

that the thirty philosophers and physicians, who composed and put in order the works known under the name of Avicenna, were formed: this is confirmed by Garalai, by which prince they were supposed to have been written, because they were dedicated to him. Amongst the learned Moors, to whom Cordoua gave birth, were Albermarcar, Abramo and Mesalco, physicians, astrologers and philosophers: Rashez Almanzor, known by a number of curious medical works, and the history he wrote of the conquest of Spain; Averroes, called, by way of eminence, the Commentator; and Aben Regid, who wrote the work, intitled, *Of the division and conquest of Spain.*

LA MANCHA.

THE first village in this country famous for the amours and adventures of Don Quixote, is El Vizo. The first women I saw there appeared to me handsome and well made, and I observed that the dress and manners, which Cervantes has so well described in his inimitable work, are still to be found in that district. There is no labourer nor young female peasant who is not well acquainted with Don Quixote and Sancho; and in the *Venta* of *Quesada*, there is a well which still bears his name, that being the place where the valorous knight is supposed to have passed the whole night under arms. Such is the fate and reward of men of genius: their works acquire fame, and have their monuments even in the country of the authors.

El Vifo is a confiderable village. The young women are employed in fpinning the fineft wool of the country, and, after getting the yarn died of feveral colours, make it into garters extremely well wrought, and ornamented with witty devices. Val de Penas, four leagues from Vifo, is another confiderable village famous for its red wine, which is the beft and moft wholefome in Spain: it is much efteemed in Madrid, and ferved at the king's table. The environs of this village are well cultivated, and the road is good and even to Manzanares, a little village, in which I remarked the livelinefs for which La Mancha is fo celebrated.

This is the moft chearful country in Spain; the inhabitants are affable, and great lovers of mufic and dancing: the women are tall, well made, and have handsome features. A player upon the guittar, and a fnger of feguidillas are perfons in great request in this part of the country. The girls, young men,
and

and married women assemble at the first found of the instrument; the concourse is generally at the *Posada*, as the most convenient and extensive place; the best voices sing *feguidillas*, and the blind accompany them upon their instruments. The stranger is astonished at seeing a labourer in the dress of Sancho, and wearing a broad leathern girdle, become an agreeable dancer, and perform all his steps with grace, precision and measure. The women besides have a *Meneo*, as it is called, or a certain rapid movement, a flexibility, a yielding attitude, such voluptuous postures and steps so languishing, graceful, varied and just, that while seeing a pretty woman dance, a philosopher would find his wisdom troublesome.

La Mancha is the province of Spain in which the inhabitants sing and dance the most: their songs and *feguidillas* are peculiar to that part of the kingdom; and it is to be remarked, that to singing and dancing the *Manchegas* add
the

the merit of poetry. The Seguidillas composed in French are in much esteem throughout all Spain. Most of them are voluptuous, and turn on the subject of love or absence. Some are satirical. The sentiments of several which I have heard repeated were delicate and poetically expressed.

The cinnabar mine of Almaden; which, according to Mr. Bowles, is the richest of the kind yet found, the most curious for its properties, and one of the most ancient that has ever been worked, is in La Mancha. The church, and a great part of the village of Almaden, which contains upwards of three hundred houses, were built from the produce of the cinnabar, and all the inhabitants subsist by the mine. The exhalations of the mercury are not dangerous to men, animals, or plants, as has been supposed; the galley slaves sent to work the mine, are robust and healthy, though several among them are wicked enough to feign being ill of the palsy.

Each of these costs the state twenty-pence a day, and there is not a labourer in Almaden who has not offered to do more work for half the price.

