

THE SPANISH MONEY.

Reals Vellon.	Maravedis	l.	s.	d.	f.	
60	2040	0	13	4	0	The nominal or common Pistole.
61	2074	0	13	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
62	2108	0	13	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
63	2142	0	14	0	0	
64	2176	0	14	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
65	2210	0	14	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
66	2244	0	14	8	0	
67	2278	0	14	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
68	2312	0	15	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
69	2336	0	15	4	0	
70	2370	0	15	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
71	2404	0	15	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
72	2438	0	16	0	0	
73	2472	0	16	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
74	2506	0	16	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
75	2540	0	16	8	0	The Doubloon of Gold.
75 and 10 Maravedis,		0	16	8	2	
76	2574	0	16	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
77	2608	0	17	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
78	2642	0	17	4	0	
79	2676	0	17	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
80	2710	0	17	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
81	2744	0	18	0	0	
82	2778	0	18	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
83	2812	0	18	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
84	2846	0	18	8	0	
85	2880	0	18	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
86	2914	0	19	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
87	2948	0	19	4	0	
88	2982	0	19	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
89	3016	0	19	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
90	3040	1	0	0	0	The Doubloon de a Quatro of Gold.
150 and 20 Maravedis,		1	13	5	2	
180		2	0	0	0	
270		3	0	0	0	The Doubloon de a Ocho of Gold.
301 and 6 Maravedis,		3	6	11	0	
360		4	0	0	0	
450		5	0	0	0	
540		6	0	0	0	
630		7	0	0	0	
720		8	0	0	0	
810		9	0	0	0	
900		10	0	0	0	
990		11	0	0	0	
1080		12	0	0	0	
1170		13	0	0	0	
1260		14	0	0	0	
1350		15	0	0	0	
1440		16	0	0	0	
1530		17	0	0	0	
1620		18	0	0	0	
1710		16	0	0	0	
1800		20	0	0	0	
		0	0			

Reals

AN ACCOUNT OF

Reals Vellon.	l.	s.	d.	Reals Vellon.	l.	s.	d.
1890	21	0	0	5490	61	0	0
1980	22	0	0	5580	62	0	0
2070	23	0	0	5670	63	0	0
2160	24	0	0	5760	64	0	0
2250	25	0	0	5850	65	0	0
2340	26	0	0	5940	66	0	0
2430	27	0	0	6030	67	0	0
2520	28	0	0	6120	68	0	0
2610	29	0	0	6210	69	0	0
2700	30	0	0	6300	70	0	0
2790	31	0	0	6390	71	0	0
2880	32	0	0	6480	72	0	0
2970	33	0	0	6570	73	0	0
3060	34	0	0	6660	74	0	0
3150	35	0	0	6750	75	0	0
3240	36	0	0	6840	76	0	0
3330	37	0	0	6930	77	0	0
3420	38	0	0	7020	78	0	0
3510	39	0	0	7110	79	0	0
3600	40	0	0	7200	80	0	0
3690	41	0	0	7290	81	0	0
3780	42	0	0	7380	82	0	0
3870	43	0	0	7470	83	0	0
3960	44	0	0	7560	84	0	0
4050	45	0	0	7650	85	0	0
4140	46	0	0	7740	86	0	0
4230	47	0	0	7830	87	0	0
4320	48	0	0	7920	88	0	0
4410	49	0	0	8010	89	0	0
4500	50	0	0	8100	90	0	0
4590	51	0	0	8190	91	0	0
4680	52	0	0	8280	92	0	0
4770	53	0	0	8370	93	0	0
4860	54	0	0	8460	94	0	0
4950	55	0	0	8550	95	0	0
5040	56	0	0	8640	96	0	0
5130	57	0	0	8730	97	0	0
5220	58	0	0	8820	98	0	0
5310	59	0	0	8910	99	0	0
5400	60	0	0	9000	100	0	0

A TABLE of ENGLISH and PORTUGAL MONEY,
reduced to SPANISH Computation.

	l.	s.	d.	R. V.	Mar.
Sixpence	0	0	6	2	8½
Shilling	0	1	0	4	17
Half a Crown	0	2	6	11	8½
A Crown	0	5	0	22	17
Half a Pound Ster.	0	10	0	45	0

Half

THE SPANISH MONEY.

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	l.	s.	d.	R. V.	Mar.
Half a Guinea	0	10	6	47	8½
A Pound Ster.	1	0	0	90	0
A Guinea	1	1	0	94	17
Moidore	1	7	0	121	17
A Pound and a Half	1	10	0	135	0
* A Six and Thirty	1	16	0	162	0
A Three Pound Twelve	3	12	0	324	0

* N. B. Six and Thirties, or PORTUGAL Pieces, exchange in this country at great loss: They will give at CORUNNA only 152, or at most 156 Reals; at MADRID something more. The par is 162 Reals.

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LETTER

L E T T E R X V .

The S T A T E of A G R I C U L T U R E .

