

first to oblige us; our hands were soon filled, and we were strongly solicited to fill our pockets also. Some of the peasants went to procure us fowl and fresh eggs; we had great difficulty in preventing them from being offended at our refusal, and regretted we had no other interpreter than our looks and gestures. We were obliged, at last, to leave them; but as we had rambled without directing our steps to any particular place, and were unable, without a guide, to find the way back to our inn, our benefactors now caused us some embarrassment, as each wished to become our guide. Those whose services were not accepted, kept, for a long time, their eyes fixed upon us. They could not but easily discover that we were surprized at their hospitality. We left them some marks of our acknowledgment, which they received in such a manner as proved to us the disinterestedness of the reception we had met with. We seemed to quit those amiable natives of the South-sea islands, whom Messrs. Cook and Bougainville have taught us to love,

love, and yet we were not twenty leagues from Bayonne.

These Biscayans, who are so different in their language and appearance from the Castilians, are not less so in the constitution of their country. Their province is considered, in many respects, as beyond the Spanish frontiers. Except a few restrictions, all merchandize enters, and is never examined but at the interior limits. The province has other privileges of which the people are very jealous, but so precarious a possession is liberty, that these have recently been more than once attacked. The most moderate government suffers with regret the shackles with which liberty confines its authority. If the king be in want of a certain number of soldiers or sailors, he notifies his wishes to the province, and the people find the most easy means of furnishing their contingency. The taxes which they pay have the name and form of free gifts (*donativo*). The monarch, by his minister of finances, requires a certain sum, the demand is discussed

cuffed by the states, and, as it may be imagined, is always acquiesced in. They then levy the sum upon the different cities and communities, according to a register, which, like that of the *tailles* in France, suffers frequent modifications. There is one advantage derived from this mode of levying; the impost being paid from the city grants, individuals are not exposed either to seizure or constraint. It therefore seems, in the first point of view, that Biscay taxes itself; and, for want of the reality, the inhabitants cherish this shadow, to which, for some years past, they have made real sacrifices. The free commerce of Spanish America might be extended to their ports, if the Biscayans would allow the necessary duties to be there paid; but they look upon custom-house officers as the creatures of despotism, and their jealousy rejects the proffered benefits of the sovereign. They can make no commercial expedition to America, without preparing for it in a neighbouring port, and the most industrious people of Spain, the most experienced in navigation,

gation, and the best situated for such a commerce, sacrifice a part of these advantages to that of preserving some small remains of liberty. Thus, before the war which gave independence to British America, all the inhabitants of one of the provinces engaged themselves, by an oath, not to eat lamb, in order to increase the growth of wool, with the intention of rendering useless the manufactures of the mother country.

In fact, the Biscayans have had from the beginning of the present century an advantage over the Spaniards, relative to the commerce of America. The company of Caracas, known also by the name of that of Guipuscoa, had warehouses upon the coast, and made voyages from one of their ports; but this company has lately been unfortunate, on which account government has determined to relieve it from a burden, which from circumstances became highly inconvenient. Exempted therefore from contributing to the expences of government, its commerce may be re-
newed.

newed with the colony of Caracas, without having reason to fear, for many years, those competitors who have been permitted the same liberty of traffic.

Biscay is remarkable for its roads, cultivation, and privileges, but more particularly for the industry of its inhabitants. This is chiefly exercised upon iron, the principal production of the province. In order to improve this manufacture, the Biscayans have recourse to foreign correspondence, public lectures, and travelling. At Bergara there is a patriotic school, where metallurgy is taught by the most able professors. Students in chymistry have been sent to Sweden and Germany, where they have acquired, as well in the bowels of the earth as in the shops of manufacturers, such knowledge as has already been profitable to their country; for this word is not a vain sound in Biscay. The inhabitants, separated by their situation, language, and privileges, weak as they are, and confined within narrow limits, are called by Nature

ture and Policy to feel the spirit of patriotism, and are obedient to the call. This noble sentiment produced the school of Bergara, where the nobility of the country are brought up at the expence of the states; and, not long ago, the same patriotism has given new employment to the industry of the Biscayans by digging the port of Deva.

