

prevent the bruising of the stones. The olives are carefully picked, and are pressed as soon as they are gathered. By this attention, the oil is not inferior to the best of Italy or France.

In Spain they have few presses in proportion to their quantity of olives, and for this reason, as well as to obtain the greater produce, they leave the fruit in heaps till they ferment and rot; hence the oil grows rancid and ill-flavoured; besides, the pressing of the kernels is certainly not advantageous to the oil. The Spanish oil being, for these reasons, inferior in its quality, is consumed chiefly by the natives, either at their tables or in making soap. Where morals are not concerned, it is happy for human nature, that the taste is under the influence of custom, so as by habit to approve and choose what once it loathed and rejected with abhorrence. From this circumstance it is, that the Spaniards are not merely contented, but pleased, with the peculiar flavour of their oil, and prefer it to the purest which ever came from Lucca. This they condemn for its perfect insipidity.

All the buildings of this vineyard are upon a superior stile, and are executed, not only in the most substantial manner, but with much taste. Nothing can exceed in beauty the extensive range of arbours, covered entirely with vines, so as at mid-day, under a most scorching sun, to yield a refreshing shade.

In point of economy I fear little can be advanced in favour of these establishments, because, to say nothing of the immense sums expended and buried in the earth, it can not be imagined, that, as a royal vineyard, the wine will ever pay the labourers employed upon it.

This cortijo is inclosed by a parapet wall with palisadoes, and is surrounded by a deer park. The valley itself, not above one mile in width, is bounded to the south by gypsum hills, and to the north by mountains apparently of the same nature. It is watered by a canal from the Tagus.

Beyond this, to the north, is another valley, where the Tajuña flows.

The gypsum of this country is productive of sea salt, and of Epsom salt, both found crystallized, and abounds with nitre,

appearing every where at noon, in white efflorescence on the surface, and before sun-rise in black spots. The gypsum is in horizontal strata. The tamarisk seems to be fond of gypsum: it abounds every where in this neighbourhood, and is peculiarly luxuriant on the borders of the Tagus.

In the vicinity of Aranjuez we see buffaloes yoked in pairs, either ploughing the land, or drawing heavy loads upon the highways.

The Spaniards, when the sun gets high, all retire to their houses, and exclude, as much as possible, the light; but a foreigner can only learn wisdom by his own experience. By wandering all the morning on the mountains, nature with him must sink, and his strength must fail; but returning with a keen appetite, exhausted, he sits down to a table plentifully furnished with whatever is most excellent in its kind; he eats heartily; he drinks freely; he feels his strength recruited; he sleeps profoundly; and, finding his spirits more than commonly elated in the morning when he awakes, he felicitates himself upon the enjoyment

joyment of such health, as he never before experienced; but when, good easy man, he thinks full surely, that he is wiser than the natives, he is soon convinced of his rashness; and finds, when it is too late, that he has been feeding the flame, which is to consume him.

The day before my departure from Aranjuez, I had the satisfaction of seeing a pageant peculiar to this country. It is called the *Parejas*. The prince of Asturias, with his two brothers, the infants don Gabriel and don Antonio, attended by five and forty of the first nobility, all in the ancient Spanish dress, and mounted on high bred Andalusian horses, performed a variety of evolutions to the sound of trumpets and French horns; forming four squadrons, distinguished from each other by the colour of their dresses, which were, red, blue, yellow, and green. They executed this figure dance with great exactness, and made an elegant appearance.

When I left Aranjuez, it was computed, that there were collected in it not less than ten thousand souls; but no sooner is the court departed, than it becomes a desert.

Sunday, 18 *June*, in the evening, I returned to Madrid, and the next morning I attended at the bull feast.

The amphitheatre is three hundred and thirty feet diameter, and the arena, two hundred and twenty-five. It is said to contain fifteen thousand spectators; but I doubt the truth of this assertion.

The feast is presided by a magistrate, attended by his two alguazils, to regulate the whole, and to preserve order in the assembly.

At the appointed moment, immediately on a signal from the magistrate, two folding doors fly open, and a bull rushes furiously into the arena; but, upon seeing the assembled multitude, he makes a pause, and looks round, as if seeking some object on which to spend his rage. Opposed to him he sees a *picador*, mounted on his horse, armed with a lance, and coming on to meet him. As they draw near, they stop, then move a few inches, surveying their antagonist with a fixed attention, each in his turn advancing slowly, as if doubtful what part to take; till at length the bull, stooping with his head, and collecting all his

his strength, shuts his eyes, and with impetuosity rushes on his adversary. The picador, calm and recollected, fixing himself firmly in his seat, and holding the lance under his right arm, directs the point of it to the shoulder of the raging animal, and turns him aside: but sometimes he is not able to accomplish this.

