gives but one, but some years it yields four or five (a).

Medina Sidonia is six leagues from Xerez, then the city of Arcos, seated on a cragged rock, at the foot of which runs the river Guadalete, on whose banks the unfortunate Roderic the last Gothic king of Spain lost his life and dominions; a route of ten hours through a stony country leads to the village of Algodonales lying under a high mountain, pierced through from East to West. The people here have a tradition that this place was built by the Romans who had made this perforation in search of a mine.

(a) Names of grapes: -- *Pedro ximenes, palomino, canocazo, alvillo, bejarego, mantudo, penuno, muscadel* large and small, *calona* for eating, *feral* and *molinar* both for eating and wine, *beba*, to eat, *almunecar* for wine.

The first year the vine is called *sarmiento*, a shoot; second, *grenuela*, little fruit and not good; third, *descavezados*, pruned; fourth, *virote*, much fruit and not good wine; fifth, *majueta*, compleat vine makes good wine. The vines continue ten years in full force, and last a hundred years with proper care.

The

The city of Ronda is six leagues from Algodonales, on a very high situation, it being a continual ascent from Xerez, which continues as far as Gibraltar: the country about Ronda is remarkably fertile and supplies Cadiz with all kinds of fruit and vegetables, the soil is of a reddish colour with pebble and resists the heat of the fire, for which reason it is much used in furnaces for fusing iron. Amongst other curiosities with which the country of Ronda abounds, that little animal called the gennet is one of the most extraordinary, and not to be found in any other part of Europe except Turkey. It is smaller than the civet, has a long body, short legs, a sharp snout, and a slender head: under its tail there is a long bag which emits a perfume. Its fur is soft and glossy, of an ash colour marked with black spots, which unite upon the back and form stripes which run longitudinally from the neck backward, with a long tail diversified with ringlets of black and white: the fur was formerly in esteem, but of late has been counterfeited by tinging grey rabbit skins with black spots, and is now out of fashion (a). The district of Ronda also furnishes

(a) We read in the history of France, that Charles Martel having obtained a complete victory over the Saracens, at the battle of Tours, in 762, found so many of their helmets, ornamented with the skins of gennets, that he instituted the order of knighthood of the Gennet, in memory of that action. The knights wore the figure of that animal pendant to a golden chain about the neck. This order supported itself till the reign of St. Lewis, when it fell into disrepute. Mr. de Buffon appears to have been misinformed in saying that the gennet could only live in low and marshy spots, when the mountains of Ronda abound with them. See "Journey from Gibraltar to Malaga, by Francis Carter, Esq;" London, 1777.

the fierce bull, the ravenous wolf and other obnoxious animals; its rocks serve as a retreat for the eagle, the osprey and kite; yet notwithstanding such numerous enemies its soil makes ample amends by its unbounded fertility (a).

About three leagues from Ronda to the south east, and four from the little ports of Estepona and Marvella, an attempt has been made some years ago to erect a manufacture of tin-plates by Don Miguel de Topete, marquis of Pilares; assisted by Benito Berbrungen, a fugitive Saxon, who brought the secret from Germany. Three hundred thousand dollars (£50,000 sterling) have been laid out in buildings and other accessories relating to this manufacture to very little purpose. On the road to the manufactory, there are iron mines where the ore is found in little pieces like comfits, similar to that of Besort in France. Four leagues from hence to the South East, nearer the sea, there is a famous mine of black lead, the true *molibdena*, being a perfect mine, not divided in lumps in the sand-stone, like the other mentioned before, yet even this is totally neglected. A few years ago, a foreign consul had the king's leave to extract two hundred and

(a) See Natural history of Ronda in Mr. Carter's journey, who says that the district of Ronda is so fertile that the druggists shops are supplied with medicinal herbs from thence both in Spain and the Indies. An account of these plants has been published in Spain by Don Macario Farinas, who died in 1663, under the title of "Virtudes nuevamente descubiertas de las hierbas medicinales de la Sierra de Ronda."

fifty quintals per annum, but it is presumed he got four times that quantity. Near the town of Ximena they are building a cannon foundery. They get the ore in the *Sierra* at about two leagues distance, and it is said to be very good : they also find loadstones. The revenues collected at Marvella, Estepona, Manilva, &c. are applied to the expences at Ximena, which is five or six leagues from the sea with very bad roads.

The *Sierra Vermeja* is a range of hills which run westwardly towards Malaga, and afford a singular curiosity, for though they run parallel, and so close that their bases join, yet one is red and the other is white ; snow will not remain on the highest, while it constantly covers the other. The white hills produce the cork tree and the *Encina* oak ; the red has no oaks, but is covered with firs. The white has iron ore in little lumps ; the red has several ores but no iron. The waters of the white hill are martial and vitriolic ; those of the red sulphurous, alkaline, and with a strong smell like those of Cotterets in France. Near this place is the last village on the Carthage side ; the Granada hills are covered with the golden saxifrage, which the Spaniards call *doradilla*, and hold in repute in calculous cases.