The direction of the mountain is from north-east to south-west. M. de Juffier has given a very good description of the furnaces used to extract the mercury; which is inserted in the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences for the year 1719. The invention of these furnaces is due to a Spaniard, Don Juan Alfonso de Bustamante, and they are at present used in Hungary. Five or six thousand quintals of mercury are annually produced from the mine of Almaden, a part of which is used in extracting silver from the mines of Mexico. The Spaniards first discovered and employed this simple and ingenious means in 1566, in the districts where wood was scarce. It is true, that before that time, the gold mines of Hungary were worked with amalgama. The Spaniards contrived to render a mineral stone, in which the
metal

metal was imperceptible, into impalpable powder, and to form from it masses of twenty-five quintals; afterwards to mix it with green copperas and lime, reduced also to very fine powder, a certain quantity of water, and thirty pounds of mercury, in distinct portions, and not all at once. The mass formed of these different substances is frequently stirred, and the fixed alkali of the lime being dissolved by the motion, acts upon the acids of the salt and copperas. This action produces a fermentation and violent heat, which destroy the particles of iron or copper that may be in the mine, and the imperceptible particles of silver escape from the prison in which they are shut up, and unite with the mercury, which amalgamates with them. This mixture forms the paste which in Mexico is called *Pina*. By these means about two ounces of silver per quintal are extracted from the mine, which in the common method would not produce a sufficiency to pay for the working. The exact quantity

of mercury lost in the operation is not ascertained; the most probable opinion is, that as many ounces of mercury are lost as there are ounces of silver extracted, and the pound of mercury delivered at Mexico costs nearly as much as an ounce of silver.

At a few leagues from Manzanares is the little village of Villa-Harta, where it has been pretended that the river Guadiana runs under ground for several miles, and that the road lies over it, which it is asserted gave occasion to a Spaniard, who was a slave in Africa, to say, that his king was one of the most powerful monarchs in the world, and that among other wonders to be found in his dominions, there was a bridge seven leagues long. But this bridge is a mere fable, according to the best geographers, who assure us that the Guadiana does not really flow underground, but only runs between the windings of some high mountains which conceal it from the sight for a considerable distance,

tance, after which it again appears at the lakes called *Los ojos de la Guadiana*, or the eyes of the Guadiana.

At the distance of a league from Toledo there is a charming meadow on the banks of the Tagus, planted with several groups of trees; the meadow is called *La Huerta del Rey*, the King's Garden. The Moorish kings, when they were in possession of Toledo, had a pleasure house there.

T O L E D O,

THE origin of Toledo is uncertain. According to Silva in his enquiry concerning the manner in which Spain was peopled, some Jews established themselves in the place where Toledo now stands 540 years before Christ, and called the city they founded *Toledath*, which in their language signifies *mother of the people*. This origin is equally noble and doubtful.

We know that Toledo was a Roman colony, and made the depository of the treasures sent to Rome.

From the Romans it passed under the dominion of the Goths, Leovigild resided there, and embellished the city, which became more considerable under his successors.

The Moors took Toledo in 714, and reigned there until the year 1085, when it was taken from them by Alphonso VI. who stiled himself emperor of Toledo, whence it took, and has preserved the title of royal and imperial.

The town house called *del Ayuntamiento* is near the palace of the archbishop: its elegant architecture, said to be by Dominico Greco, is not in any respect inferior to that of the finest edifices in Toledo. The columns are doric and ionic, and the towers and other ornaments by which they are accompanied, are worthy the examination of connoisseurs.

feurs. The following verses are inscribed on the wall of the stair-case.

*Nobles discretos varones
Que gobernais a Toledo,
En aquestos escalones
Defechad las aficiones,
Codicias, amor, y miedo;
Por los comunes provechos
Dexad los particulares:
Pues vos fixo dios pilares
De tan altissimos techos,
Estad firmes y derechos.**

Toledo, as is well known, was formerly famous for the exquisite temper of the sword blades made there; and the genuine ones that still remain are sold at an exorbitant price. It is said, that the secret of hardening them has

* Noble and judicious men who govern Toledo, leave your passions on this stair-case; leave there love, fear, and the desire of gain. For the public benefit forget every private interest, and serve God: he has made you the pillars of this august palace, be ever firm and upright.

been again recovered, and experiments have been made with blades lately fabricated there, which seem to justify this assertion. When one of these has undergone the operation of tempering, if it is in the least notched by striking with it several violent blows on an iron head-piece it is rejected. Almost all that are made here, it is said, will stand this proof.

