IT has been imagined, from the events of the present war, that the Spanish are not good troops; but it is a great mistake; there are no foldiers in the whole world that are braver than the Spanish. Those who say otherwise only shew their ignorance of history. They have had the Dukes of BERWICK and BITONTO, the Counts DE GAGE and SCHOMBERG, the Prince of HESSE, the Marquis De Las Minas, the Generals Stanhope, Peter-BOROUGH, and STAREMBERGH, the eye-witnesses of their bravery. That they make but an indifferent military figure at present, is no just argument against them; long peace, long difuse, and bad generals, will entirely damp the martial spirit of any people. Let them only be disciplined, and led on by his Pruffian Majesty, and I will answer for their doing as much execution as any troops in Europe, and particularly the cavalry. They bear all hardships with the most unremitting patience, and can endure heat, cold, and even hunger, with fome degree of chearfulness. They have courage and constancy sufficient for the most hazardous undertakings; and though naturally slow, yet when once put in action, pursue their object with great warmth and perseverance.

BIGOTRY has been very prejudicial to the Spaniards, not only in religion, but in the arts and sciences, and has greatly retarded their advancement in learning.—It is impossible that those who are too blindly attached to the opinions of the Antients, should make any great figure among the Moderns. ARISTOTLE, DUNS SCOTUS, and THOMAS AQUINAS, were a triumvirate more dangerous to the freedom of the mind, than those of ancient Rome to its liberties. And it had certainly been much more serviceable to our own universities, if, instead of expelling and burning the

337

works of Locke, they had at that time fet all Aristotle and Plato on fire.

This bigotry, in favour of the Antients, appears no where more strongly, than in their practice of physic. Thousands have died in Spain by following the prescriptions of Galen and Hippocrates, who might have lived many years, had they had an equal faith in Sydenham and Boerhaave.

To politics the Spaniards have a natural inclination; they understand and study the political interests of their country very thoroughly; even the most common peasants will sometimes make reflections on public affairs, that would be not unworthy of a senator in the Cortes.

To give an idea of a Spanish University, it will be sufficient to describe that of SALAMANCA; the rest being all similar, only inferior.

It confifts of 24 profesfors, who have 1000 ducats each per annum. It has a small library, the books of which are all chained. There are 12 Divinity Professors, four for the morning, and four for the afternoon. There are other Sub-professors likewise, who have only 500 vellon crowns per annum. There is a Professor of the doctrine of DURANDUS, and one for that of Scotus. This last seems most requisite, for Erasmus was nine years in understanding the Preface only. Besides the stipendiary Professors, there are others paid by the scholars; Cardinal XIMENES was originally so low, as to have been one of these. There is also the same number of Professors for the Civil and Canon Law, Physic, Philosophy, and Mathematics; as for Divinity, all these are under the direction of an annual President. Next to him, is the School-master, who is always a canon of SALAMANCA, and answers to our Vice-chancellor. These two officers have 8000 ducats each per annum. The revenues of this University are said to be 90,000 ducats per annum. ——It formerly had 7000 scholars; but that number has been confiderably lessened this many an age: however, one of their schools is still large enough to hold 2000 people. X x 2

people. The scholars all wear much the same dress as the eccle-staftics, have all the *Tonsure*, and the *Bonnet*, for hats are forbidden. There are in SALAMANCA 24 colleges; but no scholar can remain in them longer than seven years. The Bridge of stone at SALAMANCA, thrown over the river Tormes, is a most noble Roman work.

As to the Language of SPAIN, there are two different tongues spoken in it, the Biscayan, and the Romance, or Spanish. Biscayan was most probably the language of the ancient Spaniards; just as the most ancient British tongue is still preserved in our island, in the mountains of WALES, and the Erfe in those of SCOTLAND. The Romance is plainly, from its name, a corruption of the Latin; this is now called Castilian.—The Spaniards confound the B with the V, and the C with the Q, and fo did. their masters the Romans; thus, they used BENERI for VE-NERI, BIXIT for VIXIT, PEQUNIAM for PECUNIAM .---The Spaniards love the D final, fo did the Romans; as prædad, altod, marid, for præda, alto, mari. In Spanish this is almost universal; as Verdad, Liberdad, Jubentud, for Veritas, Libertas, Juventus, &cc. In many instances the Latin and Spanish agree word for word, and the Castilian often writes the language of the Bas Empire, without defigning it.—Indeed I am perfuaded, that more light might be gathered from the Spanish tongue, towards discovering what the Roman language was, during the second Punic war, than from any other quarter.

