

DALAXARA to meet her, she gave a specimen of what she would be when a *real* Queen, which was truly a coup d'eclat.—The *Princess of Ursins* had been for some time the reigning favourite in SPAIN; she had acquired such an ascendant over PHILIP and his first Queen, that she absolutely governed all. When ALBERONI, on her death, proposed the match of the *Duke of Parma's* niece to PHILIP V. it was even by the order of the *Princess of Ursins*, that ALBERONI wrote to found the Court of PARMA on that subject. Nay, the *Princess of Ursins* did more, she even went herself to meet the new Queen, as far as the confines of ARRAGON and NAVARRE; who in return for these civilities, ordered the officer on guard to arrest that *Princess* by force, and carry her out of SPAIN into FRANCE; which order was immediately executed. The *politick* Italian *Princess* knew very well that SPAIN was too narrow to hold her, and any other lady who dared to be a favourite of PHILIP's at the same time—And therefore thought the shortest process was to get rid of her at once. When you have made your use of the ladder by which you rise, the surest way in sound policy is to kick it down.—Most others would have attempted this, after they had been well seated in a throne; but few would have had spirit enough to have given such an order, in their very first steps and passage to it, and without even the knowledge or consent of that very Prince, whose favourite she banished, and whose future Queen she was designed to be.

ANOTHER instance of this Lady's genius may be the following: It is well known that PHILIP V. resigned his Crown to his son LEWIS I. who dying within the year, PHILIP, at the instigation of this Queen, resumed the scepter again. But afterwards growing, as every body has heard, out of his senses, in one of his fits, he sent a full resignation of his Crown and Government, without the knowledge of this Lady, to the Council of CASTILE: And when he thought the act irrevocable, he told ELIZABETH FARNESE of it, and added, "Je vous ai trompé, Madame! J'ai en-  
"voié hier ma resignation de la Couronne d'Espagne au Concile de  
"Castille." This, as you will easily imagine, sufficiently alarmed her Majesty:—But however she had the presence of mind instantly to send to the president of that Council for the resignation; nor

nor had she only authority to command, but influence enough to be obeyed, for he sent it her immediately.

WHILE the late King FERDINAND was Prince of ASTURIAS, upon some disgust, she sent a message to FARINELLI never to go and sing or play any more in the Prince's or Princesses apartment. For the late Queen BARBARA was not only very fond of, but an excellent judge of *musick*. But FARINELLI's answer does immortal honour to that *Musician*. "Go, says he, and tell the Queen, that I owe the greatest obligations to the Prince and Princess of ASTURIAS; and unless I receive such an order from her Majesty's own mouth, or the King's, I will never obey it."

THOUGH she is now seventy years old, she keeps the same hours that PHILIP did, and turns night into day. When she gives audience, she is held up by two supporters, being unable to stand long; and though almost blind, still retains her ancient spirit and vivacity. Her ambition will probably never expire but with her breath: And whenever she dies, I am persuaded her last words to the King will be, "*Remember TUSCANY for DON LUIS.*"

DON LEWIS ANTONIO JAYME, the King's brother, seems to be of a very different mold, without either his father's military genius, or his mother's ambition; of a pacific and quiet temper. He took a very early aversion to the *Crosier*, though made almost as soon as born, a Baby-Cardinal, and an Infant-Archbishop, for the two sees of TOLEDO and SEVILLE. Upon quitting however those dignities in the church, he reserved to himself about 7,400 *l. per annum*, out of the former, and about 5000 *l.* out of the latter. He seems to have much more inclination for a *gun* than for a *sceptre*, and spends most of his time in field sports: He has a strong turn for *mechanics*, and when not employed in shooting, is busied in making watches and mathematical instruments. He has some taste for *medals*; and the monks he has employed have made for him no inconsiderable collection of those antiquities.

THE Prince of ASTURIAS is a lively youth, and has begun his triumphs with great joy, over some sparrows shot by his own hand.

hand. MARIANA tells us, B. 18. ch. 7. that this title of Prince of ASTURIAS, was given in imitation of our title of Prince of WALES.

FERDINAND, King of NAPLES, gives fair promises of being one day a very spirited Monarch.— He put on Majesty the moment his father embarked for SPAIN, with as much dignity and ease, as if his plaything had always been a sceptre.

THE Princeffes JOSEPHA and LUISA, are both marriageable; so that time will now soon discover whether they will add any new strength to the FAMILY COMPACT.

I cannot quit the *Court of SPAIN*, without observing the little pains it takes to be *popular*. They pay scarce any court to the *Grandees* of the kingdom. They express publicly their dislike of the country, and are always preferring NAPLES to it. They employ foreigners preferably to natives, in posts at home, and embassies abroad. Can any circumstance more compleatly shew the *despotism* of that Monarchy?