The plains of Lorca abound with oleander, which on account of the bitterness of its leaves is named *amarga adelfa*,

adelfa, and serves as a constant comparison in Spanish sonnets and novels. Near Lorca there are two antient mines of lead and copper, and in the *Sierra* towards the sea near Carthagena, the village of Almazarron is famous for its fine red earth without any mixture of sand, and is a principal ingredient used in Spanish snuff, to give it that fine colour and softness to the hand, and to fix its volatility. It is sometimes called after the name of the village, but more commonly *almagre*, and is likewise used in the glass-house of St. Ildefonso instead of *tripoli*, to give the last polish to glass, as others use *colcothar of vitriol*, the caput mortuum, or residue left at the bottom of the vessel after the distillation of vitriol. Spain also furnishes *colcothar nativa rubra*, which is a red martial earth loaded with vitriol, but this is a scarce article in commerce. The neighbourhood of Almazarron moreover affords another singularity, and that is the white stone called plume alum, or *pseudo asbestus*, which is a matter truly saline, tasting and dissolving in water like alum, and crystalizing in form of feathers, from whence its name, being found thus in grottos, where aluminous minerals pass. The other matter to which the name of plume alum has been given, is nothing else but a friable *amianthus*, or *asbestus*. Near Almazarron the remains of a silver mine are to be seen, which in former times is reported to have yielded great quantities of silver. A plain of six leagues, with reddish soil, like the

neighbouring hills, leads to Carthagena, and is so fertile in corn, in rainy seasons, that it produces sixty for one; but this seldom happens, as the country is frequently scorched up, and they suffer from droughts; however their plentiful harvest of *barilla* (a) makes them ample amends, requiring little water, and being in great demand in England, Ireland, and France, for making crystal glass, hard soap, and for bleaching. Besides these advantages, the kingdoms of Granada and Murcia, yield together, annually, 700,000lb. weight of raw silk, which is now totally consumed in the manufactures of Spain, which must have increased to an immense degree, as formerly the exportation of raw silk was very great; whereas, of late years, upon short crops, they have sometimes been under a necessity of importing it from Italy. The famous harbour of Carthagena has been lately described by an ingenious traveller (b). They make cables in the arsenal of Carthagena with hemp from the kingdom of Aragon, the use of which was introduced under the direction of the late celebrated admiral Don Jorge Juan, and they imagine them to be equal in goodness to any imported from abroad. Amongst the stone at the bottom of the harbour, the fishermen bring up the *Pholades*, which a few years ago were not known there, the people not suspecting they could subsist in the cen-

(a) *Salfola fonda*. Linn. Glass wort.

(b) Travels through Spain in 1775 and 1776, by Edward Swinburne, Esq. London 1779.

tre of these rocks, without any visible aperture to get in at; at present they are searched after as a delicate morsel, and are to be found in most places on the Mediterranean coast.

Being now in the kingdom of Murcia, I should not forget the baths and waters of Archena, whose virtues are so extolled as to be thought an universal remedy for every disorder, concerning which Don Francisco Cerdan a physician of Villena, published a dissertation in 1760. A professor of poetry having found great benefit from the warm baths, has also sung their praises in a poem (a). These baths were frequented by the Romans, as appears from an inscription on a very hard stone, almost black, and roughly cut, found in the men's bath in 1757, which is now fixed as a resting place at the door of a principal house near the river; the inscription is as follows.

C. CORNELIVS CAPITO. L. HEIVS LABEO
II. VIR AQVAS. EX D. D. REFICIENDAS.
CVRARVNT. IQ. P.

THAT IS

*Caius Cornelius Capito, Lucius Heius Labeo
Duumviri aquas ex Decreto Decurionum reficiendas
curarunt iidemque posuerunt.*

(a) See *Thermæ Archenicæ*, por Don Ignacio Ayala, professor de poesia en San Isidro en Madrid. Impreso en Murcia en latin y Espanol, 8vo, 1757.

The other hot baths of Spain are Ledesma in Castile, Trillo, Hardales in Andalusia, Alhama in Granada, Villavieja, Buzot, Sacedon, Grena, Fortuna, Azaraque, Mula, and others of less note.

L E T T E R XV.

The face of the country described between Carthagena and Alicant.