Two centuries ago Toledo contained more than two hundred thousand inhabitants, but at present it scarcely has thirty thousand. When a house falls to decay it is never rebuilt; and in twenty years more this city will be little else than a heap of ruins.

Toledo is built upon rocks, and commanded by eminences, which seem to present the image of sterility; yet, in the midst of these precipices, the traveller finds, to his surprise, several fertile and charming situations, murmuring streams, and verdant retreats, impenetrable

penetrable to the burning rays of the sun. These places are called *Cigarrales*; the road to them is rough and fatiguing, but when we have surmounted the difficulties of arriving at them, we are not easily induced to quit them.

From Toledo it is a day's journey to Madrid. The road lies through several large towns, of which Getafa is the last and the most considerable.

M A D R I D.

MADRID was long only an obscure town, appertaining to the archbishops of Toledo; but while so many flourishing and illustrious cities, enjoying every advantage of situation, have sunk into deserted villages, this town, built in a sterile and ungrateful soil, has become one of the finest cities in Europe.

On approaching Madrid, nothing announces to the traveller that he is near the capital of the Spanish monarchy. The inns within two leagues of that city are equally dirty and destitute of all conveniences with those in every other part of the kingdom. The soil appears barren, and without either trees or verdure. But on arriving at the banks of the Manzanares, a superb and extremely necessary bridge, though it has been ridiculed by the question, "where is the river?" notifies the vicinity of the royal residence. This bridge is about a thousand paces in length*, and, at the beginning, about twenty-two in breadth, though it narrows towards the center, where it is not more than twelve. It is built of cut stones, and has a parapet breast high. The

* *Mille pas*; Mr. Twiss says, it is six hundred and ninety-five feet long, and thirty-two broad: it has nine arches. The bridge of Toledo, which, according to the same traveller, is *the finest*, has also nine arches, and is three hundred and eighty feet long, and thirty-six broad.

gate

gate of the city which leads to it is called the gate of Segovia, from which the bridge has taken its name. It was built under Phillip II, after the designs of the famous John de Herrera. The bridge of Toledo, which is much more modern, cannot compare with it for beauty, as it is ornamented in an extravagant taste with arches, as are the greater part of the bridges of Spain.

Almost all the streets of Madrid are straight, wide, clean, and well paved. The largest and most frequented are the street of Alcala, that of Atocha, that of Toledo, and the *Calle grande*, or great street. Madrid has also several squares, which, in general, are not very regular. The principal are those of San Joachim, Sol, Lasganitas, San Domingo, La Cevada, and the Plaza Mayor. The latter especially deserves notice for its spaciousness and regularity, and the elegant and lofty houses it contains. It is fifteen hundred and thirty-six feet in circuit. The houses, of which there
are

are a hundred and thirty-six, are of five stories, ornamented with balconies, the first of which, supported by pillars, form a piazza round the square, where the inhabitants may walk under cover. In the middle of the square a market is kept.

The streets and squares of Madrid, except the Plaza Mayor, which I have just described, are ornamented with fountains in a very ill taste. Those most to be distinguished in this particular, are the fountain of the small irregular square called Plaza di Antonio Martin, and that of the square named Puerta del Sol. The others are not more magnificent though less ridiculous. The water of all these fountains is excellent; and the air of Madrid, though the weather be variable and uncertain, extremely pure. It was this purity of the air and excellent quality of the water which induced Philip II, and his successors to fix their residence in this city.

The

The houses are, in general, built of brick ; there are several which are large and handsome ; but I found few that are to be compared to the elegant edifices of the Rue Grenelle, or the Fauxbourg St. Honoré, at Paris.

