

fent thither, and whom the patrons of the sciences received upon his return with all that respect which talents, accompanied by modesty, must inspire. He left at Peru several Spanish naturalists, who were soon to follow him, and whose learned researches will greatly contribute to enrich the cabinet of natural history at Madrid.

The same edifice that contains this cabinet, and which with the custom-house, built also by Charles III. constitutes the principal ornament of the street of the Alcala, is the place of meeting for the academy of the fine arts; a circumstance which produced the inscription on the building, a motto equally happy and just.

*Carolus III. naturam et artem sub uno tecto
confociavit.*

The honour of instituting this academy is, however, due to Philip V; but it has received great encouragement from
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his two successors. The minister of foreign affairs is president, and every three years distributes premiums to the young students who have produced the best pieces in sculpture or painting, and the best plans and designs in architecture. But though there are several members who have distinguished themselves in these three arts, it must be confessed that their works of real excellence are yet but very few in number.

I was twice present at the distribution of premiums and cannot but confess that they ought rather to be looked upon as encouragements than merited rewards. The Spaniards are too just to expect unlimited encomiums; their pride would indignantly refuse the degrading homages of adulation. They, however, maintain at Rome young students, who give the most flattering hopes; and from what was seen of the productions of Don Francisco Agustin and Don Ramos at the last exhibition, there is no doubt but these artists may
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soon be classed with the best painters of France and Italy.

It is not only by forming artists that the academy contributes to the progress of the arts in Spain, it is also the supreme tribunal to whose decision the plans of all the sacred and profane edifices erected in the kingdom are to be submitted; an institution which in the end must establish fine taste upon the ruins of that barbarity which is but too visible in most of the edifices of former times, and of which traces still remain in some of the gates, in the ancient fountains, and in most of the churches in the capital; deformed efforts of art, then in its infancy, which took more pains to bring forth monstrous productions than would be necessary at present to produce works of transcendent merit. Modern edifices already prove the revolution that has taken place under the house of Bourbon. Besides the new palace of Madrid, we may instance in the gates of the Alcala and St. Vicente, the

the custom-house, and the post-office: except these, there are but few buildings which merit attention from the traveller.

Madrid is in general well laid out: the streets, although not in a direct line, are for the most part wide, and tolerably straight. The infrequency of rain, and the vigilance of the modern police, for which it is indebted to the count d'Aranda, make it one of the cleanest cities in Europe. But except the Prado and its avenues, the city has no elegant quarters to boast. The famous *Plaza Mayor*, which the Spaniards take so much pleasure to extol, has nothing in it which justifies their enthusiasm; it is quadrangular, but at the same time irregular, surrounded by buildings of five and six stories, sufficiently uniform, but without decoration, under which are long arcades. It is illuminated on public occasions, and then it really has an agreeable appearance. The *auto da fés* were formerly celebrated in this square,

square, with all their terrible apparatus. It is still the theatre of bull-fights which are given at the royal feasts. The hotel de ville, or town-house, is in this square, in which several academies hold their assemblies. This concurrence of circumstances has made it the most remarkable public place in the capital, and has given it a reputation which, at the time it was first built, was perhaps deserved, but which must have vanished since architecture has improved in Europe, and produced forty squares preferable to the Plaza Mayor. The Spaniards, however, should respect this reputation, and at least not dishonour their square by the hideous scene of executions, nor keep in it their principal market, and thus reduce their *place Vendome* * to the level of that of the *Greve* †, and *place Maubert* ‡. In

* An elegant square in Paris.

† The place of execution in Paris.

‡ A mean square in the fauxbourgh St. Marcel, which is the St. Giles's of Paris.

other respects, this with the adjacent streets, is the quarter which gives the most favourable idea of the population of Madrid; and if we judge of it by this specimen, we shall not find the calculation which makes it amount to one hundred and sixty thousand inhabitants exaggerated*.

The sacred edifices have nothing remarkable in their architecture; those of St. Pasqual, St. Isabella, and the Carmelites contain highly valuable collections of pictures which may be seen with admiration even after the paintings of the Escorial, and the new palace!

* Doctor Moncada, who wrote at the beginning of the seventeenth century, complained of the depopulation of this city, which, according to him, contained no more than four hundred thousand inhabitants. What would he say at present? Uftariz, whose work was written at the beginning of the present century, and which is quoted by the Spaniards for the exactness of its calculations, assigns to Madrid only a hundred and eighty thousand inhabitants.