IN going from Carthagena to Alicant, you cross the rich vale of Murcia, covered with mulberry trees, and pass through a delightful country to Orihuela and Elche (*a*), remarkable for its numerous groves of palm trees, the branches of which are a lucrative article of trade. The fertility of this country, particularly round Orihuela, exceeds all description, their harvests of wheat are very great, and they are reckoned to have the best bread in Spain. At Orihuela they make those curious snuff-boxes with the roots of the terebinthus, called *cornicabra* in Spanish, which are so much admired on account of their beautiful shades, representing landscapes, &c. they are chiefly useful for Spanish snuff, as they preserve it moist and cool, and for this purpose are in great estimation at Rome. As a further proof of the great abundance and plenty at Orihuela, it is said that the tythes

(*a*) The antiquities of Elche have been lately illustrated by Don Antonio Mayans, canon of Valencia, brother to Don Gregorio Mayans y Siscar, the celebrated writer. See "Ilici hoi la villa de Elche ilustrada con varios discursos, por Don Juan Antonio Mayans y Siscar." Valencia, 1771.

of *Pimenton* and *Tomates*, "guinea pepper and love apple," paid to the bishop of Orihuela, amount to £1600. sterling per annum.

The castle of Alicant stands on a limy rock above a thousand feet high, having shells half petrified on its summit. The plants of the vallies grow also on its top, the seeds of which were probably dropped by birds, or brought by the winds. The eastern side of the hill contains red wavy flint, with pieces of agate fixed in the rock, and on the west side there is plume alume in the crevices of the rock, and lower down beds of *tripoli*, which is used by the silversmiths in these parts. Going from the city towards the north-west about half a league distance, the fields are full of those stones called *numulariæ*, and by the people of the country *moneda de las bruxas*, "witches coin." Likewise *lenticulares*, some of which are as small as a pin's head. This country also produces the *scinus molle*, or Peru pepper, whose fruit grows in bunches of a handsome rose colour^(a).

The *buerta de Alicante* is a beautiful plantation, about one league long and two broad, full of vineyards, which they

(a) In Gerard's herbal mention is made of a tree called *molle* or balsam tree, "This tree, says a learned physician, Johan Fragofas, grows in the king of Spain's garden at Madrid, which was the first he had ever seen; since which time Juan Ferdinando, secretary to the king, did shew unto the said Fragofas in his own garden, a tree so large and of such beauty, that he was never satisfied with looking at it, and meditating on the virtues thereof." See Gerard's herbal, and Lobel's description of it.

are sometimes obliged to water; the grape nevertheless affords that excellent wine so well known, to which must be added an amazing quantity of mulberry trees, almond trees, fig, and *algarobas*, or carob trees, the *ceratonia edulis* of Linnæus, which requiring little moisture, succeeds in dry soils, and thrives equally in every situation, whether on hills or in plains (a).

The city of Alicant forms a crescent, on the sea side, and is well known for the luxuriance of its environs, as well as its extensive and lucrative commerce. That part of the shore nearest the city forms a bed of limestone mixed with sand, in which the triple-hinged oyster shells are found, with *buccinæ*, *molæ*, *tellinæ*, and *ursini*, half petrified, the shells often preserving part of their natural varnish, and the oyster shells their scales, by which the commencement of their petrification may be perceived. In that part of the beach next the sea, the sand is the same as in the neighbouring rocks, washed from the limy earth, which the water has dissolved, leaving only the

(a) The fruit grows in a hulk like a bean cod, inclosing four or five beans, and is given to cattle shell and all. It is sweet and palatable, and often eaten by poor people: it is a tall thightly tree, and in a manner peculiar to the kingdom of Valencia. The pods are green on the tree, but grow brown when dry. According to Miller, they are apt to loosen the belly, and cause gripings of the bowels. He says, these pods are directed by the college of physicians to enter some medicinal preparations, for which purpose they are often brought from abroad. The tree is preserved as a curiosity in England among other exotics, as the leaves always continue green, and being different in shape from most other plants, afford an agreeable variety, intermixed with oranges, myrtles, &c. in the green-house.

pilla marina formed by the fibres of the roots of the *alga*, or sea mofs.

A chain of hills are discernable at Alicant, extending from Murcia, forming a semi-circle of two leagues extent from the city, and close in with the sea about four leagues from each other, shutting in a fine vale, and inclosing the part we have spoken of before, which it shelters from the north winds, and enables it to partake more effectually of every benign influence of the south. The western side is uneven, full of stone, and consists of a white calcareous soil, whose surface is covered with large shells more perfectly petrified than those on the sea shore, particularly two sorts of *ursini*, the large and small, the former of the size of an orange, found still larger in the interior parts of Valencia, of a distinct species, and so perfectly petrified as to receive a polish like marble, being different from those generally seen in cabinets of natural history. The oyster shells between Murcia and Mula are also distinct from those of Alicant, having only one hinge, are about eight inches long and five broad; which opens a field of speculation for naturalists, with respect to these various petrifications and their period of antiquity.

