

was the theatre on which the most illustrious generals of the republic exercised their valour and obtained more than one triumph.

It became still more celebrated after Julius Cæsar had fought there, the last battle which insured him the greatest empire in the world.

The Phœnicians, Greeks and Carthaginians had, as I may say, only gone to Spain. They possessed but some parts of it, and the longest continuation of their authority, that of the Carthaginians, did not exceed two centuries. The Romans established themselves there, and became absolute masters of the kingdom, which they divided as they thought proper, gave names to cities, rivers and provinces, and formed some of the inhabitants into excellent soldiers, who were successfully employed against the enemies of Rome. The emperors, satisfied with the fidelity of their new subjects,

jects, chose their guards from amongst them.

Under the Romans, Spain was divided into Bætica, Lusitania and Tarraconensis. Bætica, so called from the Bætis, now the Guadalquivir, comprehended all the country between Granada and the mouth of the Guadiana, properly speaking, upper and lower Andalusia, and a part of new Castile; Lusitania extended from the Guadiana to the Douro; and Tarraconensis, as extensive as the other two divisions, comprehended the rest of the kingdom.

The ancients have left behind them very animated accounts of this monarchy. Strabo is the author who describes it with the greatest truth: he says, it is a mountainous and difficult country; and that the mountains by which it is divided are for the most part barren. The fertility of the soil is precarious, and depends upon the greater or less

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abundance of water : the northern part is naturally cold and poor, but he does justice to the fertility of Andalusia. All his third book is equally interesting and instructive for such persons as desire to acquire a knowledge of that part of Europe.

The Romans possessed this rich and extensive peninsula about six hundred years : we have seen that towards the fifth century, a swarm of barbarians fell upon the fine provinces of the empire ; the Vandals, Alans, and Suevi invaded Spain after having passed through Gaul, conquered a part of it, and divided their conquest amongst them. The Vandals inhabited Andalusia and gave it their name. The Alans had Portugal, and the Suevi Galicia. These barbarians thus established, and war becoming one of the number of their wants, turned their arms against themselves. The Suevi having subjugated the Alans, would have striven to conquer the rest of Spain, had not the Visigoths,

Vifigoths, who had established their throne in Narbonne, and held the sovereignty of Rouffillon, Catalonia and Arragon, opposed their attempt, and driven them back to Galicia.

These Goths emboldened by success, and the empire having none but weak and effeminate generals and troops to oppose to them, found no difficulty in driving the Romans almost entirely out of Spain: they ruined the little kingdom of the Suevi also, and remained undisturbed possessors of the monarchy. They reigned there an hundred and thirty years. Roderic was the last of their kings; the famous battle of Xeres, in 712, put the Moors in possession of the greatest and finest part of Spain. the history of Roderic is enveloped in an infinity of fables. He is said to have entered a grotto at Toledo, where he found a sheet upon which was painted a man of gigantic stature, in an African habit, and holding an inscription, signifying that Spain should one day be subjugated



jugated by such a race of men. A fable repeated by several historians, as is also that of the daughter of Count Julian, undoubtedly more natural and probable, but which, according to the most judicious critics, is equally void of truth. We know that Roderic having ill treated *Cara*, a young and beautiful lady of his court, and treated with indignity Count Julian her father, who demanded satisfaction for her injured honor; the latter, then governor for the Goths of that part of Africa which terminates at the Streights, invited the Moors into Spain to be revenged on his sovereign.

However this may be, other Moors, Arabs, Saracens or Africans, succeeded to the first, and conquered without difficulty all the fine provinces of Spain, except those of the north, where steep and barren mountains were always an asylum of liberty for the inhabitants, and served as a nursery to that race of kings who were one day to be the avengers

gers of Spain and religion for the invasion and oppression of the Moors.