THE *Ministry*, or those who compose their *Council of State*, which answers to our *Privy Council*, are

1. THE Duke of ALVA; a discarded, though an honest, old, and faithful Minister.

2. THE Marquez de VILLARAS, formerly known by the name of SEBASTIAN DE LA QUADRA.

3. THE Marquez de SALAS, absent.

4. THE Prince YACCHI, absent.

5. DON RICARDO WALL.

6. DON ALPHO. CLEM. DE AROSTEQUI.

7. DON PEDRO GORDILLO.

N. B. ALL these, as such, have the title of *Excellency*.

THEIR

THEIR *Secretaries of State*, and *Universal Dispatches*, are,

1. GENERAL WALL, first Secretary of State, Dispatch, and of War.

2. THE MARQUEZ DEL CAMPO DE VILLAR, Secretary of State, and of the Dispatch of Grace and Justice.

3. DON JULIAN DE ARRIAGA, Secretary of State, and of the Dispatch of the Marine and INDIES.

4. THE MARQUEZ SQUILACCI, Secretary of State, and of the Dispatch of the Treasury, Superintendent-general of the Copper, and its distribution.

OF all these, General WALL, and the Marquez SQUILACCI, are the only *two ministers*, in our sense of that expression; the former *first Secretary of State*, and the latter *first Lord of the Treasury*. SPAIN has, for many years past, been under the direction of foreign *Ministers*. Whether this hath been owing to want of capacity in the natives, or disinclination in the Sovereign, I will not take upon me to say; such as it is, the native nobility lament it, as a great calamity. In looking back for above a *century* past, I find the ministers employed to be nearly half natives and half foreigners. Thus, the Conde Duke D'OLIVARES was a Spaniard, of the house of MEDINA SIDONIA, DON LUIS DE HARO was his nephew, EMANUEL DE LIRA a Spaniard, ALBERONI an Italian, RIPERDA a Dutchman, the Marquez DE BEDMAR a Spaniard, the Marquis DE GRIMALDO an Italian, the Marquez DE ENSENADA a Spaniard, known by the name of CENON DE SOMODEVILLA, DON JOSEPH CARVAJAL a Spaniard, Mr. WALL an Irishman, and the Marquis DE SQUILACCI a Neapolitan.

IT is well known, that Mr. WALL raised himself to that eminent station, which he now enjoys, by means which are usually the ruin of most others, I mean gallantry and gaming. Not but that his parts and merit are otherwise very conspicuous. The *Marquis's* fort I take to consist in his abilities as a *Financier*, his understanding thoroughly *Ways and Means*, as we call it, and the making very ample provision for the crown. He has put the

King upon some useful projects, and upon others seemingly as detrimental. Paving and cleaning the streets of the CAPITAL, and making new roads, were works worthy of a minister; his edicts against old hats and old cloaks, of no moment; his negligence in bringing robbers and murderers to justice, certainly culpable; his establishing a new manufacture of *Rappè*, ill executed, and ill dropped so soon after it was set on foot; you rarely find a minister a good tobaccoist; and by his discouraging the manufactures so entirely, he seems to me to shew, that he does not understand the true interests of SPAIN. As Superintendent of the *Copper*, I suppose he will take some steps towards removing that grievance †. The best thing, in my opinion, to be done with it, is to recal it, and give it to the owners of the *Anti-Gallican Privateer*.

THE Marquis DE ENSENADA, it is to be hoped, will never have influence enough, to be employed as a *Minister* again. He is the most sworn and implacable enemy the British nation hath in SPAIN, both from prejudice and principle. He wears on a *Gala*, or court day, more diamonds, crosses, orders, ribbands, fillets, &c. than any Spanish grandee; so that, like *Simon* in the *Æneid*, he seems a \* victim fled from sacrifice. His fall was chiefly owing to the intrigues of that able and great Minister, the late Sir BENJAMIN KEENE; a circumstance, which, if I can have my wish, shall one day be laid more fully before the public. The *Marquis* was recalled to court, upon the present King's accession, by means of the *Dutchess of Castropiniano*: he is still as ambitious as ever; and if intrigue and gold can make him so, will be a minister again.

THE two *oldest*, as well as the *richest* families in SPAIN, are those of MEDINA CELI, and MEDINA SIDONIA; the former take their title from a town in OLD CASTILE, near the river XALON: they were made *Earls* by HENRY II. of CASTILE, in 1368; *Dukes* by FERDINAND and ISABELLA, in 1491. The old family-name was LA CERDA; it is now CORDOVA. ELI-

† See the Account of the Money, Letter XIV.

\* Vittæque Deum, quas *Hostia* gefsi.

ZABETH DE LA CERDA, heiress of that family, married MOSES BERNARD, Earl of BEARNE and FOIX. Their estate is suitable to the nobility of their blood, being above 80,000 pounds sterling per annum. They have certainly a good title to the crown of SPAIN, as being of the blood *royal*, and descended from its ancient monarchs. The last Duke of the CERDA line was DON LUIS FRANÇOIS DE LA CERDA, who was Viceroy of NAPLES, from 1692 to 1706, Counsellor of State, and first minister, in 1709, and Governor of the Prince of ASTURIAS: his Dutcheff had also a pension from PHILIP of 4000 pistoles *per annum*. But, notwithstanding these numerous marks of royal favour, this gentleman entered into a conspiracy against PHILIP, and held a correspondence with the Arch-duke CHARLES. The Marquis of ASTORGA, who was also in the plot, discovering this on his death-bed, this Duke was arrested by PHILIP's order, as he was coming to council, conducted first to PAMPELUNA, and afterwards to FONTARABIA, where he died.