Two leagues to the south west of Alicant, there is an insulated calcareous mountain, at the eastern foot of



which they find small crystals, red, yellow and white, with two points like diamonds as regularly cut as if done by a lapidary. The red and yellow are hyacinths. A spring called *Fuente Caliente* issues from that side of the mountain, and waters the lands belonging to the house of the late admiral Don Jorge Juan (*a*), so well known to the learned world, who was born at Novelda, in this neighbourhood.

(*a*) Don Jorge Juan died in 1773, and is buried in the church of St. Martin, in Madrid, where a monument is erected to his memory, with his bust in profile, by Philip de Castro, and the following inscription.

Ex D. D. Georgius Juan & Santacilia Noveldae apud Valentinos natus, melitensis ordinis. Eques, Bellicae classis agmini Praefectus, nobilis scholae nauticae cohortis Dux et Regii matritensis seminarii moderator: Domito novae structurae navibus mari, lustrata Legatione at Marocbium Africa, peragrata ad telluris figuram asserendam America, literariis laboribus Europa ejusque academiis, Hispana Divi Ferdinandi, Gallica, Anglica, et Borusa illustratis, quam a Deo acceperat vitam, pietatem optimisque moribus excultam, post annos LX. Deo reddidit Matrity Kal Jul. A. M. MDCCLXXXIII. carissimo fratri Bernardus et Margarita moerentes annuente III. D. D. joannae Zapata, Marchione S. Michaelis de Gros corpus hic condi et monumentum poni curarunt.

Don Jorge Juan published the following works.

Compendio de la navegacion para el uso de los Caballeros Guardias Marinas. Cadiz, 1757.
Examen Maritimo Teorico-Pratico; o Tratado de Mecanica aplicada a la Construccion conoimiento y Manejo de los navios, &c. Madrid, 1771.

Relacion historica del a la Viage America meridional y observaciones astronomicas y Phycas en el reyno de Peru por Don Jorge Juan y Don Antonio de Ulloa, 5 tomos, 4to. Madrid; 1748. The historical part of this work was written by Don Antonio de Ulloa, now an admiral in the Spanish fleet, and has been translated into English, of which there has lately been a third and improved edition. See "A voyage to South America, describing at large the Spanish towns, provinces, &c. on that extensive continent, undertaken by command of the king of Spain, by Don Geo. Juan and Don Ant. de Ulloa, F. R. S. &c with copper plates, and a preface by Dr. Campbell, 2 vol. 8vo."

On

On doubling the first point of land to the eastward of Alicant, the bay and harbour of St. Paul presents itself, with a view of the antient castle of the duke of Arcos. Here the ships come to an anchor and load salt from the *Mata*, a great lake by the sea side, but without any visible communication with it. The quantity of salt collected here is immense, and is the property of the king, costing little more than the labour of heaping it, being in a manner produced naturally. The high bank which separates the sea from the *Mata* appears natural; the lake is bounded on the land side by mountains, and is formed by the torrents of rain water that gush down in winter, which evaporating gradually by the heat of the sun, added to the nature of the soil, become a mass of salt, so plentiful that some years the exports have amounted to near one hundred thousand tun weight, chiefly for Holland and the Baltic; considerable quantities also are in demand for curing of fish, particularly for Newfoundland and New England. The cost is about eleven shillings sterling per tun, on board; and the king, in order to encourage the export, lets the price always remain the same (*a*). The soil and air in general, on the coasts of Valencia, Murcia, and Granada, is im-

(*a*) The island of Ivica also produces immense quantities of salt with as little trouble and expence as that of the *Mata*, and they have a considerable exportation, much on the same footing, it being equally the property of the king. This is salt also sold for home consumption, at a price equal to about four shilling sterling per cwt. English.

pregnated to a very uncommon degree with salt, and considerable salt-petre works are carried on in many parts, particularly at Murcia and Lorca, collected from the earth in the fields, the very dust on the roads and in the streets; from which, after extracting the quantity of salt-petre, the same dirt, thrown up in large heaps, serves again in four or five years, for the like purpose, and furnishes a fresh supply. This circumstance renders the soil so peculiarly favourable for the culture of *barrilla*. There are eight or ten different sorts of plants in the plains of Alicant, whose ashes serve for making glass and soap; but the *barrilla* (a) is the principal and best sort: the method of making it is well described in Miller's gardener's dictionary, and is much the same as is used in the North of England in burning kelp. An acre may give about a tun.