These, however, becoming quiet possessors of their brilliant and rapid conquests, the dawn of the resplendent reigns of the sovereigns of Cordova, Seville, and Granada, began to appear. The court of Abdalrahman was the center of arts, sciences, pleasures and gallantry. Tournaments, the image of war, in which love and address were substituted for valour and courage, continued for several centuries the amusements of a rich and fortunate people. The women were constantly present at games the only end of which was to please them, and excited a tender emulation. They distributed to the conquerors scarfs and ribbons which their own hands had embroidered. The voluptuous Arabs aimed at splendid achievements to render themselves more worthy of their mistresses. To them are we indebted for plaintive romance, in which seductive love assumes the air  
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of melancholy, the better to interest our affections: poetry and music were favorite arts with the Moors. The poet, in this climate, in which pleasure and imagination jointly reigned, shared in the veneration which the public had for his works; the number of academies and universities increased in Cordova and Granada; even women gave public lectures on poetry and philosophy; and literary resources abounded in proportion to the progress of science. I recollect to have read, that at that time there were seventy public libraries in Spain. Toledo, Seville, Granada and Cordova, which now present nothing but ruins and depopulation, certainly contained from three to four hundred thousand inhabitants; and the country, peopled with labourers, abundantly furnished them with every necessary and convenience of life.

Granada is the only place in which vestiges of the splendid reign of the Moors are to be found. The Alhambra  
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and Generatif would alone be sufficient to authenticate the brilliant descriptions preserved to us in a great number of Arabian Tales; and there is no exaggeration in saying that poets took for models the monuments erected by architects, or that the latter built edifices according to the imagination of poets.

Nothing can be more confused than the dynasties of the Moors or Arabs who reigned in Spain. That of the Christian monarchs who disputed with them the kingdom, and, taking advantage of their divisions, drove them out of it, is not less so. Doctor Cassiri has given a list of the former in his famous library of Arabian manuscripts in the Escorial, a work which does equal honor to the reigning monarch and the author: it is translated from cotemporary Arabian authors; but however exact it may be, it has too much precision, and leaves much to be desired. The work is not less worthy of the greatest eulogium; it is necessary to read it to conceive

conceive a just idea of the talents of every kind which rendered the Arabs illustrious.

Their glory was at its greatest height, when civil wars, treason, and frequent assassinations, disturbed the peace of these powerful kingdoms, jealous of each other. The Christian monarchs, long accustomed to conquer the Moors thus divided, had within little more than a century taken from them Toledo, Cordova, Seville, and Murcia. Granada still flourished, and was become their only strong hold, when Castile and Arragon, united in the persons of Ferdinand and Isabella, formed too great a power to be resisted by a kingdom enfeebled by intestine commotions. Granada was reduced, in 1492, after a siege of two years. The Moors had reigned in Spain about eight centuries, and were totally ruined by this defeat; persecuted, despoiled, burned, or converted and baptized by thousands, they were at length driven

driven from the kingdom in the reign of Philip III.

Such are the most striking revolutions to which Spain has been subjected; my intention was merely to relate them according to the order in which they are found in history; where their causes and progress must be sought. One only reflection occurs to me from this long course of unsuccessful wars and revolutions, which is that Spain seems exhausted, the inhabitants enervated, and the soil without cultivation from a want of vigorous husbandmen: the Spaniards have no more domestic enemies to conquer, and their vigor is lost. The reign of Charles V. was among the glorious times of Spain; the succeeding reigns differ not from each other except in the degradation and languor by which they are characterised; the conquests in the new world and the gold of Mexico and Peru have accelerated the period of her imbecility.

Spain

Spain is at present divided into fourteen provinces, which are Navarre, Biscay and the Asturias to the north; of which Biscay is subdivided into the provinces of Alva, Guipuscoa, and Biscay properly so called: to the west are Galicia and Estramadura: to the south upper and lower Andalusia and the kingdom of Murcia: to the east that of Valencia, Arragon, and Catalonia: and, in the middle of the monarchy, the kingdom of Leon and the two Castiles.

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#### ENTRANCE INTO SPAIN BY CATALONIA.

