

JOURNEY FROM LONDON

THE Spaniards call the Tower of HERCULES by a wrong name: It is amazing, when the *inscription* still remains as an evidence, that it was the Tower of MARS, that they should be so perverse as to give it to HERCULES. The words are:

MARTI AVG.
SACR.
C. SEVIUS. LVPVS.
ARCHITECTVS.
A. F. DANIENSIS.
LVSITANVS. EXVL.

It is very plain, that the *Romans* intended this for a watch-house, or *speculum*, and the *Spaniards* use it as a light-house now.

THE poorer fort, both men and women, at CORUNNA, wear neither shoes nor stockings. We lodged at the best inn; but all inns throughout SPAIN afford miserable accommodations: It was kept by an Irishman named OBRIEN. We were well entertained by the Spanish Governor DON LOUIS DE CORDOVA, and the English consul Mr. JORDAN. The town is pretty, and supplied with water by an *aqueduct*. Our route from CORUNNA to ASTORGA and MADRID was as follows:

ROUTE FROM CORUNNA TO MADRID.

		Leagues.
To PATANSOS,	First day,	— 3
JETERIS,	} Second day,	— 5
VAMONDE,		— 2
LUGO,	} Third day,	— 4
GALLEGO,		— 6
FUENFRIA,	} Fourth day,	— 4
SERRARIAS,		— 5
	Carried over,	— 29
	Brought	

T O M A D R I D .

3

Brought over,		Leagues 29
VILLA FRANCA,	} Fifth day,	— 4
PONFERRADA,		— 4
RAVANAL,	} Sixth day,	— 6
ASTORGA,		— 3
		Leagues, 46
From ASTORGA to BANEZA,	} Seventh day,	— 4
To LA VENTA,		— 3
To BENEVENTE,	} Eighth day,	— 3
To VILLALPANDO,		— 5
To VILLAPRAIS,	} Ninth day,	— 4
To VEJA,		— 3
To MEDINA DEL CAMPO,	} Tenth day,	— 6
To ARTIQUENES,		— 3
To OVEJA,	} Eleventh day,	— 5
To LABAJOS,		— 3
To ESPINAL,	} Twelfth day,	— 5
To GUADARAMA,		— 3
To LAS ROSAS,	} Thirteenth day,	— 6
To MADRID,		— 3
		Leagues 102

THE extent of this ROUTE is called 450 miles; but their computation by leagues is very uncertain, like the miles in CORNWALL, guessed at from one town to another. The only way to know the true distance in SPAIN is by your watch. The *Spanish* league is computed equal to about three miles and three quarters *English*.

WE set out from CORUNNA the 3d of June, being honoured with a discharge of guns from the packets in the harbour. You must carry your provisions and bedding with you in SPAIN, as you are not sure of finding them in all places. We seldom met with any thing to eat upon the road, or a bed fit to lie upon. After having passed the fertile mountains of GALLICIA, and the barren rocks of LEON, we came to ASTORGA the 8th of June.

Here we rested till the 11th, and then sat out in a clumsy coach, drawn by six mules, with *ropes* instead of *traces*. This surprised me at first, but I found afterwards, that the *grandees*, and people of rank in MADRID, use ropes constantly at the *Prado* and *Promenade*, places of airing somewhat resembling the old ring in *Hyde Park*.

AFTER passing over the immense plains of OLD and NEW CASTILE, which seem more like seas than plains, we arrived at MADRID the 18th of June, being the 7th day from our leaving ASTORGA. Though we travelled so long a tract of country, we saw few cities or towns, that were considerable for their extent, strength, riches, manufactures, or inhabitants. VILLA FRANCA in LEON is extremely beautiful, and stands high; PONFERRADA neat, anciently called *intra fluvios*, because it was between the rivers SIL and BOEGA, afterwards stiled *Pons Ferratus*, from its bridge on the hard rock. MEDINO DEL CAMPO in CASTILE is an agreeable situation; there is a large square in the middle of it, and some of the nobility reside there.

LUGO in GALICIA is a remarkable ancient city, surrounded with a most singular fortification; as near as I could judge, a square; and at the distance of about every twenty feet a circular *bastion* of thick and lofty walls: The city fortified on every side in the same manner, having rather a tremendous appearance, and must have been extremely strong, before the use of that villainous *saltpetre*, as SHAKESPEARE calls it. It stands near the source of the MINHO; the turnips here are said to be so large, as to weigh fifty pounds each: But who can believe it? Its ancient name was *Lucus Augusti*, and thence corruptly called LUGO.