There are several other such harbours upon their coasts, which merit the traveller's attention. Bilboa, the capital of Biscay, properly so called, has one where commerce is in the most flourishing state, and whence an intercourse is maintained with France, Holland, and England. I did not visit this city, it being too far from the great road from Bayonne to Madrid, but I made a little circuit to go to two other nearer ports. I left the great road at Arnani, to cross by a fine road the mountains which separate it from the sea. From their tops is seen the little city of St. Sebastian, which is joined to the Continent by a narrow neck of low land. The port, if an
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artificial harbour can be so called, is very narrow, and adapted, by moles, for fifteen or twenty vessels, which are there placed as in so many drawers. It is sheltered by an eminence, on which the ruins of an old castle are discovered. From St. Sebastian I kept along the sea coast, travelling over mountains that surround a bay called the *Port of the Passage*, and which resembles rather a great pond than a gulph of the ocean. As soon as I arrived at the inner confines, I was beset by a troop of female Biscayans, who spoke to me with some vehemence, without my understanding a word of what they uttered. I was for some time embarrassed to discover the intention of this seeming banditti; and must confess, that had not a little shame prevented me, I should have shewn some marks of fear. They soon, however, became more calm, and by some words, almost French, I understood that these rivals disputed with each other the good fortune of carrying me over to the other side of the harbour. I recovered from my alarm, and threw the
apple

apple to the prettiest of the women. It was not an apple of discord; she who had obtained the preference, modestly enjoyed her triumph, without so much as exciting envy. Notwithstanding the presence of my amiable boat-woman, the space I had to cross appeared to be about half a league; at length I arrived at the little town of the Passage, built in the very narrow space between the mountains and the harbour; and climbed up to the castle, which commands its narrow entrance. From this castle there is, on one side, a view of the spacious bay, and, on the other, of the open sea.

It is from the Port of the Passage that the company of Guipuscoa fits out vessels for the coast of Caracas. After having admired the singular form of this harbour, one of the largest and, perhaps, the safest in Europe, I returned to St. Sebastian, and again entered the road to Vittoria.

This city, the capital of the province of Alava, one of the three of Biscay, is seen as we descend from the mountains;

it stands in the middle of a well cultivated plain, abounding in villages; the town is ill built, and the streets badly contrived; it, however, exhibits the appearance of activity and industry. As I passed through it, I observed a square newly begun, which at my return was compleatly finished. Each side contains nineteen arcades, and one of the fronts of which is that of the town or mansion-house. The pillars are of the Tuscan order. This edifice, notwithstanding some defects, would be an ornament to a city more considerable than that of Vittoria: the plan was not given by a foreign architect, but by M. Olarvide, a native of Vittoria. There is a pleasure in seeing a citizen dedicate his talents to the embellishment of his native country, in which he has improved them. This is no less natural than pleasing; why therefore should it be thought extraordinary?

Five leagues beyond the Vittoria, the Ebro, which divides the town of Miranda into two unequal parts, the principal of which is that on the left bank, makes its appearance. This river is one of those
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objects aggrandized by the magic colours of history, and is found much inferior to the reputation it has acquired. It is true that at Miranda it is near its source, which is at the feet of the mountains of the kingdom of Leon; but although it formerly served as a boundary to the conquests of Charlemagne, it has not hitherto been made navigable. It remains for the present first minister to realize a project, the execution of which would, as it is presumed, give new life to Navarre, Aragon, and Catalonia. In the year 1785, the famous canal of Arragon began to justify the hopes which had been entertained of it since the reign of Charles V. Some small vessels from Tudela arrived at Saragossa, where they were received with the most lively demonstrations of joy and gratitude.