THE fine roads of France terminate a few leagues from Perpignan. Two pillars which serve as supporters, one to the arms of France, the other to those of Spain, mark the frontiers of each kingdom. The Castle of Bellegarde, which

which commands these sterile hills, is the last French place, and at the distance of a few hundred paces, upon a good road, is a stony path which leads to La Jonquiere, a little ill-built village of only a single street. At this boundary the traveller must change his taste and manner of thinking. In the space of half a league he meets with another language, and manners and customs totally different. Nothing can more powerfully excite in the mind of a traveller both melancholy and interesting reflections than the passage from one kingdom to another. The influence of government, which extends from the center to the extremities, frequently causes a greater difference between one man and another, than soil and climate can produce in plants, trees, and stones.

At La Jonquiere the stranger is visited by the officers of the revenue. It is necessary to know that snuff, muslin, and every kind of cotton are absolutely prohibited, and the smuggling of these



commodities rigorously punished. A prudent traveller should not depend upon the indulgence of custom-house officers, who are not delicate as to the means of satisfying their avarice.

After leaving La Jonquiere the road becomes better; but the only prospect from it consists of uncultivated lands, which, from their nature, seem destined to remain so. The neighbouring hills, until we arrive within a league of Figuera, a small town of which the environs are tolerably well cultivated, are covered with fortifications, which appear to be useless and neglected. The officers of the revenue here present themselves a second time.

Farther within the province of Catalonia, the country becomes more pleasant and fertile; although from Figuera to Girona nothing is seen from the road but a few old barns and miserable villages, except that of Sarria, which is not considerable. Girona is a city built  
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at the confluence of the Onhar and the Duter, which, joining their waters, form a wide and magnificent channel. The fortifications appeared to me to be in a bad state, and I did not see a single foldier at the gates. The great street which crosses it from one end to the other is full of shops, and workmen of every kind. This city was formerly called *Gerunda*; the cathedral church, dedicated to the Virgin, is extremely rich, and contains a statue of solid silver of its patroness. Girona is the principal place of a considerable jurisdiction, in which are comprehended the towns of Ampurias and Rosés. It is the residence also of a bishop, whose diocese contains three hundred and thirty-nine parishes.

A few leagues from Girona the road crosses the wood of Tiona, which, for the space of two hours, presents at different distances the most agreeable points of view; but the road is extremely bad, especially after rain, because the surface is a fine and very tenacious clay which ad-

heres to the wheels of carriages and feet of the mules, rendering their progress very slow and difficult. The only comfort after passing this road is a solitary inn, called the Grenota: the traveller has afterwards to cross marshes and several streams; but a road embellished with tufts of poplars, and fields well cultivated, recompence him for past fatigues. Malgrat, the next village, is rather considerable; and after about an hour's journey further, we arrive at Acaleilla; and, as we advance into the country, habitations become more frequent. The villages of Tampoul, Canet and Haram, surrounded with trees and gardens, are a few hundred yards from the sea; fishermens barks, and even some pretty large tartans\* are built there. The women in all these villages have a fresh complexion, and are, in general,

\* A kind of bark used in the Mediterranean for fishing and carriage. It has only a main-mast and a mizen; and when a square sail is put up, it is called a *sail of fortune*.

very handsome; and as they only labour at the easy and quiet employment of lace-making, their beauty is preserved: the men are for the most part fishermen. I have seen but few prospects more agreeable than those upon this coast. From Canet to Mataro it is edged with little hills, which are continually to be ascended and descended, so that the road becomes fatiguing; but a view of the sea and a fine country enlivens and amuses the traveller.

Mataro is a small town, industrious and well peopled, and the environs abound in vineyards, which produce wine much famed for its flavour. It likewise contains several manufactories, and is considered as one of the richest and most active towns in Catalonia. The view of the sea continues from Mataro to Barcelona; the sides of the road are ornamented with country houses which might have been built with more taste, but they enrich and animate the landscape; the steeples, towers, and ram-

parts of Barcelona are seen at a distance, and the road to it is, in general, tolerably good. But before I speak of that city, I think it is necessary to give some account of the province of which it is the capital.

