

dridejos the country is flat, but very fertile, the corn growing to the very edge of the wheels of the vehicle. From Ocana to Tembleque is a distance of five leagues; from Tembleque to Madrideojos four. Tembleque is about half the size of Ocana, and Madrideojos half that of Tembleque. In either of them there is nothing worthy of notice, with the exception that at the latter place we observed, for the first time, humble imitations of the more elegant *patios*, which are so common in the south of Spain. The *patio* is a small square, open to the sky, round which each house is constructed. At Madrideojos we saw several of the inhabitants sitting in this part of their dwelling, pursuing their several household occupations. In the church, which was dark and inelegant, attendants were making preparations for the procession and deposit of the host, which forms, to Spanish minds, one of the most interesting spectacles of the whole religious year. It was Holy Thursday, which, as well as Good Friday, are observed in every part of Spain as holydays; and hence we saw the inhabitants every where to advantage, as they were dressed in their best attire. At this place we were surrounded by a number of beggars, each of whom demanded charity in a tone exactly similar, particularly the children, who are trained up to this indolent mode of living. Here whatever reports we had heard of the road being infested by robbers were confirmed; and, indeed, we were plainly told that our chance of escaping from their depredations was next to an impossibility.

We left Madrideojos after breakfast, at nine o'clock. Our road lay through olive trees and vines for some part of the way. Before us was a *sierra*, or group of mountains, whose declivities, as well as the plains at their feet, were covered with olives. These trees are usually planted in regular lines; they are short, and shoot forth numerous branches, which are

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March. seldom without leaves, not exactly of a grass-green hue, but rather of a deep slate colour. They can scarcely be said to form picturesque objects, because they are too regularly planted; but from the richness and general usefulness of their produce, they are always agreeable to the eye. Soon after leaving Madridejos we came up with a convoy, consisting of seventy-five covered waggons, eight or ten private carriages, *calesinas*, and other vehicles, which joined company for mutual safety. There were with them two or three companies of the Madrid local militia, some of whom appeared sufficiently fatigued; others were riding on donkeys and old Rozinantes, which they picked up on the road. After passing this convoy, we overtook, at ten o'clock, the Deputies of Cortes, and beyond these two regiments of troops and militia, so that altogether the road from Madridejos, for nearly three leagues, to Puerto Lapiche, was quite gay with military and equipages. It would have been difficult for so great a number of travellers to obtain provisions on the road, but most of them carried with them their own wine, meat, and kitchen utensils. Those who travelled in the covered waggons slept in them also, and occasionally amused themselves with guitars. As for the soldiers, they must have bivouacked, unless where they were fortunate enough to obtain a roof to sleep under; and then they may have been well contented with the hard floor for a bed, and a knapsack for a pillow.

We passed over a group of mountains, among which some soldiers were straggling; and as we approached Puerto Lapiche, we were met by two armed men, who came out to escort the diligence. They ran all the way by the side of the vehicle, though their activity at this time was scarcely necessary, as there were so many soldiers at hand. We met also the Ayuntamiento of the place, consisting of five vil-

lagers, coming out to receive the Deputies. Puerto Lapiche is situated between two hills; here we left the province of Toledo, in which we had been travelling since we entered the valley of Aranjuez, and we proceeded into the province of Ciudad Real, according to the new division, and forming a part of the old province of La Mancha, the country of Don Quixote. I naturally looked about for windmills here, but could discover no more than one or two, both of which might have existed since the time of Cervantes. At a short distance we met two more armed pedestrians, who escorted us through some thick olive grounds, which had the name of being dangerous to travellers; and we arrived at Villarte, at half-past eleven in the forenoon. Villarte was formerly a considerable town, but it was made a heap of ruins by the French, on account of the resistance which they experienced from its inhabitants. They unroofed the houses, and shattered their walls with grape shot; and since then few of the houses have been rebuilt. The remnant of the town, as it now stands, wears a most miserable aspect.