Don Ramon Pignatelli did not think he derogated from the dignity of an ecclesiastic, nor from that of his illustrious birth, in devoting his studies to the service of his country. He presides over this

undertaking, which, when accomplished, will open a new conveyance to the productions of Arragon, one of the provinces of Spain, the most favoured by Nature, and yet one of the least productive relatively to its extent. Two canals, that of Taufte and the Imperial Canal, both of which begin in Navarre, and have the same depth of water, run in various windings through Arragon, and by turns recede from or approach the Ebro, till they, at length, fall into it. These streams are the sources of industry to all the districts through which they flow, and render their fields fertile by their fructifying waters. The country of Arragon is already planted with thousands of olive and other trees. The cities and towns which formerly were condemned to drought and scarcity, are now supplied with fish and water from these canals. The rivers which from the north of Navarre and Arragon, formerly emptied their waters into the Ebro, will contribute to the flourishing condition of the countries they have hitherto uselessly watered, as soon

as the Ebro can receive the merchandize they bring. This undertaking has been effected by labours, which deserve no less admiration than that excited by the wonders of the canal of Languedoc. Besides the dykes, banks, and sluices, with the larger and smaller bridges, which the two canals in their course rendered necessary; there has been constructed in the vally of Riojalon an aqueduct seven hundred and ten fathoms in length, and seventeen feet thick at the base, in which the little river runs.

Let us now quit the banks of the Ebro, and enter Castile; for we have not yet reached its spacious plains. On leaving Miranda, I discovered the rocks of *Pancorvo*, which have a most picturesque appearance, and have already exercised the pencil of several travellers. The village of *Pancorvo*, three leagues from Miranda, is buried, if I may so say, among the rocks. They scarcely leave a narrow passage for the great road, which is overshadowed by their threatening summits. Five

leagues farther on, we pass through the small city of Bribiesca, enclosed by a wall which has four gates, placed at equal distances. The inhabitants are not opulent, but appear to be active. On leaving Bribiesca to go to Burgos, we meet with two steep hills; and here to quiet our fears, it is necessary to have an unlimited confidence in the docility and sure-footedness of the mules, and the care of their drivers. Near Burgos the road becomes tolerable. This city, the capital of old Castile, is very agreeably situated; the greatest part of it is on the right of the Arlançon, over which there are three bridges. That river describes an arch of a circle round Burgos, and on the other side is a hill, upon which there still remain some ruins of an old fort. The Arlançon embellishes and fertilises all the environs; it renders flourishing the plantations which serve as public walks, waters the verdant meadows, and washes the walls of two remarkable edifices, situated below the city; the first is the monastery *de las Huelgas*, a convent of nuns, the abbess of which has considerable privileges; the

the other is the *Hopital del Rey*, the Royal or King's Hospital, remarkable for the extreme cleanliness preserved in it, and the healthiness of its situation. The most polished nations might take example from the Spaniards with respect to these charitable foundations. A cruel prejudice has not yet made them fear that the wretched should there find themselves sufficiently comforted to see, without repugnance, this asylum open to their misery.

There is nothing remarkable in Burgos except its cathedral, one of the most magnificent and the best preserved of the ancient Gothic edifices. The traveller is not a little surprized at finding in one of the chapels a picture by Michael Angelo Buonarotti, representing the Virgin dressing the infant Jesus, who is standing upon a table. The noble air which Michael Angelo gave to his figures is very observable in these, as is also the strength and correctness of design, to which he frequently sacrificed grace. The cathedral is at the extremity of the city, almost op-

posite to one of the three bridges over the Arlançon. On the other side of the same bridge is a suburb, where, as throughout the kingdom of Spain, is a miraculous image known by the name of *Santo Christo de Burgos*. It is kept in a dark chapel, perfumed with incense, and full of *ex voto's* and silver lamps, and into which persons are introduced in a manner so mysterious, as to have something awful even to those who are no ways inclined to superstition. As soon as the curious are within the chapel, and on their knees, the wax tapers of the altar, on which the crucifix stands, are lighted. The crucifix is concealed behind three curtains, that are drawn one after the other with a studied slowness, which still adds to the religious solemnity. Simple people believe that its beard grows. Devotees attribute to it many miracles, but impartial eyes can discover in it nothing extraordinary.