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## CATALONIA.

CATALONIA is about twenty leagues in length from east to west, and from forty to forty-eight in breadth. This Province has nearly eighty leagues upon the Mediterranean. It derives its name from that of the Goths and Alans united in the word *Gothalonia*, easily changed into Catalonia. It is bounded on the north by the Pyrenees, to the east and south by the Mediterranean, and to the west by the kingdom of Valencia and a part of that of Arragon.

The principal cities are Barcelona the capital, Tarragona, Girona, Urgel, Vic, Lerida, Tortosa, Rosas, Solsona, Cervera, Cardona, Palamos, Ampurias, and Puicerda. The provinces is divided into fifteen jurisdictions.

Amongst the rivers by which it is watered, the most considerable is the Ebro, which runs only through a small part of it, and falls into the sea six leagues from Tortosa. The others are the Francoli, which is lost in the sea below Tarragona; the Lobregat, the source of which is in Mount-Pendis, and reaches the sea with the Besos near Barcelona; the Ter, which rises between Mount-Canigo, and the Col de Nuria, and after running from the north-east to the south-west, turns towards the east and empties its waters into the sea near Toroella, a few leagues from Girona; and the Fluvia, the mouth of which is below Ampurias. Besides these there are others less considerable,

rable, which lose their name and add to those I have mentioned.

The air of Catalonia is healthy, and the climate upon the coast temperate; but the northern part is cold on account of the mountains. These are numerous in this province, but they are not so barren as those in other parts of the kingdom; the mountains of Catalonia are covered with wood and verdure. Among the trees are the pine, the chestnut, the beech, fir, and green oak: the fine and well cultivated plains of Tarragona, Cerdagna, Vic and Urgel produce abundance of corn, wine, and vegetables of every kind.

The two wonders of Catalonia are Mont-Serrat, and the mountain near Cardona, called the Salt-Mountain. These equally attract the attention of the devotee and the naturalist. The traveller from Lombardy has given a very circumstantial description of the monastery and cells in the famous solitude of Mont-Serrat;

Serrat. Nothing can be more picturesque than this mountain; it is so lofty that when you are on the top the neighbouring mountains appear to be sunk to a level with the plain. It is composed of steep rocks, which, at a distance, seem indented, whence, it is said, it received the name *Mont-Serrat*, from the Latin word *Serra*, a saw; as probable and well-founded an etymology as many others which have been well received in the world. It is impossible to describe the beauty, richness and variety of the landscapes discovered from the most elevated point. They fatigue the eye, and must undoubtedly humble every thinking man; it is sufficient to observe, that the islands of Minorca and Majorca, which are at the distance of sixty leagues, are discovered from this elevation. It is upon this famous mountain that adoration is paid to the statue of the Virgin, discovered by some shepherds in the year 1380.

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The monastery in which sixty Monks live, according to the rule of Saint Benedict, is at the foot of a steep rock. It was there Saint Ignatius devoted himself to penitence, became the knight of the Virgin, and formed the idea of founding the too celebrated society of Jesus. Upon one of the walls we read, *B. Ignatius à Loyola hic multâ prece fletuque Deo se Virginiq̄e devovit; hic tanquam armis spiritualibus sacco se muniens pernoctavit; hinc ad societatem Jesu fundandam prodiit anno, 1522.* And it was undoubtedly in the same place that he was inspired with the thought of copying the exercises of Mont-Serrat, to make them become those of his society; an anecdote but little known, and which here deserves a place.