THE Soil of SPAIN is naturally dry, and is rendered still more so, by reason of the great heats, which parch up the springs and brooks, and by the want of rain to refresh the earth at proper seasons. Of this a remarkable instance happened about five years ago, when it had not rained in CASTILE for nineteen months together.

THE general surface of the country, if you except the two CASTILES, is uneven, scarped, and mountainous.—It has been doubted by the Abbe de * VERAY, and others, whether there ever were any *mines* of silver in SPAIN, because the Spaniards at present work none: but this presumption has been ill founded. I am told, that it is a standing maxim of Spanish policy, not to work any of their mines in EUROPE, as long as those of AMERICA will supply them. It is a certain fact, that there are many *silver* mines dispersed throughout SPAIN, and at GUADALCANAL in ANDALUSIA in particular.—*Englishmen* have gone over there, and have examined the very ore, and have found it so promising, that some have been sanguine enough to offer to contract

* But a modern writer has well confuted this opinion.—His words are, “ La prudence Espagnole, qui ne songe pas tant au present, qu’elle n’a pense aussi à l’avenir, ne veut pas qu’on y touche, tandis que celles des Indes auront de quoi fournir. Je trouve que c’est sagement fait à eux.

for the working of the mines. But suppose the *moderns* had not examined into this point, would not the testimony of the *ancients* have been strong enough to prove it? POLYBIUS, STRABO, and LIVY, all affirm it. CATO imposed a tax upon the silver and iron mines, among the VERGISTANI: See LIVY, Lib. 34.

NOTWITHSTANDING the inconvenience arising from the dryness of the soil, and the want of rain, yet, if the inhabitants were industrious, and applied themselves with assiduity to the cultivation of their lands, a general abundance might prevail, which is far from being the case at present, for in many places there is often great scarcity of *bread*.

THE genius of the people is doubtless naturally averse to toil and labour. Give a Spaniard but his cloak, hat, and sword, his wine and his bread, and he cares not how little he works. Another great obstruction to Agriculture is the immense number of lazy *ecclesiastics* in these kingdoms, and the perpetual succession of *holidays* allowed by the church, which deprive the state of *one third* of the labour, that it ought to receive from its subjects. To these let me add, the thinness of its population; SPAIN in general, and GRANADA in particular, have never recovered that fatal blow of *the expulsion of the Moors*; the effects of which are felt still more, by the addition of civil and religious *celibacy*. When PHILIP, on one hand, banished to the amount of 800,000 industrious infidels, from a principle of religion, he ought, on the other hand, from a principle of policy, to have set open the gates of every nunnery and convent in his dominions. I have heard the number of these useless, sequestered males and females, these dead limbs of the body politic, computed at no less than 200,000; but I believe the calculation much exaggerated.

BESIDES the bad consequences arising from religious celibacy, their thin population is in part owing to the sterility of their females; and above all, to the vast emigrations of their people to AMERICA.

To remedy these defects, the ministry, in PHILIP III's and PHILIP IV.'s time, offered vast premiums to promote marriage and agriculture. But their imprudent schemes of policy in other instances have rendered those patriot laws almost ineffectual.

ANOTHER unfavourable circumstance to agriculture is, there being no exportation of corn allowed in SPAIN from one province to another, except for the King's use, the exigencies of the fleet, army, and such occasions. In consequence of this bad policy, they are obliged to send to BARBARY and AFRICA, or to ENGLAND for corn; for, it is morally impossible but the harvest must fail annually in some one province or other, and then that province must be supplied from abroad. Indeed, the transportation of it to any great distance is almost impracticable; for their large rivers being left in their natural state, are not navigable.

FOR my own part, I am persuaded, that they look upon all such improvements, in some measure, *as sinful*. What shall we say *superstition* will not persuade men to, when we read the following curious deliberation of a council of state, in the reign of CHARLES II.?—When a company of *Dutch* contractors offered that Prince, to make the TAGUS navigable to LISBON, at their own expence, provided they were allowed a toll, for a certain number of years, upon such goods as were sent by water-carriage that way: for they intended to render the *Mansanares* navigable from *Madrid* to where it falls into the *Tagus*.—The Council of CASTILE having long deliberated upon that proposal, made at last this remarkable determination: “That if it had pleased God, that these two rivers should have been navigable, he would not have wanted human assistance to have made them such: but, as he has not done it, it is plain he did not think it proper that it should be done. To attempt it, therefore, would be to violate the decrees of his providence, and to amend the imperfections which he designedly left in his works.”

BUT besides this defect in their *rivers*, they have opened very few *roads* for carriages; in many places there being scarce room

room even for a mule to pass by. Another disadvantage to agriculture is, that where the land happens to be let to a tenant, which is not often the case, the *sale of the estate voids the lease*; from whence comes their Spanish proverb, *Venta desbáze renta*. — *The sale frees you from rent*. This is so directly contrary to our law, and the equity of the thing, that the discouragement to the farmer need not be insisted on.