One bull rushed upon the lance, and rising almost upright upon his haunches, broke it to shivers; then with his forehead, as with a battering ram, he smote the picador on the breast, beat him down, and overthrew the horse. Instantly the *chulos*, active young men, with little cloaks or banners, distracted his attention, and gave the horseman an opportunity to escape. When he was retired, a second picador, armed like the former, offered battle to the bull. Flushed with conquest, the furious beast sprung forward; but being with dexterity diverted by the lance, he returned to the charge before the horse could face about, and fixing his horn between the thighs, tossed him in the air, and overthrew the rider. The *chulos* again appeared, and the man escaped, being relieved by

the first picador, who had again entered the arena, mounted on a fresh horse. To this animal the first attack was fatal, for the bull avoiding, by a sudden turn, the lance, pierced the chest, and struck him to the heart.

Sometimes the bull tears open the belly of the horse, the rider is thrown upon his back, and the poor wounded creature runs about with his bowels trailing on the ground. In one morning I saw thirteen horses killed; but sometimes there are many more. These animals have so much spirit, that the rider can make them face the bull, even when they have received their mortal wound.

When the bull, finding his antagonist constantly remounted, will no longer make battle, the *banderilleros*, or *cbulos*, are let loose upon him. These are eight young men, each with a bundle of *banderillas*, or little arrows, in his hand, which he is to fix into the neck of the bull; not however attacking him from behind, but meeting him in front. For this purpose they provoke him to attack them, and when he is preparing to take them on his horn, at the
very

very moment that he makes a little stop, and shuts his eyes, they fix their banderillas, and escape. If they cannot bring him to this point, they present the *moleta*, or little scarlet banner, always carried in their left hand, and provoking him to push at that, pass by him. When he turns quick upon them, they place their confidence in flight; and, to amuse him, they let fall their *moleta*. This very often is sufficient; he stops to smell at it, then tramples it under foot; but sometimes with his eyes fixed upon the man who let it fall, he follows with such velocity, that the *banderillero* can scarcely leap over the fence, before he is overtaken by the bull. I have seen bulls clear this fence almost at the same instant with the man, although it is near six feet high. Beyond this fence there is another, at the distance of about five feet, which is considerably higher, to protect the spectators, who are seated immediately behind it; yet, I have been credibly informed, that bulls have sometimes leaped with such amazing force, as to clear both these fences, and fall among the benches.

When he has made battle for about
 § twenty

twenty minutes, his time is come, and he must die. This certainly is the most interesting moment, and affords the best subject for a picture. The matador appears, and silent expectation is visible in every countenance. With the left hand he holds the moleta, in his right hand, the sword. During the combat, he has been studying the character of the bull, and watching all his motions. If this animal was *claro*, that is, impetuous and without disguise, the matador draws nigh with confidence, certain of a speedy victory; but if he was cautious, circumspect, and crafty, if he was cool and recollected, slow in forming his resolutions, but quick in their execution, he is called *oscuro*, and before him even a veteran will tremble. The matador draws nigh, views him with a fixed attention, and endeavours to provoke him, but in vain; or, having provoked him, makes his lunge, but is eluded by the watchful animal, who instantly becomes assailant, and the champion flies; he flies, but he looks back upon the bull, that he may know how to regulate his flight. One of these, called Pepillo, was so active, and possessed such recollection, that

that when pursued, and near the barrier, at the very instant when the furious animal had closed his eyes to toss him, he put his foot between the horns, and with this borrowed motion, cleared the fence, and came down upon his feet.

Whilst I was in Spain, two matadors were killed at Cadiz. They were brothers. The first by some misfortune met his fate; the second, rushing forward with brutal fury, thirsting for revenge, hasty and impetuous, soon became the victim of his rashness.

If the matador is an adept in his profession, and calm, he contrives to irritate the bull, and the furious animal rushes blindly on the well-directed point.