The church of St. Isidro, which heretofore belonged to the Jesuits, has a portal which has escaped the contagion of the age in which it was built. There is another church much more modern, which on account of its mass has a venerable appearance, but which true taste may justly disavow: it is that of St. *Salesas*, or the visitation, founded by Ferdinand VI. and the queen Barbara his wife. The ashes of this royal pair repose here, under a pompous mausoleum, the inscription of which appeared to me a model of the lapidary style; the Spaniards themselves have expressed their disapprobation of the whole edifice by these words: *Barbara reyna, barbaro gasto; barbara obra*; a play upon words that can have no meaning but in the Spanish language, in which the expression *barbara* is equally applied to the name of the foundress, to the bad taste of the edifice, and to the enormous sum it cost in building. It has, however, one laudable object which should intitle it to more indulgence. A certain number

of young ladies are there educated, at the king's expence.

The convent of St. Francis has already been some years building, and there are hopes that it will become one of the finest productions of architecture in the capital. What already appears of it seems to promise a solid rather than an elegant edifice. The church, in the form of a rotunda, was finished when I left Spain: it was already decorated with many large pictures, several of which could not but encrease the reputation of the Spanish school. The present principal supporters of that school are M. Maella and M. Bayeux, whose colouring and taste in drawing resemble the stile of Mengs, and in some manner recompence the Spaniards for the loss of that great painter. Don Francisco de Goye merits also by his talents an honorable mention; he pourtrays in a pleasing stile, the manners, customs, and games of his country.

try. There are also several excellent engravers.

Don Salvador Carmona, married to the daughter of Mengs, who has in part inherited the fine pencil of her father, is deservedly to be placed at their head. Mr. Carmona is advantageously known in France by several prizes gained in the academy of painting. Were we to judge his works critically, it might be observed, that his talents too little, or at least too late, encouraged have not produced what they at first promised. Several other engravers, Messieurs Ferro, Muntaner, Fabregat, Ballester, and especially M. Selma, have by happy efforts proved that their art still makes some progress in Spain.

The academy of the Spanish language, which in the year 1780 gave an elegant edition of Don Quixote, enriched it with the embellishments of the graver. But the engravings, for the most part not above mediocrity, do not answer to

the merit of the edition, equally admirable for the quality of the ink, the beauty of the paper, the clearness of the character, and to be compared with the finest productions of the kind in any other nation. This is not the first proof the Spaniards have given of their ability in the art of printing. Every connoisseur is acquainted with, and prefers to the editions of Baskerville and Barbon, the Sallust, which the Infant Don Gabriel has translated into his own language, and some other works from the presses of Ibarra at Madrid, and from those of Benedict Montfort at Valencia, which are master-pieces of the typographical art, and will one day be sought after by posterity, as we now search for those of the Elzevirs.

If the pleasing arts be cultivated at Madrid, the most useful of all, that of beneficence, is not neglected. Charitable foundations worthy to be models to every nation, are found in that city. There are three hospitals, which in the course

course of the year 1785, received 19437 sick persons. The principal hospital near to, but on the outside of the gate Alcala, has been lately rebuilt. It is a large edifice, which by no means disgraces the walk leading from this gate to the canal of Aranjuez, and which the Spaniards have estimated rather too highly in honouring it with the name of *Delicias*.

Besides these three hospitals there are three confraternities, the revenues of which are appropriated to the succour of the wretched, and an institution similar to the *Mont de Pieté* in Paris, the principal object of which is to advance money to the necessitous. There are also other academies besides that of the fine arts. We can say but little of those of law and physic; but every one has heard of that of the Spanish language, founded by Philip V, and which our French academy has considered, ever since its establishment, as its sister. The dictionary it has given to the public, is, according

to the ablest grammarians, the completest that ever appeared in any language. The present academicians, more learned than their predecessors, and not less laborious, are preparing a new edition of it, which by the augmentations to be made, will give an idea of the richness of their language, and of the great extent of their researches. The Abbé de Guevra, one of the most learned and zealous, has already published an extract in folio, which has abated the public impatience, and may serve for daily use.

The Spanish academy is composed but of twenty-four ordinary members; but the number of supernumeraries is not limited; the president is a grandee of Spain. The present president is the marquis de Santa Cruz, whose learning is no less an honour to the society than his rank. It contains several poets, painters, and men of letters, for whom the chair has not that soporific virtue attributed to it elsewhere; and I know
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not one member who has been admitted from the vain motive of conferring an honour in a manner foreign to the end of its institution.