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Late in the afternoon we arrived at Manzanares, a rich and handsome town of about sixteen hundred inhabitants, situated on the banks of the river Azuel, enjoying a delicious climate. The procession of the day had been over some hours, and we found all the inhabitants out, some fishing in the river, some walking on its green banks, and others standing in the streets. The country, after leaving Puerto Lapiche, was generally flat on both sides of the way, well cultivated with wheat; hills and mountains in the distance, which appeared to be unproductive. As we approached Valdepenas, so celebrated in all Spain for its red wine, we found it seated in a valley, whose bosom teemed with oil, wine, and wheat. Even the hills in its neighbourhood were green with cultivation—a rare spectacle in the Peninsula. The sky was shaded with thin, humid clouds, which seemed

March. to shed fecundity on the earth beneath. Here we met the warm genial spring advancing with rapid strides to the northern climates. The fields and benignant heavens seemed to emulate each other in blessing the industry of man.

On entering the town, we found it full of people, who were attracted thither by the religious ceremonies of the day, as well as by the presence of the King, who rested here during this solemn festival. His Majesty and the Queen were lodged in a tolerably good house; the Infantes and their consorts were also pretty well accommodated, considering the occasion. In the course of the evening a procession moved through the streets, and their majesties, as well as the other members of the royal family, presented themselves during its progress at their respective balconies. The King was dressed in a plain black coat and star, and looked indisposed. The Queen, whose beauty has made her a general favourite, looked very well. There was a great deal of bustle, on account of the multitude of the people and soldiers; but I observed no signs of enthusiasm, either with respect to the presence of the King, or the object of his journey.

Valdepenas contains upwards of two thousand inhabitants, has a fine square, and a tolerably good parochial church. Its chief support is its famous wine, which is kept in large stores. There was scarcely any thing for us to eat at the posada, except eggs and raisins, all the other fare having been consumed by the King and his numerous escort. We had travelled twenty-three leagues in the course of the day, or ninety-two English miles, which was no bad journey in Spain; consequently we were well prepared to take whatever we could get. The bread was peculiarly excellent, and the wine genuine Valdepenas; such wine as cheered the heart to so great a degree, that if a man had it always near him to drink when he chose, a tear would never be seen on his

cheek—no, to borrow the cordial eulogy of Homer, not even March.
 “ though his father and mother were dead, or his brother or his son had fallen in battle before his eyes *.”

We succeeded to the table at which the ministers had just dined, and were glad to find that they had beds in a private house, as we were thus all accommodated. In a long passage near our apartment, twenty or thirty cavalry soldiers slept in their uniforms and boots on the floor, a row on each side. As we passed backward and forwards through them, we were obliged to pick our steps among their stretched-out feet. One or two were sitting up, seeming to despair of sleep; and one was most industriously singing, resolved, as he could not sleep himself, that none of his companions should enjoy that sweet forgetfulness. He was at last wearied out, and soldiers, travellers, and all, sunk in slumber.

My companions and I were awoke at half-past one o'clock 28th.
 in the night, or rather in the morning, by our mayoral, and we soon after set out from Valdepenas. We passed through Santa Cruz de Mudela, a considerable village; and in two hours after through Almuradiel, distant three leagues from Valdepenas. Almuradiel is one of a number of new villages which were built in this and other parts of the country farther on, where the new road is made through the mountains of the Sierra Morena, which we were now about to ascend.

* *Odyssey*, iv. 220—226. Pope, in his translation, amplifies the poet's idea in his usual manner:

Charmed with that potent draught, the exalted mind
 All sense of woe delivers to the wind:
 Though on the blazing pile his parent lay,
 Or a loved brother groaned his life away,
 Or darling son, oppressed by ruffian force,
 Fell breathless at his feet a mangled corse;
 From morn to eve, impassive and serene,
 The man entranced would view the deathful scene.

March. Before the reign of Charles III. the Sierra Morena was celebrated for its numerous and desperate bands of robbers, but that enlightened and active monarch peopled the mountains with industrious inhabitants, mostly Germans, whom he invited thither. After passing this village, and traversing small hills for the space of two leagues, we arrived at the Venta de Cardenas, where the Sierra Morena begins. By a venta is generally understood an inn which stands alone on the road, at a distance from other houses; if it were joined to other houses, as in a village, it would be called a posada. The Venta of Cardenas consists of a single long building, the central part of which, together with one of the sides, is given up to waggons, carriages, and mules; in the other side there are some small bed-rooms, a kitchen, and other apartments. The interior of the roof was almost wholly occupied with swallows' nests, and the birds animated this solitary place by their unceasing activity and song.