The venerable father Cisneros, cousin to the famous cardinal Ximenez, restored when abbot of Mont-Serrat, the Cenobites confided to his care to their primitive simplicity, and to guide them by a constant rule in the paths of reformation,

mation, composed a book, intituled *Exercifes of the Spiritual Life*, which was printed in fomewhat barbarous Latin, as well as in Caftilian, at Mont-Serrat in the year 1500. Thefe exercifes were received with veneration, and read with great edification in all the monafteries in Spain governed by the rule of Saint Benedi&ct. Cifneros died in 1510, and was fucceeded by the famous Peter de Burgos, who was fuperior of Mont-Serrat when Saint Ignatius, directed by the grace of God, came into that folitude. The venerable abbot recommended to him the reading of the exercifes; and it was the happy ufe he made of thefe which operated his converfion. He was fo convinced of their excellence and utility, that having conceived the idea of founding a religious fociety he tranfcribed them word for word, making a trifling change in the order: fo that it is not true that they were communicated to him by infpiration, or any other means, from the Virgin; nor is there any instance of an ignorant

ignorant man like Saint Ignatius composing so admirable a book. The Jesuits undoubtedly knew the origin of the exercises written by their founder, because they never produced the text, and put nothing but translations or commentaries by Pinamonti, de Seneri, and several others, into the hands of their novices, and that by degrees the copies of the exercises of Cisneros, and of those written by Saint Ignatius, were taken from the libraries. The learned Navarro having had the work of Cisneros reprinted at Salamanca in 1712, the Jesuits found means to obtain an order to seize the whole edition from the printer; and to be revenged of Navarro, they injured him so much at court, that he lost a bishopric which had been promised him, and was certainly due to his uncommon merit. It is therefore improper to sing at the celebration of the feast of Saint Ignatius, *mirabilem composuit exercitiorum librum*, he composed an admirable book of exercises.

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I shall not speak of the immense riches the piety of devout persons has accumulated in the church of Mont-Serrat, nor of the prodigious number of gold and silver lamps which burn before the holy effigy. The most interesting part of the mountain is the desert, in which are several hermitages that are excellent asylums for true philosophy and contemplation. Each of these solitary retreats, which at a distance seem destitute of every thing, has a chapel, a cell, a well in the rock, and a little garden. The hermits who inhabit them are most of them persons of fortune or family, disgusted with the world, who have retired thither to devote themselves to meditation and silence.

The traveller is surpris'd to meet with delightful valleys in the midst of these threatening rocks, to find shade and verdure surrounded by sterility, and to see natural cascades rush from the steepest

steepest points of the mountain, and no farther disturb the silence which reigns in that asylum than to render it more interesting.

The mountain of Cardona is an inexhaustible quarry of salt. This mineral is there of almost every colour, so that when shone upon by the rays of the sun the mountains resemble those of diamonds, rubies and emeralds, which we read of in the fanciful descriptions of Fairy-land. Vases, urns, and many valuable productions are made from this salt: imitations of every kind of preserved fruit are so perfectly wrought in it, that the eye aids the hand to deceive; there is no form that cannot be given to the salt, which is easily cut, although it has sufficient solidity; but productions which can receive no injury from time, would quickly be dissolved in water. The principal colours of the salt are orange, violet, green and blue; one of the particularities, and not the least important, of this mountain is,

is, that it is in part covered with shrubs and plants: the top is shaded by a forest of pines, and the environs produce excellent wine.

Several quarries of marble, jasper, alabaster, and mines of silver, lead, iron, tin, alum, salt and vitriol are found in the mountains of Catalonia.

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## BARCELONA.

BARCELONA is the only city in Spain, which at a distance announces its grandeur and population. The traveller, when half a league from Madrid, would scarcely suspect he was approaching a great city, much less the capital of the kingdom, were it not for the high and numerous steeples which seem to rise from the midst of a barren soil; whereas, in the environs of Barcelona, an immense number of country-houses,  
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carriages and passengers prepare us for a rich and commercial city.

Barcelona, called by the ancients *Barcino*, is said to have been built by the Carthaginian Hamilcar, father of Hannibal, two hundred and fifty years before Christ, at an hundred and twenty paces from the sea. The founder would not now know it again, for it is become one of the largest and handsomest cities in Spain; its population is in proportion to its size, and the industry of the inhabitants far exceeds that of those in any part of Spain. The citizens are all merchants, tradesmen or manufacturers. The ambition and the thirst of gain of the Catalan are beyond expression; Barcelona contains shops of every art and trade, which are exercised there to greater perfection than in any other city of the kingdom. The jewellers form a rich and numerous body, and the only defect in their jewellery is a little want of that taste which in France is carried to a ridiculous extreme, both in furniture and

and jewels and too generally preferred to solid value and utility.