I close this letter with the further observations made here by Don Guillermo Bowles, relating to a cinnabar mine, which I shall give in his own words, as they relate to particular researches of his own: "About two leagues from Alicant there is a mountain called *Alcorai*, composed of lime-stone. On digging in that part next

(a) The four principal plants for the purposes abovementioned are distinguished by the names of *barrilla*, *gazul*, *sofa*, and *salicor*, and are difficult to be distinguished except by good judges. They have been fully described by Mr. Swinburne.

the valley, I discovered a bed of mineralized mercury with sulphur and calcareous earth, of the shape and colour of cinnabar; however as this bed disappeared at a hundred feet depth, I suspended my pursuits. I found thirteen ounces of heavy sand, of a beautiful red colour, in a crevice of rock; I essayed one ounce, and found it to contain more than eleven ounces of quicksilver per pound; it perfectly resembles the sea sand in its hardness and angular form. The colour becomes livelier when pounded, which shews that every grain was possessed of sulphur and mercurial vapour, in the same manner as the sand is with iron at Cape de Gat.

On the top of this mountain, and not far from a bed of red gypsum, I found different marine bodies petrified, such as *telenites* and pieces of *madrepores* mineralized with iron as well as other petrifications: and about fifteen feet under ground I discovered pieces of mineralized amber, fixed in the rock, being of the same sort as those on which the late Don Joseph Sunal, the king's physician, published a treatise. There is of this amber in Asturias, near Oviedo, but not so beautiful as the specimen shewn to me by that physician. I also found, in the same place, a lump of rock bigger than my fist, having a petrified shell, and a piece of dark amber, like colophony, with a vein of cinnabar, like a thread, running between. On considering

ing the nature of these materials, that is, the gypsum, the petrifications, and the cinnabar, I am of opinion this last is of a later date (a).”

Close to the Port of St. Paul there are ruins of a Roman edifice, and a few years ago a brick oven was discovered, containing several coins of Augustus, about a musket shot from the sea, which confirms the little it has retreated on this side.

(a) Don Guillermo Bowles. Page 34.

L E T T E R XVI.

Road from Alicant to the city of Valencia.

THE beautiful objects which crowd in upon the eye of a traveller, as he moves towards Valencia, are such, and the hand of nature has been every where so profuse, that a writer must be possessed of uncommon abilities to do justice to so animated a picture, or describe in its proper colours so enchanting a vale, enriched with every valuable production. In going from the city of Alicant towards this fertile kingdom, the first observation that occurs is at the pleasant village of Ibi, where there are numerous plantations of the garden almond, grafted on the wild tree, which from the mildness of the air produce the best almonds in Spain, and will keep very well for eight or ten years, when the others soon grow considerably rancid. The neighbouring hills are covered with the kermes oak and the common mastic tree, or *lentiscus*(*a*), the favin, restharrow, rosemary-

(a) Mr. Bowles says, he knew an apothecary at Alicant; who used to boil the leaves of the *Lentiscus*, and collecting the scum which was left to dry, sold it for male incense, which he imagined to be the same as the *olibanum* or frankincense, imported from the Levant. The Spanish *Lentiscus*, however, is different from the true mastic-tree of the Levant, and from which

leaved

leaved cistus, and great quantities of rosemary, which contributes so much to the excellence of the honey, that it is sent even to Rome.

Between Ibi and Biar the mountains are of a calcareous nature, though half way up, they contain flint, which is in request for muskets. Striking off to the southward towards Villena, several strata of alabaster are seen on the road closed in beds of limestone. There is a mine of ocre in these rocks, and they frequently find iron. Near Villena a lake of two leagues circumference furnishes the neighbouring villages with salt, and two leagues further, an insulated hill consists entirely of sal gem, covered with a gypseous coat of different colours. After passing Villena, a pleasant and well cultivated vale extends to Caudete and *Fuente La Higuera*, at the foot of a high mountain covered with mithridate. Two fine springs issue from the hill of *La Higuera*, and form the brook of Rambla, whose sides have strata of red and white earth, which shew themselves and disappear alternately in proportion as the waters force their way deeper. Following

the mastic is gathered, which is well explained by Mr. Miller in his dictionary, who complains of these trees having been confounded by most botanic writers, and that even Mr. Tournefort, who was on the spot where the mastic is collected, had not distinguished the species. The Spaniards still follow the old custom of making toothpicks with the *Lentiscus*, the same as the Romans did, of whom Martial says,

Lentiscum melius, sed si tibi frondea cuspis

Defuerit, dentem penna levare potest.

this

this brook for four hours you come to Mogente, and in three more to Montefa, opposite to which a towering mountain terminates in a pointed rock, on which stood the convent belonging to the military knights of the order of Montefa. On the 23d of March, 1748, a dreadful earthquake overturned this rock, demolished the convent, and buried its inhabitants under its ruins. An unfortunate man in endeavouring to make his escape through a crevice of the rock, it suddenly closed and crushed him in so terrible a manner that when the body was afterwards found, there were hardly any remains seen of the skull or bones. It is remarkable that in a chain of hills opposite to Montefa, there is a steep hill with an old moorish castle on its summit, which never has suffered from earthquakes, though frequent in Valencia, owing perhaps to its very perpendicular position, being one solid and compact mass, having its root, as it were, deeply fixed under ground, whereas the mountain of Montefa consisted of various strata of stone in a horizontal direction, not sufficiently combined to resist such a violent impulse.