We were here at the commencement of the Sierra Morena, the scene of that beautiful episode in Don Quixote, which has served as the ground-work for the popular drama of the Mountaineers. The mountains had not as yet increased to any considerable height; they were here rocky and covered with shrubs, though here and there they presented patches of green pasture. After taking chocolate we proceeded on our way, and soon began to ascend high mountains, through which we found a superb road. In some places a high wall was built up from the bottom of a precipice, to support the road which winds along its brow; in others, the rocks on one side have been hewn to afford sufficient breadth. The first ascent of these mountains is what is called the pass of the Sierra Morena. The road winds through lofty rocks, is in some places narrow, and at every point so exposed to the neighbouring heights, that a few brave guerilla parties might stop the progress of a host of enemies. The road every

moment ascends, and as it must traverse the very tops of the mountains, it follows as much as possible their natural windings, so that one part is in some places, for a considerable length, parallel to the other. The ascent is so great, that travellers and carriers, whom we had just passed on the lower road, appeared suddenly divested of half their proper size. It was still the grey of morning, and here and there we observed a number of men sitting or sleeping around fires made in some recesses of the rocks. A lone and strange traveller would have felt no small alarm on encountering these groups in such a dangerous place as the Sierra Morena. We soon learned from the implements which we saw near them, and the earlier activity of some of their companions, that they were employed in repairing the road for the passage of the king. Where it was rough for a carriage they strewed it thickly with clay, and broke down all the prominent stones which might have given shocks to the royal invalid. March.

As the sun rose we found several groups of men thus employed, and met their wives and children riding towards them on donkies with provisions for the day. The mother and two children were sometimes crowded on the same donkey, one carrying the basket of bread, another a goat-skin of wine, and the third for company, or haply from fear of staying at home alone. We encountered also in these mountains several hundreds of donkies laden with oil, which was contained in skins. For these animals there are several by-roads not larger than footpaths, which shorten their way in those places where the high road takes a circuitous course. As we were ascending a height, the postillion having dismounted, the mayoral having also left his seat, and both walking behind the diligence, the mules suddenly set off at a round trot, and one of the leaders, as if impelled by a mischievous purpose, deviated into one of the by-paths above

March. mentioned, which descended into a deep and precipitous valley. The passengers cried out, and had the mayoral delayed half a minute longer in running to check the career of the mule, the diligence, and every person it contained, must inevitably have been dashed to pieces.

After ascending for two or three hours, we at length surmounted the loftiest tops of the Sierra Morena, and changed horses at another of the new villages, called Santa Elena. Here, and for some time previous to our ascent thither, the mountains were all green with shrubs and pastures: near Santa Elena beans and corn were growing in abundance. It enjoys an agreeable situation and a balmy air. The road hitherto had been mountainous, and the prospect necessarily limited. But after leaving Santa Elena we had an open horizon, and a highly interesting country. On the left-hand the eye roamed over the tops of lesser mountains, and searched their beautiful valleys, green with meadows, or wheat far advanced, or planted with the olive and vine. On the same side the distance was bounded by a lofty range of high mountains—the mountains of Granada, whose tops were covered with snow.

This view, diversified at every turn of the road, we enjoyed for two leagues, until we arrived at Carolina at half-past ten in the forenoon. The entrance to this town is between two towers: its streets are wide, and one of them handsomely planted on both sides with trees, which enclose small gardens in front of the houses. The trees were all in leaf, and tenanted with birds. The balconies were adorned with flowers. The Plaza of the Constitution is large, and the gay appearance of the town, together with its agreeable situation, rendered it altogether one of the pleasantest places through which we had travelled. The mansion which was prepared for the reception

of the king was furnished in front with a number of lamps, which consisted of small earthen vessels, like shallow butter-boats without the handle, and were attached to the pillars and wall by lumps of mortar, in which they were inserted. The militia were in the town loitering about, waiting for the day of the king's arrival. The authorities were all in their best attire. We had the agreeable intelligence here, that innumerable robberies were committed on the road; among them, that Saavedra and Galiano, two deputies, were plundered of fifteen ounces of gold.