The Arlançon again presents itself to view on leaving Burgos, and is scarcely ever lost sight of in any part of the road

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to Villadrigo; a very agreeable village, to the right of the river, at the bottom of a vast plain, tolerably cultivated, and less destitute of trees than the rest of Castile.

We next perceive the Pisuerga, a little river which runs from north to south, and the waters of which it was intended should be made to supply the canal of Castile, projected and begun in the preceding reign. This project was afterwards almost abandoned, to the great prejudice of old Castile, which only waits for such an opening for the sale and increase of its productions. The canal was to begin at Segovia, and following the course of the Eresma, which falls into the Duero, to be continued as far north as Reynosa, receiving from the little rivers, in its passage, the tribute of their waters. Reynosa is but twenty leagues from Saint-Ande, a seaport, where all the merchandize exported from old Castile is shipped. A road, which will be destroyed before the canal is finished,

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has been made to facilitate a communication by land.

Continuing our way along the banks of the Pisuerga, which has led me into this digression, and after having passed two steep hills, the feet of which are washed by the river, we arrive at *Quintana de la Puente*, near to a bridge of eighteen arches, and *Torquemada*, one of the most dirty and wretched towns in Spain. The Pisuerga is again to be crossed here over a bridge of twenty-six arches, and which has lately been almost wholly rebuilt. Were it not for this river, the banks of which are extremely pleasant, and embellished at small distances by groups of trees, nothing could be more dull and less varied than the road from Villadrigo to Duennas. Before we arrive at the latter town, which stands upon rather a steep hill, by the side of the Pisuerga, which in this place receives the river of Carrion; we see on the left the great monastery of St. Isidro, and on the side opposite, a new road, begun in 1784, by the governor
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of Palencia, whose residence is but two leagues from Duennas. It was made at the expence of the neighbouring communities, and may serve as a model in any country. This, like many other modern works, proves that in Spain, as well as other countries, a love for the public good, and an active disposition, may undertake any thing for general utility, provided the means employed to effect it be not oppressive.

From the hills of Duennas, the country is quite flat and naked to Valladolid, a considerable city, situated near the Pisuerga, and on the banks of the Esquava, a small river, upon which are established a few washing places for the wool of the neighbouring country. Valladolid is well peopled, and seems lively enough, especially at the fair which is held towards the end of September, but the streets are so dirty as to be disgusting both to the sight and smell; people however may, no doubt, accustom themselves to this inconvenience as well as to many others.

Several

Several of the churches of Valladolid, those especially of the Dominicans and of *San Benito*, are elegant, agreeable to the Spanish taste, that is handsome and full of altars richly gilt. They moreover contain some tombs of white marble, admirably sculptured. The sculptures, as well in coloured wood as in marble, in detached groups or bas relief, may be traced back to the revival of the arts in Spain; an epocha which produced Juan de Juni, Berruguete, Becerra, and others, who would do honour to more enlightened ages.

The cathedral of Valladolid engaged my attention. This, even towards the end of the year 1785, was but an enormous mass of dark-coloured stone, without the least ornament. The pilasters round the nave are of the Doric order, the proportions of which are observed with the greatest accuracy. The cathedral may in time be embellished by art, but it will be impossible to remove a striking defect, which is that on entering, a high wall behind

behind the choir is the first object that presents itself to view, and hides the rest of the church. I was still more astonished at not finding in Valladolid, a great city, the residence of a bishop and chapter, the seat of an university, one of the six great colleges of the kingdom, and one of the two supreme tribunals of Spain, any such thing as a map or chart to be sold, nor a single copy of Don Quixot. But in amends, there are convents in great plenty. At one end of Valladolid is an enormous square, called the *Campo-Grande*, from which are seen thirteen others.