THE city of ASTORGA in LEON is situated in a wide plain; the most remarkable thing in it is the *Cathedral*, which is a noble Gothic building; a *basilica*, consisting of six pointed arches, supported by tall, light, neat pillars, in a good taste; the portal a large round arch, with a vast number of mouldings; there are seven or eight fine altars, but the *High Altar* is exceedingly magnificent;

nificent; it consists of twenty compartments of marble-sculpture in alto relievo, the figures as large as life; the subject the history of our SAVIOUR; at the summit GOD the Father crowning the Blessed Virgin. The *glory* is well expressed; for being cut through the frame, and a lamp placed behind it, the light shews the *rays*. We happened to attend at the Vespers; the music of the organ was fine; the number of tapers, the richness of altars, in short, the whole scene was striking. This city gives the title of *Marquis* to the family of *Osoño*, inferior to few, either for antiquity or valour.

BENEVENTE in LEON is encompassed by three rivers, and remarkable for little more than giving the title of Earl to the family of PIMENTEL. VILLALPANDO is in a pleasing plain, has a large square, and contains a palace of the *Constable of Castile*, to whom the town belongs. The only river we passed of note was a branch of the MINHO; a noble current, almost as broad as the Thames at Windsor, and to appearance deep; finely wooded on each side, the trees larger and taller than you usually meet with in SPAIN. The place where we passed it was called HOSPITAL DE *Eschemoso*.

THE *storks* nests upon the tops of the *churches*, with the birds hovering over them, or just peeping out, are pleasing as you pass. It was so in old ROME: The *storks* built their nests in great numbers on the summits of their *temples*, as their poets often tell us.—Thus JUVENAL says of the Temple of *Concord*:

Quæque salutato crepitat *Concordia* nido.

It was cruel to kill such social birds as these; and yet we find by HORACE, that the Epicures of his times could not keep their knives from them; though it was an absolute violation of hospitality. Speaking of the luxurious dishes of those days, he says, their ancestors never eat *turbots* nor *storks*:

Tutus erat *rhombus*, tutoque *ciconia* nido.

This bird is often mentioned in Scripture. In the Psalms,---*The fir-trees are a dwelling for the stork*: And in JOB, *Who giveth the stork*

stork food? She buildeth her nest on high. It delights in the most lofty situations. All the nests, which we saw, were in the highest places the bird could find.

WE passed some forests; but the trees are dwarf and poor, not resembling the timber of GREAT-BRITAIN; you will in vain look for those stately woods, which not only afford fuel, shade, and wealth to their owners, but send forth fleets, which give laws to the ocean. Though I lost my watch on the top of one of the highest mountains near the ZEBREROS, yet, by extraordinary good fortune, it was found by the *Marigatti*, or mule-drivers, and carried to the Padre Abbad of ZEBREROS, who sent it me in less than a month.

THE new STONE-CAUSEWAY, which joins the two CASTILES, and extends to GUADARAMA, is a most magnificent public work: It was done by an order of FERDINAND VI. the late King, as appears by the following inscription on a pillar erected on the causeway: FERDINANDUS VI. PATER PATRIÆ. VIAM VTRIQUE CASTELLÆ SUPERATIS MONTIBUS FECIT. ANN. SALUTIS MDCC XLIX. REGNI SUI IV. It is really a noble road, and seems owing rather to the labour and activity of a *Roman*, than to the slow industry of a *Spaniard*.

SOME parts of the CASTILES are pleasant; they are ill cultivated; have no wood of any moment; this makes fuel incredibly dear in MADRID; the expence of one single fire there for the winter has been known to cost fifty pounds; an amazing article! The charcoal consumed in their kitchens, and braziers, comes chiefly from GALLAPAGAR, at the distance of 30 miles, which is far enough in that country to make the carriage of it very expensive. The principal *timber* they use, is *fir*, the growth of the country; their houses, churches, carriages, and furniture, are chiefly of *deal*; there are sometimes no less than fourteen large girders, in the ceiling of a small apartment. One would not imagine from this circumstance, that timber was scarce. As to the *water* in this country, I do not think it in general good; that of MADRID is excellent, which is plain by the court's being at much expence to have it conveyed

to distant places. There are two fine rivers in the CASTILES, the TAGUS, and the GUADIANA; as to the MANSANARES, which runs close by MADRID, it is but a poor stream, and falls into the XARAMA, about 6 leagues distant from the TAGUS. I was told in LONDON, that the situation of MADRID was upon a plain, but it is a great mistake: It is built upon a chain of little hills, and, because there are higher mountains round it, at a distance, has been supposed to be in a plain.