The academy of history has for its director the count de Campomanes, who, by the rank he holds in the magistracy, as well as by his great erudition and virtues, is one of the most distinguished noblemen of modern Spain. It is much to be regretted that the functions of his eminent station leave him but little leisure to dedicate to the different academies of which he is a member. That of history has happily several others, who, animated by the same zeal, may attach themselves to it with less reserve. It has, within these few years, published editions of several authors, which are a proof of this. Among others, those of Mariana and Sepulveda. It is preparing one of Solis, of which one volume has already appeared. It has undertaken, and executed in part, a task equally interesting and arduous,

that of publishing all the ancient chronicles relative to the history of Castile. Several of these works had never been printed; all are enriched with notes and commentaries, which at once prove the sound criticism and the erudition of their authors, the Abbé de Guevara, Don Francisco de Cerda, Don Miquel Florez, and Don Eugenio de Laguno, who, in the midst of the occupations of his place of first clerk in the office of foreign affairs, still finds some moments to dedicate to literature. The academy contains one of the most valuable collections of which a literary society can boast. This is all the diplomas, charters, and other documents given since the earliest period of the monarchy, to all the cities, boroughs, communities, churches, chapels, &c. in Spain, the whole collected with the greatest care, arranged in chronological order, and consequently adapted to furnish every branch of the Spanish history with the most abundant source of authentic materials. The collection greatly facilitates

rates and encourages the learned researches of the academicians. It is in this immense repertory that they collect the elements of a work which for several years they have been preparing, I mean a geographical dictionary of Spain, which, by its correctness will be a worthy companion to the new dictionary of the language. One of the most learned among them, Don Juan Iriarte, who died in 1776, leaving behind him three nephews of distinguished abilities, published a first volume of the Greek manuscripts, in the library of Madrid; a continuation is expected from the librarians who are appointed to compleat the work. To a member of the same academy, Father Florez, Spain is also already indebted for several volumes of the ecclesiastical history of the nation, which in his hands was, in truth, only an irregular compilation of documents, become very scarce, or entirely unknown, but it has acquired a more pleasing form by the care of his continuator,

tinuator, Father Rifco, an Augustin monk.

Several other writers, well acquainted with what relates to their country, are employed in giving a clear history of it, and instructing their fellow citizens in matters of policy, and the science of government. They have naturalized in their language such French and English works as the Spanish orthodoxy would permit; those, for instance, which treat of trades and arts. They are at present translating two of the works of Linnæus, and the natural history of M. de Buffon. When I was in Spain the French *Dictionnaire Encyclopédique*, was undertaken to be translated by subscription; and those who believe that in that kingdom every person is subjected to the yoke of bigotry and fanaticism were not a little surprized to see the name of the grand inquisitor at the head of the list of subscribers; for it is to be remembered there was a very numerous list of subscribers for the new *encyclopédie*, in numbers. But the
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writer of the article Spain, heated with national prejudices, without having any knowledge of the country otherwise than by vain declamations, or unfaithful relations, wantonly vilified a whole nation, which from its weight in the balance of Europe, its virtues, and intimate connexion with our own, he ought to have respected.

The Spanish government highly resented so unmerited an insult, and the French court determined to redress its complaints with all the warmth of friendship and the rigour of justice. The author, censor, and printer were severely reprimanded; and the publication of the new encyclopédie was suspended by order of the court. The Spanish minister, however, though offended, was not implacable, he resented the affront, but would not exclude knowledge, and soon afterward revoked the suspension, at the same time taking measures to erase the errors and invectives from a work of which he knew the merit. Before
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the numbers are distributed to the subscribers, they are examined by the council of Castile. At the time the court of Spain took offence at the article above-mentioned, a Spanish ecclesiastic at Paris undertook the apology of his country against the indiscreet author; but even his countrymen think that, lead astray by his zeal, he carried the matter to the other extreme. He is more prodigal of eulogiums than his adversary had been of contempt and reproaches. One had refused every merit; and the other bestowed every possible excellence. According to the latter, the Spaniards excel in every art and science. Thus passion, by exaggerating, sometimes injures the cause it means to defend. In this discussion, as in all others, reason seeks and finds the truth only in the just medium.

There are undoubtedly in Spain more learned men who modestly cultivate the sciences; more men of erudition who are thoroughly acquainted with
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the history and jurisprudence of their country; more distinguished men of letters and a greater number of poets, who have energy and a fertile and brilliant imagination than is generally imagined. But according to the Spaniards themselves, the present state of letters and the sciences is far from what it was in the times of Mariana, Solis, Mendoza, Ambroise, Morales, Herrera, Saavedra, Sepulveda, Cervantes, Quevedo, Garcilaso, Calderon, Lopes de Vega, &c. &c.