THERE is a great fimilarity between many of the English and Spanish words; in such a case, let others decide which is the lender, and which the borrower. Thus, Casaca, a Cassock; Mucho, Much; Rajas, Rags; Carpa, a Carpe; Capa a Cape; Golfo, a Gulph; Falta, Fault; Carga, Charge; a Ropper, from Arropar to cloath warm; to vamp, from Avampier, Spatterdashes; Arcabuz, Harquebuss; Cordwainers, from the French Corduanniers, because the finest leather at that time came from Corduanniers, because the finest leather at that time came from Corduantiers, hence comes our mistaken English sign of the Talbot, for a Dog, when it ought to be, as it was originally, a Tabard,

or Cloak. Lord BACON fays, that as one instance of the copia of the Spanish language, we have no word so expressive, as their Desenvoltura, and Despejar; though I doubt the truth of that remark. That it delights in long words, the Ampullas and Sefquipedalia verba, is very certain; Despavilladeras is rather too long for fo common a word as Snuffers. There are many words. fuch as, Abandanamiento, and others, of feven syllables and upwards. As there is fomething pompous and magnificent in the length of its words, and the found of them, fo there is also a peculiarity in the turn and manner of their phrases and expressions. We fay, the King and Queen, their expression is, the Catholic Kings, los Reyes Catholicos, meaning the fame thing. His Britannic Majesty signs George Rex, the Catholic Monarch, I the King. We say, Long may you live, they say, May you live, Sir, a thoufand years and more. They use the mentiro very frequently, tho', to give the Lie in English, or the menterie in French, would be reckoned an affront. They never use the word cuerno, or cormudo, without begging pardon first of those they speak to; the Italians, I am told, do the same. Don Juan de Jaurequi has translated Lucan into Spanish verse; though I have taken some pains, I never could procure the book; BREBEUF's French translation of that poet has been always thought Lucano ipso Lucanius. What then must be the effect of Lucan's rant, who was by birth a Spaniard, when heightened with all the pomp, found, and bombast so natural to the Spanish language? The Spaniards have an infinity of Proverbs; some political, such as, Con todo el mundo guerra, y paz con Yngalaterra; that is, War with all the world, and peace with England. Some of them are very strange, as, Mas quiero, que se mueran seys Duques, que morirme yo .--- I bad rather fix Dukes should die, than die myself .- Un asno coxo, un bombre roco, y el demonio, todo el mismo. --- A lame ass, a red-baired. man, and the devil, are all the same thing.

THE military turn of the Spaniards appears in most of their diversions, and even in the very terms and language which they use at CARDS: Hombre in Spanish signifies a man, from whence comes what we call Ombre; the four principal cards are called Matadores, or Murderers, because they win all others. Spadillo is the

the little fword, or the ace of Spades, as we very properly call it; for Spada in Spanish is a fword, and they are so painted on their cards. Basto is properly the ace of clubs, because it signifies a club. Punto is any point, of the spear suppose. What we call Manil is in Spanish Malillia; the deuce of the black suits, or the seven of the red. The Sin prender was going to war without taking a King for an ally.

For those who have curiosity this way, it may not be displeasing to see a specimen of the three languages spoken in their Peninsula, as the Spaniards call it; of the Castilian, the Biscayan, and the Portuguese.

CASTILIAN.

Padre nuestro, que estas en los cielos: Sanctificado fea tu nombre; venga tu Reino. Sea hecha tu voluntad, als en la tierra, como en el cielo: El pan nuestro de cada dia danosle oy. Y perdonanos nuestras offensas, affi commo nosotros perdonamos a los que nos offenden. Y no nos metas en tentacion, mas libra nos de mal.

Amen.

BISCAYAN.

Gure aita ceni etan aicena; fanctifica bedi hire icena; ethor bedi hire refuma; eguin bedi hire vorondatéa, ceruan begala turrean ere. Gure eguneco oguia igue egun. Eta quitta ietza que gure, corrac, nola gus gorduney, quittazen baitrarega. Eta ezgaitzala far eraci tentationetan, baina delura gaitzac gaichtotic.

PORTUGUESE.

Padre nosso, que stas nos ceos. Sanctificado seia o seu nome. Ventra a nos o teu Reino. Seia ferta a tua volundade, affi nos cielo, ceos, come na terra. O pao nosso de cada dia dano to oje nesto dia. Et perdoanos as noifas devidas, affi come nos perdoamos a nos nossos devidores. Et nao nos dexes cahir en tentafao, mas libra nos de mal.

THE difference of these three tongues is visible to the eye; the first almost Latin, word for word; the second barbarous, and the third a sad corruption of Latin and French.

THE Spaniards frequently breakfast as well as sup in bed; their breakfast is usually of Chocolate, Tea being very seldom drank by them. They drink little wine. Their dinner is generally

rally a Pochero, or beef, mutton, veal, pork, and bacon, greens, &c. all boiled together. If it be a richer, or more expensive mixture of meats and delicacies, it is then stiled an Olla podrida, or what we call an Olio. Temperance in eating and drinking is doubtless one of their virtues; you may see it in their proverbs; Unas azeitunas, una salada, y ravanillos, son comida de los cavalleros; that is, Olives, sallad, and radishes, are food for a gentleman. They are great devourers of garlick; they seldom change the knife and fork, but eat every thing with the same individual weapon; delicacy, in many instances I could give, not being their character.