Valladolid is not wholly without manufactures, some stuffs and coarse cloths are made there from the wool of the sheep which are kept in the neighbourhood. There are also gold and silversmiths, and one street is entirely inhabited by jewellers. This is very lively and full of business, as are all the others which terminate in the great square.

Olmedo,

Olmedo is separated from Valladolid by eight leagues of sandy soil. In all this distance there is no other verdure to be seen than that of a dull forest of pines, at first to the left of the road which afterwards passes through it. Valdefillas is half way, and a league farther on we pass the Duero over a handsome bridge, to the right of which there are some houses underground, and detached vaults, in which the wine made in that part of the country is kept.

Olmedo is seated upon an eminence, in the middle of a plain, which appears almost unbounded on every side, except to the north-east, in which direction are seen some barren hills. This city, which was formerly strong, is still partly enclosed by thick walls three quarters of a league in extent. It has very few inhabitants or manufactures, and its whole internal appearance announces its decay. I will mention but one cause which will also be a proof of its present ruinous condition. There are still seven parishes and as many
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convents. A few bricks are made in or near the town, and the inhabitants feed hogs and turkeys. There are some vineyards in the neighbourhood, and a few kitchen gardens under the ancient walls. These constitute all the riches of Olmedo.

Segovia is eleven leagues from Olmedo. The country round this city is the most barren, poor and depopulated part of all Castile. We pass through some towns, such as *Santa Maria de Nieva*, and Giusti, and perceive the turrets of the castle of Segovia and the steeple of the cathedral at a considerable distance. The traveller suffers much from impatience before he arrives at this city; he has several circuits to make with many painful and tedious efforts before he has climbed, as it were, up to the square of Segovia.

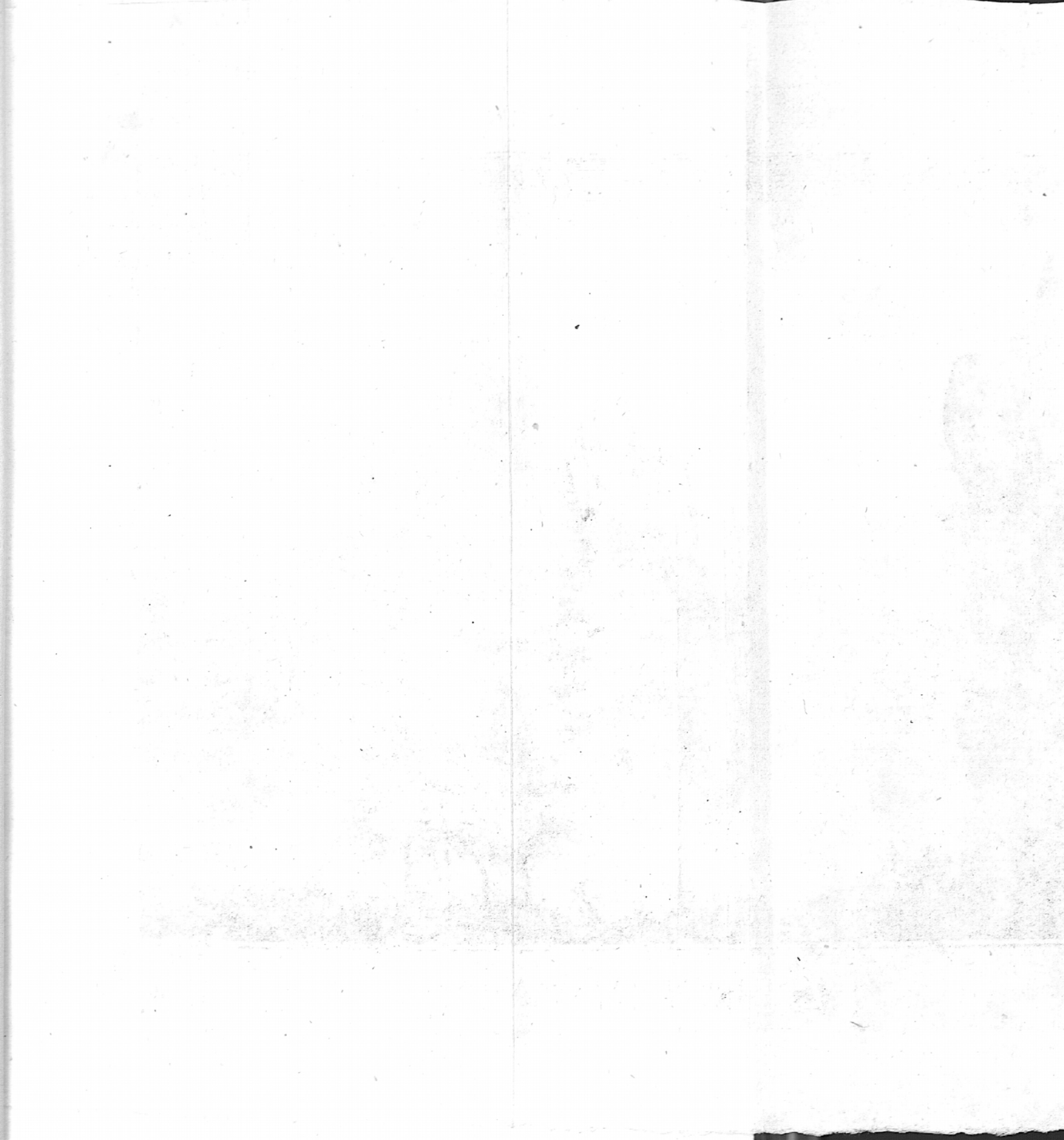
As he approaches, he sees to the right an old castle, built upon the summit of a steep rock; and to the left, a valley watered by a little river from which it receives its verdure. His imagination is by turns exalted