THE Spaniards erect pillars at proper distances upon the causeways, to direct travellers during the snows; we saw several of them in LEON, and other parts. The first comer to a *Spanish* inn, be his rank what it may, has the first choice of the accommodations; this occasions a sort of contest between the travellers in this country, who shall get first to the inn. It is a common practice to send a man on an hour or two before: We distanced one DON JOSEPH, a Biscayner, in this way; finding that he was going to the same *Posada*, or inn, we detached our faithful ANTONIO, who, as fleet as an *Arab*, ran over the mountains in bye-paths, and arrived at the inn long before the DON and we came to it. This contest arises from there being seldom more than one inn in a village; at which, if disappointed, you must probably ride 8 or 10 miles before you can find another, which, at the end of a long day's journey, and in the dark, would be fatiguing, and perhaps dangerous.

UPON a review of the whole country from CORUNNA to MADRID, one may say, that GALLICIA is a fine fertile province; that some parts of it are equal to many in ENGLAND; but as to LEON, it is a naked, dreadful, barren rock, except where it is covered with a few pitiful firs, or shrubs, such as are about BENEVENTE and VILLALPANDO, and except some few plains after you have passed ASTORGA. I turned round to take a view of LEON from one of the highest mountains, and was almost frightened at the sight; a brown horror, as Mr. POPE expresses it, was spread over the whole; sands, rocks, and craggy precipices, formed as savage a prospect, as can be imagined. And yet this country was probably once fought for; the inhabitants surely must find a charm in it unknown to us. In one of these villages we
found

found a set of people, dressed in a whimsical manner, dancing to rude music; the whole appearance was entertaining and grotesque; the dance artless and odd; its natural simplicity shewed the people in their true character.

THE road from CORUNNA to MADRID is certainly not so bad, as it is generally thought in ENGLAND. The mountains of GALICIA are very passable; the only difficult parts which I saw, were the descent at LA FAVA, and about 12 miles, as you come out of SERRARIAS. The mountains of LEON are rather disagreeable than dangerous, and all the rest is easy. Be it as it may, our English messengers find no difficulty in it. The accommodations, indeed, are miserable: I have said you must absolutely carry your provisions and bedding along with you; and even then, unless you can bear fatigue well, lye down in your clothes, eat eggs, onions, and cheese; unless you can sleep while your mules rest, rise the moment you are called, and set out early in the morning, before the heat comes on, you will fare ill as a traveller in SPAIN. It is a good method to carry dried tongues with you, hard eggs, not hams, for they will not keep, as we found by experience; some portable soup; tea, sugar, and spirituous liquors; not forgetting even pepper and salt; and whenever you meet with good bread, meat, fowls, or wine, always to buy them, whether you want them or not, because you know not what to-morrow may produce. A knife, fork, and spoon, are absolutely necessary, for you will find none; nor should you omit a pair of snuffers, a candlestick, and some wax-candles. Take care only not to carry any tobacco or rum; for they are all contraband, and may occasion the detention, if not the seizure of your baggage. Particularly bring with you as few *books* as possible, for the inquisition will seize them. My baggage was detained a fortnight on account of my books; and THE EARL of BRISTOL was obliged to speak twice to GENERAL WALL, before he could release the captives. Many of these circumstances seem *trifling*, but they are so material, that those who happen to travel without them in this country, will find, by dear-bought experience, that all these *trifles* have their use, and if neglected,

—————Hæ nugæ seria ducent

In mala.

LETTER

LETTER II.

The STATE of RELIGION in SPAIN.

WITH regard to ancient religious rites or customs in this country, there was probably in early times a great mixture of all sorts. The first accounts of SPAIN, that are clear and authentic, are, I believe, those in STRABO and LIVY. The face of it then was certainly very savage and barbarous. It could have no religious notions besides its own, but from GAUL, ITALY, or AFRIC, from the PHOENICIANS, CARTHAGINIANS, GAULS, or ROMANS : and what those were, are well known.

MARIANA tells us, that Christianity was first preached in SARAGOÇA by St. JAMES, 42 years after CHRIST : and for this he quotes ISIDORE, bishop of SEVILLE. With all due deference to the authority, though episcopal, I must beg leave to deny the fact; for St. LUKE says expressly, that St. JAMES was killed at JERUSALEM. The SPANIARDS have likewise another tradition concerning this apostle; which, though believed by themselves, will hardly find credit among Protestants. It is, that St. JAMES, by birth a SPANIARD, has been often seen armed in the air, going before the van, and protecting the SPANISH armies : Which circumstance you may read in Boldonius, if you like it. Whether it be for these reasons, or others, I cannot say, however this fact is certain, that SAN JAGO, or St. JAMES, hath from the earliest times been ever revered and worshipped as the guardian, and tutelar saint of SPAIN.