Near San Felipe the country gradually opens in a most rural and fanciful manner; while the eye is struck with new objects; an old ruined castle and shattered fortifications, on the summit of the hill recall to one's mind all the horrors of war and devastation, which are soon ef-

faced by a cheerful valley worthy the pencil of a Claude or Pouffin ; you insensibly find yourself encircled with mulberry trees, which gives to the whole country the appearance of a pleasure ground, where a rich cinereous soil yields three crops a year, owing to excellent culture, as well as its natural quality, besides the advantage of water at pleasure at six feet depth, independent of the surface being amply supplied by the river Xucar.

Three leagues to the eastward of San Felipe, there is a high mountain entirely of marble of three species, without any fissure, white, red, and yellow, which all admit of a very good polish, and the fields are covered with plantations of rice far superior to that of the Levant, though yellower, but will keep much longer without acquiring any acrimony (*a*).

(*a*) Mr. Swinburne having given so accurate an account of the culture of rice on this spot, I cannot offer a more exact description thereof than related by him; which corresponds with Mr. Bowles's information: "In winter they plough out a piece of land, and sow it with beans that come into blossom about March, when they plough them in for manure; water is then let in upon the ground, about four inches deep. It next undergoes a third ploughing, after which the rice is sown; in fifteen days it comes up about five inches out of the earth, and is pulled up, tied in bundles about a foot diameter, and carried to another well prepared field, covered with water to the depth of four inches. Here each planter sets the plants of his bundle in the mud in rows at about a foot distance one from another. Every stem ought to produce from ten to twenty-four fold and grow so close that the ears may touch. When ripe it is gathered in sheaves, and put into a water mill, where the lower grinding-stone is covered with cork; by which means the chaff is separated from the grain without bruising."

I come

I come now to speak of the plain of Valencia, but where shall I find words expressive of its beauties, such as none can conceive who have not been on the spot, and beheld this lively scene of natural magnificence. This plain is composed of two strata of clay, having a sandy soil or pure sand between them. On removing the first stratum, which may be from fifteen to twenty feet deep, they infallibly find water running between these two beds; the clay not suffering it to filter through: whenever the upper stratum is wanting it of course overflows that part of the country. This accounts for so many lakes in those plains, and for that considerable one called *Albufera de Valencia*, which is no more than an extended portion of such a situation, where the upper stratum has failed, and occasioned that great lake of fresh water, four or five leagues in circumference, receiving also the waters of the river Xucar, and many springs and brooks without any visible increase, because its surface is so extensive that it loses by evaporation as much as it receives, and thus always preserves an equal depth of about two or three feet.

This lake supplies the markets of Valencia with fish, particularly eels; at certain seasons of the year it is greatly resorted to by sportsmen, and covered with boats, as numbers of aquatic fowls delight in this place, and some-

times they see the flamenco (*a*); but neither the excrements of so many birds, nor the putrefaction of so many dead fish, afford the least symptom of volatile alkali when analyzed, no more than the water of the sea, notwithstanding the numbers of fish that die in it. The bottom of the *Albufera* is a bed of pure clay, and if by any accident the waters should run off, we should find it without any mixture of stone, sand, or iron, and perfectly similar to the fuller's earth of England.

Amongst the beautiful spots in this country, none exceed or can be compared to a district in this neighbourhood, called the *Huerta de Gandia*, yet this enchanting place, so near to the city of Valencia, is little known to travellers, as it lies on the sea coast out of their track, at a small distance from the road, hemmed in by a circular chain of hills, forming an inclosure of about a league and a half diameter. Near the sea the city of Gandia,

(*a*) This singular bird is so called on account of the red or flame-colour of its wings, and feet; it is a scarce bird in Europe, and always frequents lakes. They have a tongue not much less than a kid's tongue, and which was reckoned a delicious morsel by the voluptuous Romans. When Mr. Peiresc received his friend Le Vayer at his house, he entertained him with this dish, repeating those lines of Martial,

Dat mihi penna rubens nomen sed lingua gulosis
Nostra sapit.