The city of Madrid contains fifteen gates, eighteen parishes, thirty-five convents of monks, and thirty-one of nuns ; thirty-nine colleges, hospitals, or houses of charity ; seven thousand three hundred and ninety-eight dwelling houses, and about a hundred and forty thousand inhabitants. The Lombard traveller, father Caimo, tells us, that fifty thousand sheep, and twelve thousand oxen are annually consumed there ; to which his editor has added a ludicrous estimate of the onions and leeks devoured there, which he says, amount to 9700000000000000000000000000000045. But this writer would not at present have any reason to complain of the disagreeable smells of the streets, nor
would

would he find all the perfumes of Arabia necessary to defend himself from them.

The environs of Madrid present the traveller with nothing agreeable except the banks of the Manzanares, where he finds shade, coolness, and verdure; for what is called *Las Delicias* (the delights) on the side of the gate of Mocha, is little deserving of the name, as the most offensive smell continually exhales from a stagnant canal, called the canal of Manzanares, which has long been begun, but is not yet near finished. It cannot be denied but it would be of considerable utility for the facilitation of conveyance, and would work several mills which have been built on its banks; but its waters will always have so little motion that there is too much cause to fear they might give birth to fevers and putrid diseases in the four or five leagues of country through which they are to take their languid course.

ACADEMIES.

THERE are four academies in Madrid. The first is the Spanish academy founded in 1714, in imitation of the French academy, and consisting of twenty-four members, including the president. Its device is a crucible on burning coals, with the motto, *limpia, fixa, y da esplendor*; it purifies, fixes, and gives lustre. Its first object was the compilation of a dictionary of the Spanish language, which was published in six volumes folio, and of which a new edition is now preparing. The letters A and B have already appeared, and contain four thousand more words than in the former edition; and the letter C will receive still greater additions. The same academy is also employed on a superb edition of Don Quixote, adorned with elegant engravings, and collated with all the former editions.

The

The second is the academy of history, which owes its origin to a society of individuals, the object of whose meetings was to preserve and illustrate the historical monuments of the kingdom of Spain. Their labours met the approbation of Philip V. who, in 1738, confirmed their statutes by a royal cedula. This academy consists of twenty-four members, including the president, secretary, and censor. Its device is a river at its source; and the motto, *In patriam populumque fluit.*

The other two academies are the academy of the fine arts, painting, sculpture, and architecture; and the academy of Medicine. The latter is held in no great esteem.

The English reader may not, perhaps, be displeas'd with a relation of what pass'd in the academy of history at Madrid, on the subject of Dr. Robertson's History of America. This work was received in the manner it deserv'd, and
great

great praises were bestowed on the author for having spoken with more moderation than others of the cruelties exercised by the first Spaniards in the new world. A translator was chosen from among the members of the academy, that the history of Dr. Robertson might be known throughout the whole kingdom of Spain, and become, if I may so speak, a national book. M. Campomanes was desired to write to this respectable historian in the name of the academy, and to inform him that he was admitted a member, as a proof of their acknowledgement, and of the esteem they had for his work. M. Campomanes, accordingly wrote to Dr. Robertson the following letter.

“ MUI SEÑOR mio, sería *inutil* estender me en *manifestar* a V. S. quanta *estimacion* hacen los *Espanoles* literatos de sus *obras*, y los motivos que *me obligan* a escribir esta *carta*. Despues de haver *escrito* a V. S. la historia de su *patria* con tanta *concision* y acierto, emprenderò la de *Carlos V.* en la mas *delicada* crisis de Europa; *desempeno* la V. S. con *admiracion* comun, penetrando las mayores arcanos de la constitucion de nuestra Monarchia *Espanola*. Però que mucho a vista de su excelente discurso sobre el gobierno feudal desde la *décadencia* del imperio Occidental hasta el tiempo del mismo *Carlos*? En el se ven *desembueltas* por otro aspecto aquellas particulares *costumbres* que *mezclaron* la *Barbarie Tartara* con un *desprecio* alto de los *vencidos*; y un *descuido* de todas las clases de los *pueblos*, a excepcion de pocas *privilegiadas*. Ningun *verdadero amor* a las *artes*, y un *general abandono* de las *investigaciones*