The part first aimed at, is the cerebellum, or that part of the spinal marrow, which is contiguous to it, and the sword enters between the vertebræ, or where the last of these is united to the head. With this blow the creature staggers, and, without losing one drop of blood, falls lifeless to the ground. If this stroke is not practicable, the sword is directed to the heart, and death, although speedy, is not quite so sudden,

sudden. Sometimes it happens, even when Costillaris holds the sword, that he has not found the vital part. I saw him bury the weapon up to the very hilt; but, as the point did not penetrate the thorax, it only glanced along the ribs, and after a few minutes, was shaken out by the frantic animal. One day he missed his aim, and the bull received him on his horn; he was tossed twice before he could be delivered, but he was not much hurt; yet his honour had received a stain, till, on measuring the horns, after the animal was dead, he shewed the spectators that the horn by which he suffered, was two inches longer than the other. Upon this discovery, he received loud applause.

It is wonderful that this accident does not often happen, considering the length of the horns, which in some bulls, from point to point, is near five feet. I never saw such horns in England.

When the bull has at any time cleared the arena, he tears up the ground with fury; and when he has killed a horse, if unmolested by the chulos, he tramples indignant on his enemy.

The

The moment the poor creature falls at the feet of the matador, the trumpets sound, and three mules enter to drag him off.

The bull feasts are every week, frequently twice in the week during the summer; and each day six victims suffer in the morning, twelve in the evening.

Formerly they used high bred horses, and lost few of them; but since they have adopted a different system, many are killed at every bull feast. It happened once that sixty horses perished in one day. For these they give, upon the average, only £.3 sterling; whereas the bulls are reckoned at £.8 each. The stated expences are enormous; but I have my accounts from the best authority:

	£.	s.	d.
The alguazils, the guards, and attendants, cost per day, in sterling, - - -	27	15	0
The two matadors in chief - - -	30	0	0
The two inferior matadors - - -	14	0	0
The 8 banderilleros, at £. 3 each - - -	24	0	0
The two picadors - - -	27	0	0
			If

If more are required, each
receives for the morning
£. 6, for the evening,
£. 7 10s.

The mules, drivers, and other expences - - -	18	12	0
The eighteen bulls, suppose at £. 8 - - -	144	0	0
Suppose 17 horses, at £. 3 -	51	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£. 336	7	0
	<hr/>		

The priest who attends to administer
the sacrament, receives no pay.

To compensate for this expence, and to
yield a balance in favour of the general
hospital, to instance only one day, 3 July,
1786, the receipts were as follow :

Collected for the seats, and for people to sell water - -	605	13	6
Received for the 18 dead bulls	70	4	0
Received for 17 horse skins -	6	14	6
	<hr/>		
	£. 682	12	0
	<hr/>		

The week following the receipts were
more than eleven hundred pounds; but the
average

average may be fairly stated at seven hundred pounds a day, leaving a balance of near four hundred pounds a day for the service of the general hospital at Madrid.

The price of admission differs considerably, according as you are covered or exposed, in the sun or in the shade. A box for the day, which may conveniently accommodate eight or ten people in the shade, will cost £.3 12s; but in the sun, £.1 16s; and between both, £.2 8s. Fashionable people take a box. A seat, if covered, in the shade, and in the front bench, costs 7s. 3d. for the day; but a back seat in these covered benches, on the sunny side of the theatre, is only three shillings. The cheapest seat for the day, exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather, to rain, if it should rain, and to the overwhelming heat of the summer's sun, is something more than 1s. 2d.

The fondness of the Spaniards for this diversion is scarcely to be conceived. Men, women, and children, rich and poor, all give the preference to it beyond all other public spectacles; and, for my own part, I am ready to confess, that the keenest sports-

man

man can not be less attentive to his danger, or to the sufferings of the game he is pursuing, than I was to the sufferings of the bull, or to the danger of those by whom he was attacked ; nay, so inattentive was I to my own danger, that, although by a shivering I knew that I was taking cold, I had not resolution to retire.

My cold was attended by an ague, and this again was followed by an ulcerated throat. However, by the aid of don Antonio Gimbernat, an able surgeon, and most amiable man, I got through it, and, at the end of a month, was well enough recovered to leave Madrid, where the scorching sun became insupportable.

The contrivances to moderate the heat, are excellent. They have mats and canvass on the outside of their windows to exclude the sun, and during the day they keep the shutters closed, so as to admit the smallest quantity of light, having previously, before the rising of the sun, admitted a supply of fresh air sufficient for the day, and sprinkled the whole house with water.

By these means their rooms, if not frequented, are kept cool and fresh during the
most

most suffocating and scorching heat of summer, even at Madrid. In one of these they sit all the morning; in one they dine, and this commonly is the worst apartment in the house; in one they sleep their *fiesta* after dinner; and, in the best, the company assembles for the evening.