Le Vayer wondered why Apicius and the emperors Caligula, Vitellius, and Hellogabalus, had reckoned it so dainty a dish, for instead of being exquisite, he found it rather unpleasant, with a fleshy taste, like that of all water fowl. Therefore the inhabitants of Provence generally throw away the flesh, and only make use of the feathers as an ornament to other birds at particular entertainments. See "Life of Peiresc, by Gaffendi. Translated into English by William Rand, M. D." London, 1657.

capital

capital of the dutchy of that name, offers a new point of view, and from the church steeple, you have a noble prospect of the *Huerta*, and may see above twenty villages dispersed amidst an infinite variety of verdure and foliage, enriched by a diversity of fruits. Amongst the rest, the blue fig, the glowing pomegranate, and the verdant olive vie with each other in excellence; even the very beach seems desirous of adding a share to this plentiful store, for the prickly pear shoots out every where amongst the clefts of the rocks, and its fruit is free to all who choose to partake of it. In this seat of bliss, simplicity and perfection fill the mind with delight, and all the laboured powers of invention are outdone; for nature here, as Milton says,

Wantons as in her prime, and plays at will:
Her virgin fancies, pouring forth more sweet,
Wild above rule or art.

LETTER XVII.

Observations made in the city of Valencia and its environs.

FAIR Valencia! how shall I describe thy transcendant beauties, or speak of those infinite glories that adorn thee? If celebrated architects have not graced thy capital city with sumptuous palaces, or given a more pleasing form to thy streets, be contented that the great Architect of the universe has poured on thee blessings innumerable to render thy happiness compleat, and make thee the admiration of the world, inspiring at the same time thy sons with the most exalted talents to sing perpetually thy praise (a)!

The city of Valencia is happily situated about three miles from the sea on the West side of the river Guadaviar, with five stone bridges over it, which afford a variety of agreeable outlets from this pleasant city, exultingly rising out of a forest of mulberry trees,

(a) An account of the writers of the kingdom of Valencia only, makes a work of two volumes in folio. See "Escritores del reino de Valencia, chronologicamente ordenados desde el año 1238 de la Christiana conquista de la misma Ciudad hasta el de 1748 por Vicente Ximeno Presbitero, &c. Valencia, 1749. 2 tomos en folio.

which

which bring an immense wealth to its citizens. The branches of these trees are made to grow horizontally, in order to pick the leaves more easily, and the trees are pruned every two or three years, to preserve the leaves soft and tender, that the silk may be finer, cleaner and lighter than that of Murcia, where the trees are only pruned once in four years, which renders the leaf woolly and tough. In Granada they do not prune them at all, and yet suppose their silk is the finest in Spain; but their trees are of the black sort, and those of Valencia and Murcia are of the white mulberry, for which reason the worms of these two last provinces when carried to Galicia, where they have none of the white sort, never succeed, while the worms of Granada thrive admirably well, in meeting with a similar leaf to that of their own country.

I shall not enter into a detail of the manifold branches of cultivation in the environs of Valencia, where nature always smiles, and where the very air is constantly embalmed with the fragrant perfume of an infinite number of fruit trees and odoriferous herbs. The cedrats are so large as sometimes to weigh more than six pounds, when the tree that produced them is not above two or three feet in height: as to flowers and plants, their beauty and variety are wonderful, as well as the amazing quantities of pomegranates, figs, cherries, pears, and grapes the most delicious imaginable,

ginable, with bunches fourteen pound weight, and every grape as large as a nutmeg. To heighten still more this boundless fertility, the intermediate spaces between the trees are filled with melons, artichoaks, cauliflowers, and almost every species of pulse supplied with constant and copious streams of water, which in a kingdom blessed with an eternal spring, and where the grim frost is unknown, seems to unite every idea of the golden age of the poets.

The grapes of Valencia and Granada have the preference to all others in Spain. They cannot, it is true, from their distance, be sent fresh to England like those of Portugal, but they ship off large quantities of raisins at Malaga. They prepare them in Valencia with the lixivium of seeds whose salt augments the heat of the water in boiling. The grape is dipped for a moment in this lixivium, when the skin bursts on every side, and the juice gushing out candies in the air, after which the bunches are hung to dry in the sun. The cold weather afterwards perfects this crystalization, so that when they get to England, they become so many cakes of sugar, infinitely better than when first shipped off. The raisins of *the sun*, as they are called, are still more delicate, having the stalk half cut through, while the bunch remains suspended on the vine, and partakes of the heat of the sun, as the sap cannot penetrate after they are dried; they are

are packed up in boxes. This is the method used in Granada, which makes them more luscious and delicate, and justly gives the preference to the Malaga raisins.

As the river Guadalaviar empties itself into the sea, about three miles below Valencia, it is said a plan has been proposed to deepen the channel of the river, which would be of great advantage to its commerce, as the ships lie in an open road in a dangerous situation. Much might still be done to enliven and give activity to this agreeable city, formerly known to the British army, having opened its gates in 1705 to the earl of Peterborough, but after the defeat at Almanza, the duke of Orleans at the head of the Spanish forces recovered it again.