Barcelona carries on an extensive trade in its own fruits and manufactures, and foreign merchandize. The harbour is spacious, commodious, and always full of vessels, but it is sometimes dangerous; it daily fills up, and requires continued care, and an immense expence, to keep the entrance open; the sea visibly retires, and if the clearing of the harbour were neglected for a few years, Barcelona would soon be at a distance from the shore.

This city is well fortified, and has for its defence a magnificent rampart, a citadel, and the castle of Mont-Joui; but Barcelona is too extensive to be easily guarded and defended; on which account it has always been taken when attacked, and the rebellious disposition of the inhabitants severely checked. However, the spirit of mutiny still exists, and government, for what reason I  
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know not, endeavours to encourage it. It is no uncommon thing to hear the Catalans say, the king of Spain is not their fovereign, and that in Catalonia, his only title is that of count of Barcelona. Yet the minister favours all their enterprizes, and they daily obtain prohibitions and privileges contrary to the interests of the rest of Spain. At Madrid they have active solicitors, whose secret intrigues tend to procure an exclusive contraband commerce. I wish not to be the advocate of arbitrary restrictions and slavery, but I would have governments act with some little consistency.

Barcelona contains several fine edifices; that called the Tersana, or the arsenal, is of a vast extent, and in every respect worthy of attention. A prodigious gallery, containing twenty-eight forges, has lately been erected in it: the numerous workmen continually employed, the noise of the hammers, the red hot iron piled up, and the flame  
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which on every side seems to envelop the building, form a wonderful and an interesting scene.

The foundry of cannon in all its parts is an object still more deserving notice; Spain owes to M. Maritz, a Swiss, a very simple and convenient machine for boring of cannon and mortars: his probity and talents have acquired him some envious rivals, and many enemies. It was very contrary to the wishes of these that he constructed an enormous balance in which wrought and unwrought ore might be weighed; a balance so exactly poised, that a single grain suffices to give it an inclination. I saw in this foundry several fine pieces of cannon newly cast and bored, and others which were under the latter operation; they were turned, moved and placed with as much facility as a dexterous turner would give the form he pleased to a piece of ivory. The cannon when boring is horizontally suspended; a great steel piercer of the bore intended



to be given to the cannon is applied to its mouth ; a single workman, by means of a wheel, gives action to the spring which presses upon the borer, and the cannon, put into a motion of rotation, bores itself ; the matter separated from it naturally falls out by the motion communicated, and the inside of the cannon remains as smooth and polished as a piece of glass. The same method, except a very trifling difference, is followed with the mortars. The enormous pans in which the metal is melted are three in number, and contain a quantity sufficient to cast four great pieces at a time. The magazines are stored with wood, grenades, bullets, and other instruments of death, proper for the attack or defence of a place.

The same M. Maritz has put the foundry of Seville into the best possible state ; he constructed there an elegant vaulted edifice, with ten furnaces, and furnished with all the machines of his invention, to lift up and remove heavy masses,

masses, and for the boring and engraving of cannon. But an object still more important to Spain is the copper refinery that he established in the same arsenal, by which he has found means to separate the copper from all heterogenous matter, and bring it to the highest degree of perfection; six thousand quintals are annually refined in the place he has constructed for that purpose.

Notwithstanding the great improvements of M. Maritz, the old method of casting cannon had still partisans in Spain, who, being interested in the continuation of it, formed a dangerous association against him. A decisive experiment became necessary; four pieces of cannon, twenty-four pounders, two cast according to the method of M. Maritz, and two after the old method were sent to Ocana, a small town near Aranjuez: the two first were fired twelve hundred times without becoming unfit for service; the latter, after the firings of both amounted to nine hundred,