“ S I R,

“ IT appears to me unnecessary to
“ inform you of the solid and merited
“ esteem which every well informed
“ Spaniard has for your works, or of the
“ motives by which I am induced to
“ write to you. After having written
“ with precision, truth, and an accuracy
“ equally admirable and worthy of you,
“ the history of your own country,
“ you undertook, in that of Charles V.
“ to describe the most delicate crisis in
“ which Europe ever was situated. In
“ this work you acquitted yourself in
“ such a manner as to gain general ad-
“ miration; you penetrated the most
“ profound secrets of our monarchy.
“ But what shall I say of your excellent
“ discourse on the feudal government,
“ from the decline of the empire of the
“ west to the age of Charles V? In this
“ we see new light thrown upon those
“ peculiar manners which the Barba-
“ rians in their proud contempt for the

“ ones utiles, substituyendo en su lugar
 “ las futilidades escolasticas, dictadas en
 “ las celdas de los solitarios o cenovitas,
 “ y trasladadas despues a las Universida-
 “ des literarias. Es cierto que los nuevos
 “ descubrimientos del Oriente, y del Oc-
 “ cidente, fueron parte para sacar la
 “ Europa del espiritu feudal. V. S. da a
 “ estos descubrimientos en sus dos pri-
 “ meros tomos de la America aquella
 “ ferie, y enlace de la historie antigua
 “ y moderna, a que pueden alcan-
 “ zar pocos hombres. Yo he leydo
 “ el primer libro con admiracion, y un
 “ gusto indecible. El mismo he adver-
 “ tido en la celebre contraverfia del
 “ obispo de Chiapa, cuya disputa resuelve
 “ V. S. con un juicio superior. Yo pen-
 “ sava escribir a V. S. por mas estenso;
 “ ahora me reduzco a remitir a V. S. el
 “ titulo de academico que la real Aca-
 “ demia de la historia, con universal
 “ aclamacion, me ha encargado de diri-
 “ girle por mano de My lord Grantham.
 “ Espero en breve, y segun lo permitan
 “ los muchos negocios que me rodean,

“ re-

“ vanquished introduced into Europe,
“ and their extreme indifference relative
“ to every city except the small number
“ of those which were privileged. At
“ that time there was no real love of
“ the arts; the most useful discoveries
“ in the sciences were abandoned, and
“ their place supplied by the subtilties of
“ the schools, first confined to the ob-
“ scure and solitary recesses of cloisters,
“ but soon afterwards brought to light
“ in literary universities.

“ It is certain that the discoveries in
“ the east and west were among the
“ causes which delivered Europe from
“ the feudal spirit. You give to these
“ discoveries, in the two first volumes
“ of your history of America, an order,
“ a continuation, and connexion so na-
“ tural between ancient and modern
“ history, that I know but few men
“ capable of doing it with equal suc-
“ cess. I have read the first book with
“ pleasure, and an admiration which I
“ cannot express. I also felt the same

“ remitir a V. S. algunas obfervaciones ;
“ y la primera acerca de fi el derecho y
“ efpiritu feudal han tenido propiamente
“ lugar en Eſpana. La traduccion que
“ fe eſta haciendo por don Ramon de
“ Guevara de la historia de los defcubri-
“ mientos de America, a viſta de la Aca-
“ demia, tiene una fraze que parece
“ original ; y al parecer exprime con
“ mucha propiedad la fluidel, y la elo-
“ quente diction del autor original. Yo,
“ en mi particular, doy a V. S. gracias
“ por las honras que me hace en fus ef-
“ critos. Mis ocupaciones fon tales
“ que no me dejan tiempo para vacar
“ feriamente a quellas detenidas compa-
“ raciones de las edades, de las coſtum-
“ bres, de la diverſidad de los gobiernos,
“ y de las cauſas que han influido en
“ las cataſtrofes politicas de las naciones
“ mas dignas. Eſto es lo que ſave de-
“ ſempenar V. S. defde fu gabinete, como
“ fi eſtubiera entre noſotros, ſin declinar
“ en parcialidad. Yo me ofreſco a V. S.
“ con todas veras, y puedo aſegurarle
“ ſin liſonja que pocos libros han podido
“ gran-