There is a pleasant village about two leagues from Valencia, consisting of four streets inhabited chiefly by potters, who make a pretty earthen ware of a copper colour with gilding, that serves the country people both for ornament and use, it is made of an argillaceous earth, very similar in quality and colour to that of Valencia, in which virgin mercury is found: this earthen ware is very glossy, and remarkably cheap, but is far from being the best ware in Valencia; another manufacture has been lately set up at *Alcora*, by the count de Aranda, a grandee of Spain, which for the fineness of the clay might vie

with other manufactures of the kind, were its varnish less liable to crack and scale off (a).

The famous marble quarry of *Naquera* is three leagues from Valencia; the village is on an eminence, and the quarry is on one side near the surface in beds of a few inches, formed seemingly by the waters. The marble is of a dark red ground, with black capillary veins like a *mocha*, which have a very good effect. Though the beds do not sink deep, it is hard enough to make solid tables, which take an excellent polish, and are greatly valued in Spain. Two leagues to the eastward of the city there is a quarry of alabaster, at a place called *Ninerola*, of which substance many curious pieces of workmanship may be seen in the house of the marquis of Dos Aguas in the city of Valencia. At two leagues distance from the city, on the banks of the river, the ruins of the antient city are discovered; near them they find monstrous petrifications of oyster shells, like those of Murcia, mixed with rounded sand stone; but nothing of one or the other is found in the river.

It is an agreeable tour of five leagues from Valencia to Morviedro, famous for the remains of the antient *Saguntum* and its Roman theatre, described by dean

(a) It goes by the name of Count Aranda's ware, and is sold at Madrid.

Marti (*a*) as well as by such English travellers as have passed that way. The plants on the hill of Morviedro and its neighbourhood, are prickly pears, henbane, stinking orache, mithridate, capers, marshmallow and thyme. The view from the top of the hill is most beautiful, with an extensive prospect of the vale and city of Valencia and the Mediterranean. At a few leagues distance from hence to the South East, beyond a chain of hills, consisting of red marble and lime rock, the Carthusian Monks have a convent situated in a perfect paradise, where they make excellent wine. The gullies and fields are filled with pudding-stone of different sizes, firmly conglutinated together; their church is built with a stone of this kind, veined with white spar; but who will inform us whether this spar existed before or after the conglutination of the stone with its natural bitumen? The stone is undoubtedly of use to the vine, preserving to its root in the night, the genial heat of the day, while it shades it at noon from the scorching rays of the sun. There are two copper mines near this convent.

To return to the plains of Valencia, it would be an endless theme to enlarge upon its products; they culti-

(*a*) The best edition of Dean Marti's letters "*Aloisi Martini epistolæ*," with a plate of Saguntum, in 4to, was printed in Holland from an edition 2 vol. in 12mo, and the life another volume by Mayans, printed at Madrid by Sir Benjamin Keene. This edition is now scarce and dear in Spain, and the Dutch edition is better.

gar, cotton, rice, silk, besides fruits, and plants, producing all together near ten millions of dollars per annum. Few cities enjoy a more temperate air, or have more beautiful environs. The *Alameda*, or public walk, is one of the most pleasing in Spain; if we add to the variety of its beautiful trees, the gaudy equipages and numerous concourse of people that resort there, it forms so picturesque a scene enlivened by the fields, with a view of the city and bridges, as seems to surpass the utmost powers of description; and were public spirit equal to its natural blessings, would nearly resemble the marvellous scenes of romance! Such is the beautiful Valencia, like the garden of Paradise in Milton:

A happy rural seat of various view;

Groves whose rich trees wept odorous gums and balm,

Others whose fruit burnish'd with golden rind.

Hung amiable! Hesperian fables true,

If true, here only; and of delicious taste.

LETTER

L E T T E R XVIII.

Journey from Barcelona to the mountain of Montserrat.

THE city of Barcelona is generally reckoned one of the most agreeable places in Spain. Its pleasant situation, its commerce, with the activity and industry of its inhabitants, contribute to make it a place of splendour and affluence (*a*). In this city the traveller will find a curious cabinet of natural history belonging to a private citizen, Mr. Salvador, an eminent apothecary, who shews his collection to strangers with the utmost urbanity.

The celebrated mountain of Montserrat, nine leagues from Barcelona, has of late been so fully described by British travellers, a fine print having been lately exhibited of it (*b*), that the subject is become exhausted, and

(*a*) The English merchants seem to have settled later at Barcelona than in other commercial towns in Spain. Mr. James Howel, in a letter from Barcelona, dated 24th Nov. 1620, to Sir James Crofts, says, "In this place there lives neither English merchant nor factor, which I wonder at, considering it is a maritime town, and one of the greatest in Spain, her chiefest arsenal for gallies; but I believe the reason is, that there is no commodious port for ships of any burthen but a large bay." The new mole however has rendered this port more convenient, and immortalized the memory of the late marquis de la Mina, captain general of the principality, under whose orders it was erected.

(*b*) In Mr. Thicknes's travels into Spain.