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We left Carolina at noon by a road lined, for a considerable distance, with trees on each side, and with hedges thickly planted with the American aloes and the prickly pear. Within the hedges were olive grounds and fields of wheat: the whole country teemed with verdure, and we found ourselves quite in a new territory. We passed through Carboneros and Guarroman, both new villages; the country open and unequal, but the valleys all burdened with wheat, the hills with olives, and some spots of pasture spread with the "early daisy." The mountains of Granada still towered in sight, and the intense rays of the sun being intercepted by light humid clouds, which veiled the whole of the horizon, our course was for some miles delightful.

Near Bailen the country became less interesting, but not less fertile, and we passed out of the Sierra Morena. Bailen is an old village of about a thousand inhabitants: after leaving it, we ascended through a heathy country; to the right, in the distance, dark barren mountain, before us green hills covered with olives. Crossed the Rio de las Piedras (river of stones), by a narrow bridge, whose battlements are as yet half wood. The river seems to be so called from its toiling through a gravelly bed, its course being frequently interrupted by large rocks, that appear to have been washed by many a winter torrent. Drove on through olive grounds so

March. thickly wooded, that they might afford abundant shelter to robbers. Still ascending, on the left, in the distance, a ridge of green hill cultivated to the top, and backed by the mountains of Granada, which were now so far away, that they assumed the indistinctness of clouds. We then travelled over a wild heath, where no sign of human habitation was to be seen all round, except now and then a solitary house in the recesses of the distant hills, and arrived at Andujar at seven o'clock in the evening. Just as we entered the town, we met a procession moving towards the church with wax lights and music.

Andujar is a considerable town of about twelve thousand inhabitants, seated on the river Guadalquivir, in the midst of a country productive of corn, oil, wines, and various fruits. Amongst the productions of its industry, are vases made of a clay found in its neighbourhood, which in summer keep water as cold as ice. They are made in the form of an ewer with four spouts. It may not be altogether unworthy of remark, that here, for the first time during our journey, we observed houses neatly whitewashed. It is a town apparently of good business. The house prepared for the king was hung with lamps, like those at Carolina.

Whilst we were at supper, the administrator of the post paid us a visit, and gave us the history of a little piece of imposition which had been practised upon him. Two or three days previous to our arrival a gentleman drove up to the post-house, and inquired for the administrator, who immediately made his appearance. The stranger told him that he was a deputy going to Seville, that he had been robbed near Andujar of all his luggage and money, and he requested eighty dollars, that he might be enabled to pursue his journey. It would be unjust, he said, that he who had made so many sacrifices for liberty should be a loser, and the country, of course, would indemnify him for his losses. At present,

however, he wished for no more than eighty dollars, which would be sufficient to take him to Seville. The administrator, taken with his fine speech, gave him the money, and the following day he found in the passports of fresh arrivals a deputy from the same province, bearing the same name as the person to whom he had advanced the eighty dollars. Upon making inquiry, he found that the second was the real deputy, and the first an impostor.

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We left Andujar at two o'clock in the morning, and travelled through a fertile country to Carpio, where we took chocolate. It was raining heavily all the morning, whence we had but a dim view of the surrounding scenery. Towards noon the sun shone out, and the vapours curled away from the hills, which, in many places, gave to view handsome seats planted amidst their declivities. Passed over the bridge of Alcolea, which is thrown over the Guadalquivir, consisting of twenty arches, and constructed of black marble. The marble is unpolished, but still the bridge is remarkably handsome. At half-past twelve we arrived at Cordova.

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It was not without considerable expectation and feelings of respect that I approached this ancient town, the birth-place of Seneca and Lucan, and the favourite residence of sciences, arts, and arms, at a period when they were outcasts from every other part of the Peninsula. Here, too, I should see the famous cathedral with its three hundred and sixty marble pillars, which, in the time of the Moors, had been erected to the worship of the Crescent. The situation of the town, at the foot of high mountains decorated with gardens and country seats, and stationed on the banks of the Guadalquivir, reminded one of its former commercial wealth and activity; but on entering within its gates, we found it consisting of narrow streets, and the houses falling to decay. I understand it still preserves some manufactures of ribbons, silk, and hats. The Cordovan leather was formerly sought