THE military spirit of these people, which has always prevailed, has no doubt given them a contempt for agriculture. Whoever travels over SPAIN, will be grieved to see such vast tracks of fine land, turned to so little advantage; great part of it not tilled, and that which is, done in so careless and slovenly a manner, as to produce a starved crop of corn, even in spots where they might command the most abundant harvest. Their corn is usually choaked up with stones, filth, and weeds of every kind. There cannot be a stronger proof given of the fertility of the soil in SPAIN, than its producing so much as it doth, when you consider how little labour they bestow upon it. When they *plow*, they scarce do more than just scratch the surface of the ground with a slight furrow; after the first plowing, they let the earth lie for a few days, and then they *sow*, the *Wheat* in September, and the *Barley* in February: when this is done, they seldom use the *Harrow*, but plow it over again, in order to cover the seed. Thus it stands till June or July, at which time they cut it down. The *Barley* is rarely bound in sheafs, and the *Wheat* not always. Neither, however, are carried into *Barns*; but they lay it down on some clean dry hillock, and then their mules come with a drag, and tread or beat out the corn; it is a shorter method than our *threshing*. The winnowing there is done still easier, by only throwing the corn up into the air.

SUCH is the general indolence of the inhabitants of this country, that many of them will neither reap nor gather in their own corn. I should except, however, the industrious GALLICIANS, who, with great numbers out of FRANCE, from AUVERGNE and LANGUEDOC, annually travel over all SPAIN, to be its husbandmen.

THE corn, when cut down, usually lies exposed upon some dry high ground for a month or six weeks : as it must therefore be watched by night, they build small huts to lodge in. These places being most commonly in the neighbourhood of great towns, it is the evening diversion of the Spaniards, at this season, to walk out to these *Eras*, (or *Areas*) as they call them, to form parties there ; some sitting, others playing on the guitar, others singing and dancing *Sequedillas* or *Fundungos*. During the heats, the cool air of those rising grounds is pleasant, and the scene odd enough. They frequently stay out late at these entertainments. The ladies of fashion at MADRID sometimes partake of them.

STRANGE as this manner of treading out the corn upon the ground, and in the dust, may appear to us, yet I do not find that it receives any damage from this practice ; for it is all of the hard sort, and their flour is fine and white, not inferior to any in ENGLAND. This method of treading out the corn is, however, undoubtedly not less ancient than the time of MOSES, as may be seen in Scripture. When the corn is thus trodden out, they carry it into the public granary, from whence it is dispensed to the people, by particular magistrates, a *board* being appointed for that purpose : this they call *Junta de los Abastos*.

LITTLE else is sown in SPAIN, but Wheat, Barley, and Rye ; to the mules they usually give *chopped straw*, and these animals will undergo amazing fatigue, upon such poor food. The Spanish horse are likewise commonly fed with chopped straw, and it gives them the finest coat imaginable ; but when they are upon hard service, they give them Barley ; the richer sort, indeed, give their mules barley. The Spaniards make little use of oats, tho' there are some few fields of it to be met with.

WHEN I speak of the Spanish Agriculture, I mean the *general* state of it in SPAIN ; for some parts of the country are certainly much more tilled and improved than others ; which must be the case in all countries : thus, for instance, when you pass the SIERRA MORENA, or that craggy saw of mountains, by which you enter
into

into ANDALUSIA, the scene is agreeably changed, the country chearfuller, all tilled to corn, or planted with olives; the villages neat and clean; but even here industry is wanting; no inclosures, no trees, but vines and olives.

FROM CORDUBA to SEVILLE you pass over a ruder country, less cultivated, and abounding in olives, and some vineyards. The country, however, about GRANADA, MURCIA, VALENCIA, and BARCELONA, has been of late years very nobly cultivated and improved: in that latter city, in particular, there is so much industry, that you would be apt to think the people were not Spaniards. In the environs, also, of the two former cities, the country is one continued garden, abounding with all sorts of melons, gourds, pimentos, and garden herbs, interspersed with plats of corn, maize, rice, hemp, &c. all growing under the shade of mulberry-trees, which cover the whole country: they have peas, cauliflowers, fallads, beans, &c. fresh from their gardens, without the help of an hot-house, in the middle of our winter.

WITH regard to the other provinces; in BISCAY they attend chiefly to their *Iron* manufactures, and so of course pay less regard to agriculture. ASTURIAS is all mountainous and woody, excepting where they have laid the forests waste for the supply of their navy. I say *laid them waste*, because, through their unskillfulness in cutting and felling the timber, and a careless prodigality in the manner of doing it, they have cut down as much of the noblest wood, to build a few *men of war*, as would have served the Spanish navy for some years. A gentleman, who lately travelled that way, assured me, that the ASTURIAS, in this respect, had more the appearance of a plundered province, than of a country in the hands of its own masters.

THE TWO CASTILES are miserably cultivated; LEON worse; but some parts of GALLICIA are fine; and though their attention to, and skill in agriculture, is by no means equal to that of the southern provinces of SPAIN, yet it has no mean appearance.