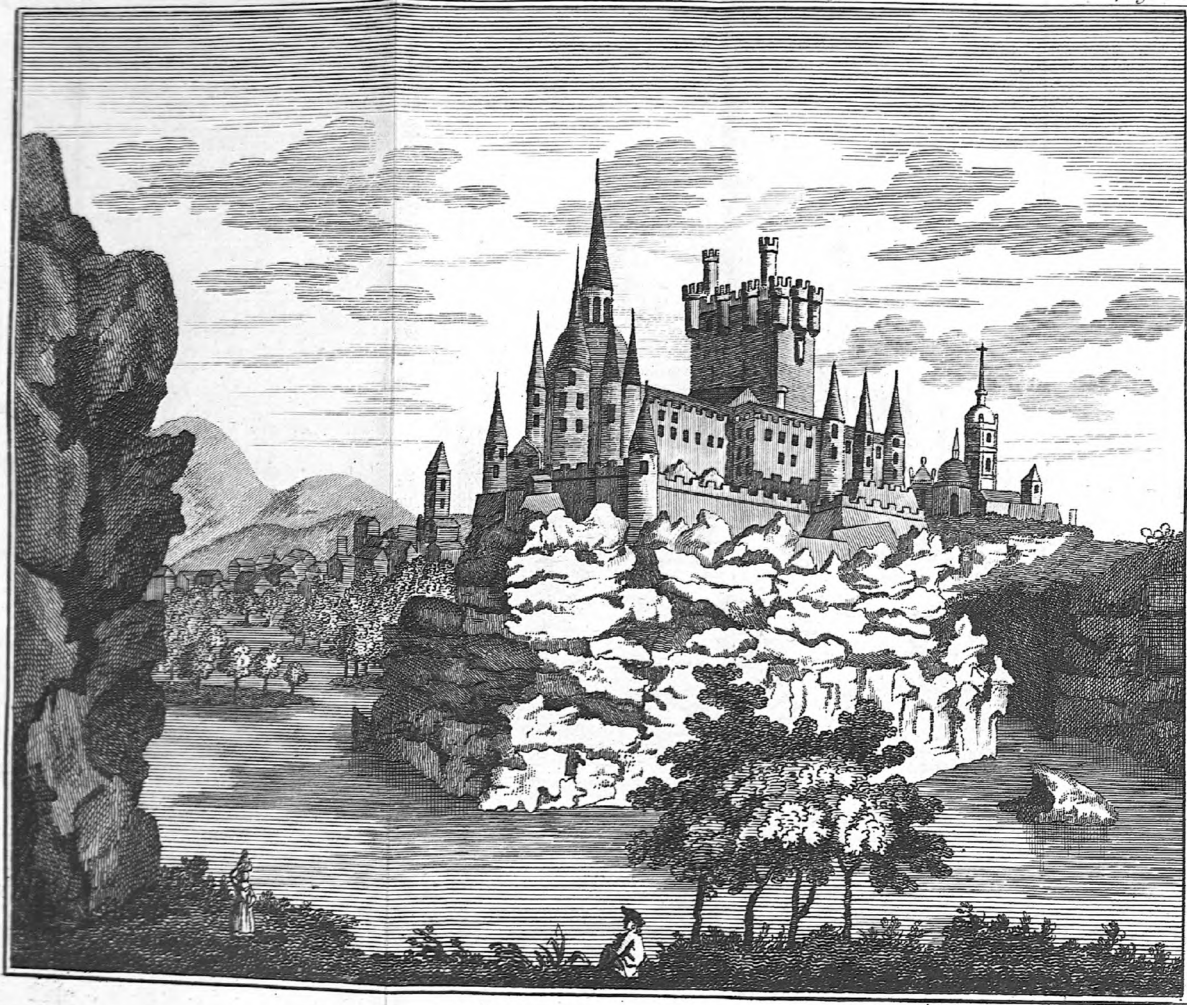
alted and delighted. He forgets the parched and barren country he has passed through, and of which he will find a continuation on leaving Segovia, because he is wholly intent on the fine prospects by which he is surrounded.