March. after even in England ; but I believe that trade has also declined to little or nothing. Its population, which at one time exceeded thirty thousand, does not now amount to ten thousand, yet it still preserves some appearance of business. In the cathedral I was rather disappointed. I expected to see a number of lofty columns towering on high, and forming by their arrangement lengthened and solemn aisles, where meditation might love to take up her abode. I found it a square building, of high and heavy walls on the outside, looking more like a prison than a house of prayer. On entering by one of its seventeen doors, I found the interior, consisting of nineteen naves, formed by marble pillars, perhaps to the number above stated, but of no considerable height, and certainly disproportioned to the building. Every two pillars supported an arch of brick and mortar, plastered ; and over this, with an empty space between, was another arch, which, to my view, gave the interior of the building a confused and an inelegant appearance. It would appear, however, that in its original state, the mosque of Cordova must have been much more striking, and more richly decorated than it is at this day. A Moorish chapel, which had been for centuries stopped up by a brick partition, was accidentally discovered five or six years ago, and upon the removal of the partition, it was found in a complete state of preservation. The roof and sides are most elaborately gilt, and ornamented with inscriptions in the Arabic character. The floor is of exquisite mosaic. In others of the small chapels I remarked a few fine paintings. The high altar is truly magnificent, as well as the choir. Adjoining the cathedral is a handsome *patio* of orange trees, adorned with several fountains.

We left Cordova at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, and, according to the established arrangement of the diligence, we took with us an escort of six men on horseback,

each armed with two guns. They were wrapped up in their large cloaks, and rode on generally two or three hundred yards before the vehicle; in order that if they should discover any robbers, the rencontre might take place beyond gun-shot of the passengers. They were not military men*, but they were not therefore the less expert in the use of fire-arms, as almost every man in this country is a good marksman, being accustomed to the practice of arms from an early age, either in defence against robbers, or in shooting game. The road, after passing over the Guadalquivir, by an old bridge, ascended through hills covered with olives, between hedges interspersed with herbs and wild flowers, which bestowed a fragrance on the air. Here and there along the road we observed neat white houses, each of which had an oven built in front of it. As we advanced, we saw beans in blossom, a strong proof of the earliness of the spring in this climate. March.

After travelling three leagues of a very agreeable road, we arrived at Carlota, the newest and the handsomest of the new villages belonging to those of the Sierra Morena. It is situated on an eminence, and consists of a long wide street, from which a few narrow ones branch off. The houses in this street are large and handsome, particularly that of the intendant of the new villages, who formerly resided here, which is like a palace. The posada is also an extensive and handsome building, but no more than the half of it is finished. There are altogether between seven and eight hundred inhabitants. The younger part of the female population appeared in the street and balconies, with roses and pinks just plucked from the stem, intertwined with their hair, which gave them a character of pastoral simplicity.

* In the course of our journey we were led to believe that some, if not all, of the members of our escort, were *ci-devant* robbers.

March. We found here a number of travellers bound for Seville, who were stopped by reports that in the thick olive grounds beyond the village there was a desperate party of ten robbers. They resolved to wait for the escort, which was coming on with the king, or the first military convoy which might arrive.

The sun was just setting in humid clouds when we left Carlota, and we entered those thick olive grounds where it was said the ten robbers were waiting for any prey which might offer. Our escort was on before us, and as the evening closed in, and the woods became more dense, we were expecting every moment to hear a discharge of arms from some ambush, directed either against the escort or the diligence. The men divided themselves when we came to the thickest part of the woods; two rode on as our advanced guard, two rode at some distance behind, and the other two by the side of the vehicle. Sometimes they all joined together again, sometimes two or three were detached into the by-paths. As they changed their stations they glided by us with the swiftness of an arrow; and dressed in their large hats and dark cloaks, and being doubly armed, they seemed, in fact, more like a party of banditti reconnoitring our vehicle, than of guards destined to protect it. The night was hastened upon us by heavy showers of rain, which fell incessantly, until we arrived about nine o'clock at Ecija, where we were to sup and rest a few hours. The posada is large, and much above the style commonly to be met with in Spain. In consequence, however, of its being Holy Saturday, we could get no other supper than stewed fish and vegetables. They gave us for dessert some excellent figs and raisins; the wine was a good white wine of the neighbouring country, and the beds being also good, we had no reason to complain.