THE taste for gallantry and dancing prevails in SPAIN univerfally; they are the two ruling passions of the country. Jealousy, ever fince the accession of the house of Bourbon, has slept in peace. It is observable, that in proportion as manners become more civilized, that furious passion always loses its force. Dancing is fo much their favourite entertainment, that their gravest matrons never think themselves excluded by age from this diver-You may fee the grandmother, mother, and daughter, all in the fame country dance: the English, on the contrary, give dancing to youth, and leave cards to age. The two most favourite and universal Spanish dances are the Sequedillas and the Fundungo: the first is something like our HAY; the second is a very ancient dance, and though originally Roman, yet the Spaniards have mixed somewhat of the Moorish along with it: they are excessively fond of it; it is danced by the first of the nobility, as well as by the common people. I shall not attempt a description of it, as I am fure your English ladies of fashion would not send to Madrid for a Fundungo-master, to teach it their daughters; nor indeed could I describe it altogether decently: let it suffice to fay, that it is exactly the same with the Pantomime dance of Leda among the Romans.

Most of the Spaniards take their fiefto, or fleep after dinner; mass in the morning, dinner at noon, and the evening's airing generally finish the round of their day. Though it is the etiquette of the country for the men and women to wear in the street, and

and at mass, all the same dress, yet the ladies in private visits wear as much variety of dress, and of a much richer fort, than those in ENGLAND; but to a people of gallantry, the advantage of all wearing the same uniform in public, is easy to be conceived. The married ladies in Spain have each their professed lover, just as the Italian ladies have their cicifbeo. Their evening's airing is infipid to the last degree; you see nothing but a string of coaches following one another, filled with people of fashion: Here a Duke and his confessor; there a couple of smart young Abbes tête a tête; here a whole family grouped together, just like a Dutch picture, husband and wife, children and servants, wet nurses and dry altogether. -- When they take their airing on gala, or court days, all their footmen are then dreffed in laced liveries, with plumes of feathers in their hats.—The number of fervants kept by the Grandees, and people of the first fashion, is immoderate; they have often put me in mind of those words of TACITUSfamiliarum numerum, et nationes; for the legionary servants at Rome began at last to be almost an equal burthen with the legionary troops. Some of the Spanish grandees retain to the number of 3 or 400 domesticks; the English Ambassador here, in compliance with the taste of the country, keeps near 100. As they go with four mules usually, they have consequently two drivers, or postilions; generally four, and sometimes fix sootmen behind their coaches, besides an helper to take off a pair of mules, when they enter MADRID, as they are not permitted to drive with more than four there. In the hot weather they take out the fides and backs of their coaches, for the fake of the air. They use sedan chairs but very little, and when they do, they have always two footmen, who go on each fide the hindmost chairman, in order to hold them up, lest they should fall; and two of each fide the fedan, and two who follow behind with lanthorns, though it be in the middle of the day: That is to fay, they have generally nine servants with a coach, and ten with a sedan, befides those who go before.

The town of Madrid, for as it is not an Episcopal see, I think we cannot call it a city, is built on some little hills in the neighbourhood of a very indifferent stream called the Mansa-NARES;

NARES; which occasioned much wit, when PHILIP II. built that great bridge over it, called the PUENTE DE SEGOVIA: Some said the King should sell the bridge to buy a river, &c.

CHARLES V. having recovered here of a quartan ague, first made this a royal residence; but how injudiciously, needs not to be remarked. The capital of so great and extended a kingdom, ought doubtless to be at Seville; where, by means of the port, all the conveniencies and necessaries of life, and every article of foreign commerce might be had with ease. But the expence of removing the tribunals and the King's palaces, will probably now prevent any design of making that city a new capital.

MADRID is surrounded with very losty mountains, whose summits are always covered with snow. It has no fortifications to defend it; it has no ditch, but is environed by a mud wall. Its gates, according to the taste of that country, have their locks upon the outside. There are very sew good streets, except those of the Calle Mayor, the Calle d'Atocha, the Calle Alcala, and the Calle Ancha: The rest are long, narrow, and extremely dirty. The only good square is the Plasa Mayor, which is large and regular enough; but there being balconies to every window, it takes off much of its beauty.

THE houses in MADRID are most of them brick, with dry walls, lime being there very dear and scarce; stone is still more expensive, because it must be brought from fix or seven leagues distance. House rent is at an exorbitant price; but that is not all, furniture is scarce to be had, without paying extravagantly for it; and if you would have glass windows to your house, you must put them there yourself, for you will not find them. The houses in general are wretchedly ill-built, for you will seldom fee any two walls upon the square: They are laid out chiefly for show, convenience being little considered: Thus you will pals through usually two or three large apartments of no use, in order to come at a small room at the end, where the family lit. This is the general state of the houses there; not but there are some very magnificent palaces, built chiefly by Viceroys, returned from Yy