The Spanish universities can no longer boast the reputation they formerly possessed; industry and population are much inferior to what they were under Ferdinand the Catholic, and his two successors. But the present government is zealously and successfully employed in endeavouring to revive those happier times. Besides the academies of which I have spoken, there is one at Madrid for the laws of Spain, another for the canon law, and a third for medicine

dicine. A taste for the arts and sciences has extended even to the provinces.

At Seville is an academy of Belles-lettres, and a medical society; at Saragossa and Valencia an academy of arts; at Valladolid, one of geography; at Granada, one of mathematics and drawing; and at Barcelona, an academy of Belles-lettres.

There were for a long time in Spain six great colleges (*collegios mayores*) into which none were admitted but young men of family, and from among whom persons qualified for every office of government were almost exclusively taken. The privileges they enjoyed became a source of abuse. They supported idleness and arrogance in the colleges, and discouraged other seminaries of education. Government struck at the root of the evil. In 1777 the colleges received a new form from which the most happy effects are expected.

Education is nevertheless still imperfect in Spain, and the expulsion of the Jesuits has made it perhaps yet more so. At that period the inconvenience of confiding youth to the care of religious orders was, perhaps, too much magnified. That of the Piaristes, known in Spain by the name of *Escolapios*, is the only one which is still in the possession of some schools. Every where else, the place of the Jesuits has been supplied by professors, who may either be ecclesiastics or lay persons, but who form no collective body nor reside under the same roof. The Jesuits, besides the property of the society, had foundations for different professorships. These were the only funds appropriated to the support of the new professors. They were sufficient for monks living in a community, but are very inadequate in the present state of things. Professorships so little lucrative cannot be sought after by persons eminent for learning and talents. The education of youth suffers therefore by the change and this is a circumstance
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of sufficient importance to deserve the attention of government.

Much, however, has already been done for military education. The king has established a school for artillery at Segovia, a riding school at Ocanna, one of engineers at Carthagena, and another for tactics at Avila, whence it has lately been removed to Port Santa Maria.

Manufactures at the beginning of the present century were greatly on the decline. The three sovereigns of the house of Bourbon have made efforts to revive them. There are manufactures of common cloths at Escaray in Biscay, at Bocairente, at Ontemente, and at Alcoy in the kingdom of Valencia, and at Grazalema in Andalusia; and we have already seen the encouragement given by the present sovereign to the manufacture of fine cloths at Guadalaxara and Segovia. In the course of this work we shall have occasion to speak of several others, and it will be seen that those of silk in particular

lar have engaged the attention of government. There is one for hats at Madrid, as also at Badajoz and Seville, and foreign manufactures already feel the competition : for there is this fatality in the present constitution of Europe, that no nation can prosper in any branch of commerce without being prejudicial to its neighbours. But in this struggle of jarring interests murmurs are improper and complaints useless. Nothing is just or efficacious but the efforts of industry, activity, and oeconomy.

Spain also owes to the sovereigns of the house of Bourbon the few roads and canals she possesses. The government is well convinced how much the want of these is felt, and is taking every means to supply the deficiency. There are already fine roads in Biscay and Navarre ; those which terminate in the capital announce the residence of a great monarch. Fine ones have been begun between Aranjuez and Valencia ; in Galicia, from the Corogne to Pontevedra ; to the

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north of Castile, from Reynosa to the sea, and in some other parts of the peninsula. But the able minister who presides over this department causes them to be carried on with that prudent slowness which alone insures the success of expensive undertakings. His plans also have been somewhat deranged by the war, which even when it is successful causes an exchange of real and solid advantages for a little glory. This minister is more particularly attentive to improve and complete the principal road which entirely crosses Spain from Bayonne to Cadiz, passing by Madrid. The advantage unknown until within these two years, of travelling in a post-chaise, the hundred leagues which separate the two last cities, is to be ascribed to him.

We have seen what he has already done for the canal of Arragon. That of Castile, long since begun, will soon engage his attention. The canal projected in Murcia has been found impracticable ;

licable; the subscribers, instead of the profits which their avidity grasped at, must content themselves with the interest the king pays them, and have in the unimpeachable probity of the monarch a sufficient security for their money. Last year the minister adopted a project much more brilliant and useful than that he was obliged to abandon; that of a canal, which beginning at the foot of the mountains of Guadarrama near the Escorial, proceeds to join the Tagus, afterwards the Guadiana, and terminates at the Guadalquivir above Anduxar, and which consequently will give new life and activity to the center of Spain, the least populous and most barren part of the kingdom. A Frenchman of abilities named le Maur, gave in the plan, and was preparing to carry it into execution, but died soon afterwards. The impulse, however, was given, the money subscribed, and the estimate made. The undertaking is continued by the sons of le Maur, who in-

herit from their father all his plans and a portion of his talents.