30th. We left Ecija at two o'clock in the morning with an escort, and as soon as the day dawned, we found ourselves travelling

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through a vast heath, where no sign of human industry was to be encountered, except now and then a goatherd attended by his dogs, and driving before him his numerous herd. The distance on the right was bounded by hills, on the left by groups of mountains. The road was bad—indeed, little improved from a state of nature. In many places the diligence rolled over the greensward. Here and there we observed a few herds of milch cows, a great rarity in the interior of Spain. We changed horses, or rather mules, at a post-house in the midst of this desolate heath, where wine and brandy are supplied to travellers by an old man, who tenants a small hut opposite to it. The roof rises from the ground, and is just high enough to admit a person to enter. It is thatched with weeds. The poor man's bed of sheep's skin lies in one corner, and in the other, are three or four jars of wine and brandy. He paid to the previous owner twenty-two dollars for the hut and trade, but he complained that he made little profit by the concern. One night in the last summer a terrible tempest of thunder, lightning, and rain, came upon the heath, and in the midst of his terror some persons rapped at his door, and demanded shelter from the storm. After some hesitation, he let them in, and by the flame of the lightning he saw they were all armed men. They called for wine and whatever refreshments he had, which he gave them with great reluctance, suspecting they were robbers. They emptied all his jars, and stretched on the floor, till the storm ceased, when they sallied out without paying him a real. This was a great epoch of misfortune in the annals of this poor man's commerce, and he has since been scarcely able to recover it. He has a wife and family at Eciija; but he wears out his old age in solitude here, under the hope of making a dollar or two in the month.

After leaving this heath, we passed into a fertile country, where troops of horses and herds of cows were seen grazing

March. on extensive pastures, and soon came in sight of Carmona, which is seated on a lofty hill. The road was very steep in many places, and consequently our progress was tedious. When near Carmona we observed immense fields of wheat, which was already so far advanced, that in a month or six weeks it would be ripe for the sickle. Ascending the rugged rock on which Carmona is built, we found it a large old town of about three thousand inhabitants. The houses have an airy aspect: many of them have handsome *patios*, which, as usual, were decorated with flowers. It being Easter Sunday, we heard the organs pealing hymns of joy from several churches as we passed, and in the Plaza we observed a crowd of remarkably fine men, all dressed in their best attire. In Andalusia the cloak and hat are of the same form as those of the more northern provinces, but the under dress is much more gay. The breeches have handsome gilt buttons of filagree work all along the seam from the hip to the knee, and the white cotton stocking is bound under it by a silk cord and tassel. The jacket is also ornamented profusely with gilt hanging buttons, and is made of stuff, silk, or cloth, according to the taste or means of the wearer. The waistcoat is generally of a gaudy pattern, or plain white, and the middling and less affluent orders take peculiar pride in displaying a snow-white shirt, with a neatly plaited frill, and an open collar. They very seldom wear a neckcloth of any sort. Their dress is eminently advantageous to the human figure; every body, young and old, looks well in it.

We breakfasted here, and were not a little pleased at the prospect of being now within a few hours' journey of Seville. The road was very bad for some leagues, and devoid of interest until we reached Alcala de los Panaderos, or Alcala of the bakers. In this village all the bread is baked which is sold in Seville: it is beautifully situated. We were still escorted, not by men on horseback, as before, but by pe-

destrians, who must have found it a painful task to run along by the side of the diligence, on such a day as this. The sun was intensely hot. As we approached Seville, the road became excellent, and we soon descried the summit of its famous tower. The city, we observed, is most advantageously situated at the foot of a ridge of hills, cultivated to the top, which bounds it on one side, and on the banks of the Guadalquivir, which runs along its whole length, and then proceeds, in a serpentine course, through lands abounding with corn, oil, and wine.

March.

We arrived at Seville at four o'clock in the afternoon, having been escorted to its very gates. Seville being famous for oranges, I looked for orange-trees on approaching it; but I observed very few, and on inquiry was told that they are grown in the interior of the province. We thus arrived at our destination without having seen the so often-mentioned robbers, without experiencing any sort of mishap whatever; and, indeed, altogether much pleased with our journey. Our company, brought together by mere accident, happened to harmonize admirably, and we might have travelled to China without feeling any other desire than that of rendering the way as mutually agreeable as possible. The only annoyance we felt was that of being obliged to show our passports at almost every post: but though the police, which is exercised in Spain almost exclusively by military, was vigilant, we were treated in the civilest manner.