“ sentiments from the relation of the
“ celebrated dispute of the bishop of
“ Chiapa, which you have explained
“ with so much art and ability. I at
“ first imagined I should be able to write
“ to you more fully ; but, for the pre-
“ sent, I find myself confined to send-
“ ing you the title of Academician,
“ which the Royal Academy of History
“ have unanimously charged me to con-
“ vey to you by means of lord Grantham.
“ I flatter myself, if the numerous affairs
“ with which I am overwhelmed will
“ permit me, that I shall soon be able
“ to transmit to you several observa-
“ tions ; the first of which shall be upon
“ the following question: Have the
“ spirit and rights of feodality ever had
“ place in Spain ?

“ The translation which Don Ramon
“ de Guevara is writing, under the inspec-
“ tion of the academy, of your history
“ of America, is truly in an original
“ style, and appears to me to render,
“ with great propriety, the elegance, ar-
“ dour and energy of your diction.

“grangear una estimacion tan folida,
“entre las gentes de letras de este pays
“entre tanto. Pido a Dios guarde su
“vida muchos anos. Madrid y septi-
“embre 29 de 1777.”

“ I make you my personal acknow-
“ ledgements for the honour you have
“ done me in your writings.

“ My occupations are such as do not
“ leave me sufficient leisure to reflect so
“ seriously as I could wish upon the dif-
“ ference of ages, manners and govern-
“ ments, and the causes which have
“ had an influence on the political ca-
“ tastrophes of the most celebrated na-
“ tions. This you know as well how
“ to do in your closet, and as uninflu-
“ enced by partiality, as if you were in
“ this country. I sincerely avow to you
“ on my own part, and can assure you
“ without flattery, that but few books
“ have acquired, amongst the learned of
“ my countrymen, so solid a reputation
“ as yours possess.

“ I pray God to preserve you for a
“ great number of years. Madrid, 29
“ September, 1777.

“ Dr. Robertson's answer to this letter
“ was in Spanish, and as follows :

*En el Collegio de Edimburgo a 3 de
Enero de 1778.*

“ MUI SENOR mio, Milord Gran-
 “ tham ha tenido la bondad de re-
 “ metir me la carta que V. S. ilustrif-
 “ sima se tomò la molestia de escrìver
 “ me, participando me la singularissima
 “ e inesperada honra que se ha servido
 “ dispensar me la real Academia de la
 “ Historia. El concepto favorable de
 “ los hombres de discernimento, y can-
 “ dor, es una de las mas gustosas re-
 “ compensas que puede conseguir un
 “ autor por sus tareas literarias; quanto
 “ mas lisonjera y apreciable sera una
 “ senal de aprobacion de un cuerpo tan
 “ justamente distinguido por el merito
 “ y talento de sus individuos!

“ Quando me fue necessario represen-
 “ tar en mi historia de Carlos V la an-
 “ tigua constitucion de la Monarquia
 “ Ef-

*College of Edinburgh,
January 3, 1778.*

“SIR,

“LORD Grantham has had the
“goodness to forward the letter which
“you took the trouble to write to me,
“by which I am informed of the sin-
“gular and unexpected honour the
“Royal Academy of History has been
“pleased to confer upon me. If the
“favourable opinion which men, in
“whom candour and learning are
“united, conceive of an author be one
“of the most pleasing rewards of his
“labour, how much more flattering is
“it to him to have the unanimous ap-
“probation of a society so justly distin-
“guished by its merit, and the talents
“of the individuals of whom it is
“composed!

“When in my history of Charles V.
“I was obliged to retrace the ancient
“constitution of the Spanish monarchy,
“and