But that which more particularly contributes to the prosperity of Spain is the modern institution of patriotic societies, known by the name of *friends to the country*. The example was given in Biscay; as was natural to expect in a province where industry and patriotism reign in every mind. It was soon followed by the other provinces, and by the capital, in which a patriotic society was established in 1775. At the end of the last year there were already forty-four. The name of these institutions indicates their aim. The members of which they are composed, encourage the progress of the arts and the agriculture and industry of their provinces. They propose questions relative to these objects, and give premiums to those who discuss them best. They awaken the industry of their fellow citizens, animate their zeal, solicit their information, give encourage-

encouragement to artificers, assistance and advice to the peasants, and cause the patriotic ardour, with which they are animated, to circulate through every class of citizens. Never did a laudable institution make more rapid progress or produce more general effect. Those who never see the advancement of good but with an envious eye, or whose methodical supineness is disgusted with novelty, and those whose self-love is mortified by success to which they do not contribute, have endeavoured to throw ridicule upon these societies; they have pretended that the members talked much but performed little; that they exaggerated their importance, and discussed trifles with pompous gravity. Undoubtedly they have not yet done every thing which may be done; their slender funds circumscribe their progress; but the great point was to rouse their country from its stupor, and to offer a stimulus to the talents of artists, and the labour of husbandmen; to excite their emulation by the prospect of fame, and their interest

by the hope of gain. This is what the societies have already effected. The leisure and savings of peace enable government to furnish the means of increasing their beneficence. At the representation made by the principals of these societies, their funds, which consist in a great measure of voluntary contributions, were increased to a stock which may be compared to that of the *Economats* in France*. The sovereign whose piety is rational, and to whom the communication of beneficial projects is all that is necessary to prevail on him to adopt them, has thought proper to dedicate to the encouragement of these societies a part of the revenues of the church, the vacant benefices of which he enjoys for a certain time. In a less enlightened age such an employment of this property would have been called a profanation. The Spanish government, on the contrary, think that making it contribute

* In one sense the funds arising from the revenues of vacant benefices.

to the prosperity of the state is to sanctify its use. The object of pious foundations was much less to bestow on ecclesiastics an opulence hurtful to the true interests of religion, than to provide for the wants of the poor, to banish poverty, and employ that idleness which necessarily increases indigence. These were the intentions of the founders, and this is the reasoning of a country which prejudice supposes to be still enslaved by the superstitious bigotry of the fourteenth century.

The patriotic societies have received other encouragements from government. Enlightened by them it has revived laws which had fallen into disuse. It has excluded such foreign merchandize as might be prejudicial to the national manufactures, and has procured to these such workmen as may improve and perfect them. These measures have already been prejudicial, and will become still more so, to other manufacturing and commercial nations; they may excite in

them murmurs and alarm, they will undoubtedly reanimate their activity and vigilance, but cannot but be applauded by real patriots.

The patriotic society of Madrid is distinguished from the others only by the more immediate protection of government, and by its situation, which gives it a greater facility of acquiring information and assistance. It has, perhaps, fewer objects, on which to exercise its zeal, because that the productions of new Castile, in the center of which it is placed, are less various than those of the other provinces, and because that its industry is more confined. But it is attentive to the improvement of agriculture in the environs of Madrid, and to furnish the children of both sexes and the poor of that capital with employment. A perfect equality is the most sacred law of all these societies; rank is unknown in them; the archbishop of Toledo, and the duke of Medina Celi may there be placed by the
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side of an artisan, and information is collected from whatever source it may come.

As Madrid is the chief center of arts and sciences, so is it that of government. Although the monarch resides there but a few weeks in the year, and his ministers are always near his person, this city is the seat of government, and of the supreme tribunals. We shall take a view of them all; and this will naturally lead us to speak of the laws, religion, finances, and military force of Spain.

The council of Castile holds the first rank among the councils and tribunals of the kingdom; there is nothing in France which can be compared to it: it is at once a council of administration which has the inspection of all the interior operations of government, and a sovereign tribunal that has an exclusive cognizance of certain causes, and in certain