THE family of MEDINA SIDONIA are so called from a town in ANDALUSIA. They were made Dukes in 1445. Their name is GUSMAN EL BUENO; their estate is above 60,000 pounds *per annum*; but neither this estate nor the former affords to its possessor any thing like that annual income; for, being both charged with heavy incumbrances, they are, for the most part, parcelled out into small mortgages, the rents of which the mortgagee receives, till the sum due to him is entirely paid. These two dukedoms did, for many years, belong to the same family, the GUSMANS; whether they do now or not, I cannot say. Though they had great connections with the AUSTRIAN family, yet during the Succession-war, the then Duke of MEDINA SIDONIA adhered inviolably to PHILIP's interest, and followed his standard to the last.

As the Captain of the LA REYNA, who so bravely defended the MORRO Castle, at the HAVANAH, when taken by the English in 1762, has been much talked of lately, it may not be unacceptable to say somewhat of that family.

THE VELASCO family have been for ages Constables of CASTILE, the highest post anciently in that kingdom, being *Generallissimos* of all its forces; but it is now only a bare title, yet one of great honour and esteem, like the old JUSTICIARY of ARRAGON. They were made Dukes of FRIAS in 1491, and Earls of HARO in 1430, and Earls of CASTEL NUEVO, and Marquisses of VERLANGA. This office of *Constable of Castile* was instituted in 1382, by JOHN I. of CASTILE. This honour is not hereditary in the family of the VELASCOS, though, having descended in it from father to son for many generations, it has very naturally been thought so.

THE Spaniards have in general an olive complexion, are of a middle stature, rather lean, but well made; they have fine eyes, glossy black hair, and a small well shaped head.—Their cloaths are usually of a very dark colour, and their cloaks almost black. This shews the natural gravity of the people. This is the general dress of the common sort; for the court, and persons of fashion, have most of them adopted the French dress and modes.

As their natural air is gravity, so they have consequently great coldness and reserve in their deportment; they are therefore very uncommunicative to all, and particularly to strangers. But when once you are become acquainted with them, and have contracted an intimacy, there are not more social, more friendly, or more conversible beings in the world. When they have once professed it, none are more faithful friends.—They are a people of the highest notions of honour, even to excess, which is a still visible effect of their antient love of *Chivalry*, and was the animating spirit of that enthusiasm. They have great probity and integrity of principle. As they persevere with much fidelity and zeal in their friendships, you will naturally expect to find them warm, relentless, and implacable in their resentments.

THEY are generous, liberal, magnificent, and charitable; religious without dispute, but devout to the greatest excesses of superstition. What else could induce them to kiss the hands of their *Priests*, and the garments of their *Monks*?

IF they have any predominant fault, it is, perhaps, that of being rather *too high minded*; hence they have entertained, at different periods, the most extravagant conceits; such as, that the sun only rose and set in their dominions; that their language was the only tongue fit to address the Almighty with; that they were the peculiar favourites of heaven, inasmuch that when the arms of Protestants have prevailed over theirs, they have been ready to call GOD himself *an Heretic*. They formerly thought, that wisdom, glory, power, riches and dominion, were their sole monopoly; but the experience of two or three centuries past has contributed to shew the fondness of all these delusions. The open and avowed attempts of its AUSTRIAN Princes, grasping at universal monarchy; the secret and more concealed ambition of the BOURBON line, with all their plans of refined policy, have been, as SHAKESPEAR calls it, like the baseless fabric of a vision. It has been owing to these lofty conceits, that they are still possessed with the highest notions of nobility, family and blood. The mountaineer of ASTURIAS, though a peasant, will plume himself as much upon his genealogy and descent, as the first grandee; and the *Castilian*, with his *Coat-armour*, looks upon the *Gallician* with sovereign contempt.

NOTHING can shew the *sang froid* of the Spaniards more strongly than the following circumstance, which, though it hath been often related, is perhaps not known to every reader. In the war that ensued between SPAIN and PORTUGAL, upon the revolution in favour of the Duke of BRAGANZA, the Portuguese plundered the village of *Traigueros*, and left a centinel in it, while the troops passed on.—The centinel, to amuse the time, played on his guitar, which happened to be out of tune. A Spaniard belonging to this plundered village, offended with the dissonance of the soldier's music, came to the centinel, and civilly begg'd him to lend him the guitar; which being done, he tuned it, and returned it to the Portuguese, with this short speech—*Now Sir, it is in tune,—Aora sta templada.*

THE profession of arms is their chief delight; to this darling passion, commerce, manufactures, and agriculture have been al-