Let us now enter this city which formerly was famous on several accounts, and notwithstanding its dirtiness, and the small number of its inhabitants, is still not unworthy the attention of the traveller. Its principal edifices are the cathedral and the castle or Alcazar.

The cathedral is a mixture of the gothic and moorish architecture. The inside is very spacious and of majestic simplicity. The windows are well disposed, and the great altar has been lately decorated with the finest Grenadian marble. It is to be regretted that in this cathedral, as well as in most others of Spain, the choir is placed in the middle of the nave.

The





CASTLE of SEGOVIA or ALCAZAR.

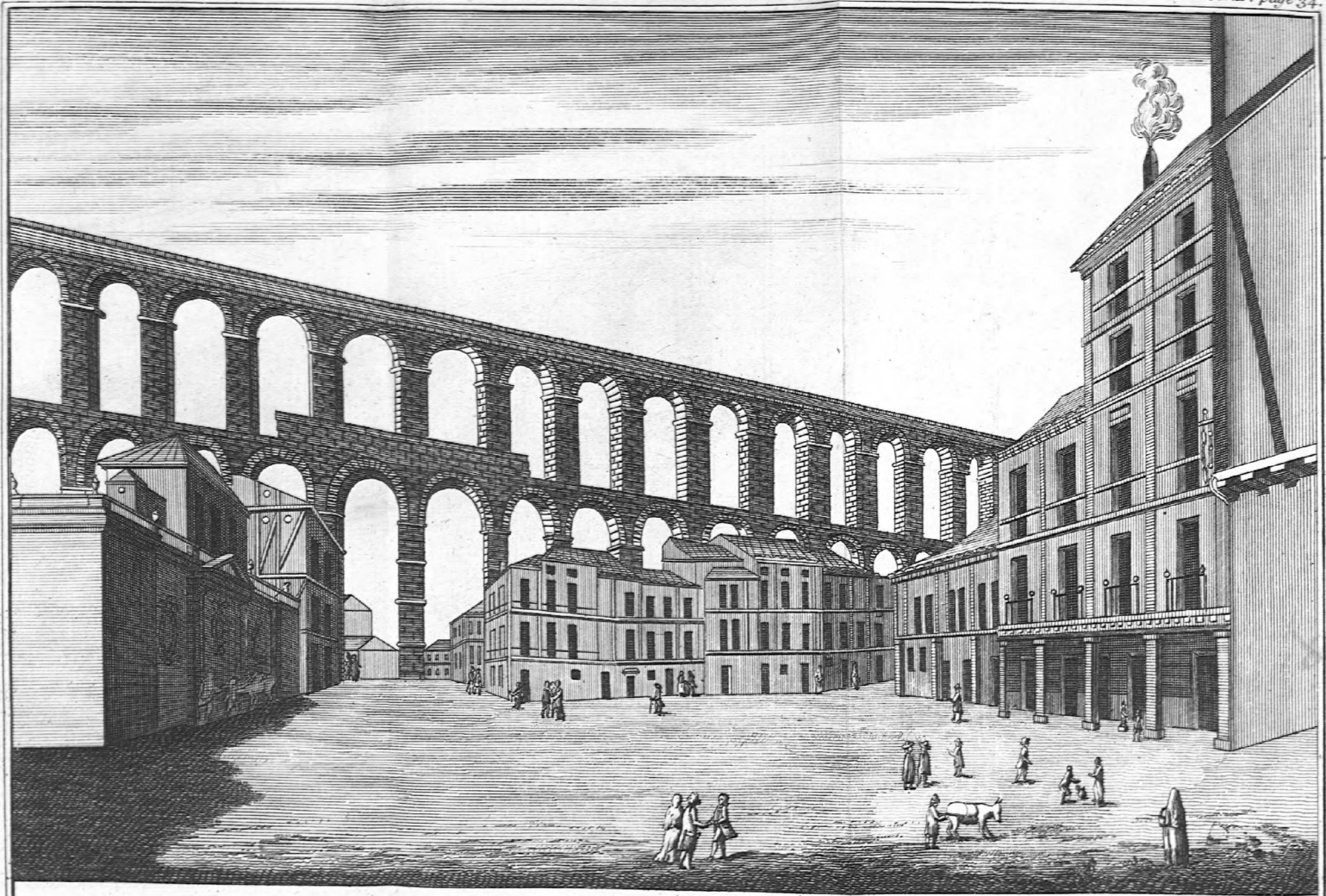
The Alcazar of Segovia, formerly the residence of the Gothic kings, is a well preserved edifice. Within these few years a military school has been established in it, for young gentlemen intended for the artillery. Their education in every particular does the greatest honour to the person who presides over it, the Count de Lacy, inspector general of the department.

The Alcazar was for a long time made use of as a prison for the crews of the barbary corsairs who fell into the hands of the Spaniards. It was impossible to see, without compassion, those robust Moors, condemned to a painful idleness, and devoting themselves to sedentary employments. They were however never treated with rigour, and the court of Spain has restored them to their country since the Spanish monarch has formed connexions with the Emperor.

But nothing is more worthy the attention of curiosity at Segovia, than the

aqueduct which the singular situation of the city renders necessary. Segovia is built upon two hills, and the valley by which they are separated; it besides extends considerably in every direction.

This position made it very difficult for a part of the citizens to be supplied with water. The difficulty was removed, according to the learned, in the reign of Trajan, by an aqueduct, which until this day is one of the most astonishing, and the best preserved, of the Roman works. It begins on a level with the rivulet it receives, and is, at first, supported by a single line of arches three feet high; it runs by a gentle ascent to the summit of a hill on the other side of the city, and appears to become more elevated in proportion as the ground over which it is extended declines. At its highest part it has the appearance of a bridge boldly thrown over a prodigious abyss. It has two branches which form an obtuse angle, relatively to the city. It is at this an-
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AQUEDUCT of SEGOVIA seen from the SQUARE del AZOGUEJO.