The freshness of these apartments has made me often think that discomforts and inconveniences, if decidedly intolerable, are much to be preferred to those, to which patience and moderation may be reconciled: because, when by necessity men are roused to action, there are few evils for which they can not find a remedy, and few difficulties which they can not finally surmount.

By these contrivances, and by keeping within doors, the day passes pleasantly away. This however is not all that a traveller requires. If he will gain information, he must not stay at home. With this idea, I hastened my departure from Madrid, and soon made a party for the north of Spain, taking for my companion, my amiable young friend, the cadet with whom I had travelled from Barcelona to Madrid. As I was to visit his native province, I took no

letters, but a few from count Campomanes, who likewise was from that part of Spain. Had I made application, I might have had many more; but these I thought would be sufficient; and so I found them.

Before I left Madrid, I enquired the price of provisions, which I found to be as follows: beef, fourteen quarts (which is a fraction under four pence) per pound; mutton, fifteen quarts, which is a fraction more than four pence; veal, thirteen quarts; pork, twenty quarts; cheese, twenty; bread, $6\frac{1}{2}$ quarts, for the finest at the king's oven, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ for brown bread, at the common ovens. Here it may be remembered that $8\frac{1}{2}$ quarts make a real vellon, which is equal to $2\frac{2}{3}$ penny English. Wine is eight quarts for a quartillo, which is something more than a pint, or $1\frac{1}{3}$ pound weight. Labour is five reales, or one shilling, a day.

J O U R N E Y

F R O M

MADRID TO THE ASTURIAS.

ON Saturday, July 22, 1786, my young friend, with the agent of his family, and myself, set out in two little chaises, leaving Madrid soon after midnight, to avoid the heats, which are intolerable in the middle of the day. By this arrangement we escaped one evil to fall into a greater, for which we were not well prepared; because, the chaises being open, the night intensely cold, and the north wind in front, it was difficult to preserve the vital heat till the rising of the sun.

Before eight in the morning, we advanced five leagues over a level country, covered with granite sand, and having reached the mountains, consisting of friable white granite, we came to Galapagar, two leagues beyond the Guadarrama.

From hence we saw before us a second chain of mountains, covered with snow,

and in them discovered the source of that chilling blast which had made us shiver in the night.

The whole country was alive ; all were busily employed in bringing home their harvest. The waggons are drawn by oxen, and the wheels are shod with wood instead of iron. It is surprising to see what heavy loads two oxen will draw, pushing with their foreheads against a cross beam fastened to their horns.

The country is open, and badly wooded, although both elm and ash shew the most luxuriant growth.

At the end of about seven leagues, or ten hours journey from Madrid, we begin to ascend the chain of mountains separating New from Old Castile ; and in two leagues more, having passed the Puerto de Guadarrama, find a good venta on the northern declivity of these granite mountains. In this venta we meet with comfortable beds ; and, to prevent disputes, the price of every thing is fixed by government. A turkey is eight reales, or about 1*s.* 7*d.* ; a pullet, six reales ; a young fowl, three reales and seventeen maravedis, or about ten pence half-penny ; nothing can be more reasonable ;
but

but the misfortune is, they are seldom, if ever, to be had. However we had no reason to complain.

Soon after midnight we arose, took our chocolate, and proceeded on our journey. The pleafantest meal we made was our breakfast, on cold ham, which we took with a keen appetite under the first shade we found after the sun was up.

The country we passed over is little susceptible of culture, being chiefly either white granite decomposed, or the hard grey granite, resisting all the powerful solvents which nature can employ, and remaining rugged, without the least sign of vegetation. Yet, in the midst of this wide waste, are some fertile spots, either covered with ilex, or broken by the plough; and even some extensive downs.

This morning we travelled three leagues, to *Villacastin*, and there reposed all the middle of the day.

This village contains two hundred and eighty houses, and sixteen hundred inhabitants. It has only two convents; one for men, the other for women. Here are two hospitals for the sick, and for the travelling poor. This circumstance may ac-

count for the great proportion of funerals, being about fifty in the year, whereas the births do not exceed forty. This village has one parish church, and four chapels standing, besides five more fallen to decay. Here we see two extensive buildings for shearing the Merino flocks. For want of streams, their corn is ground by windmills.

At Villacastin we loaded our pistols, being to pass through a forest, famous for robbers, and marked with monumental crosses. Unfortunately, my driver took the lead, and left the other carriage out of sight. We had ascended the mountain, and were got into the thickest of the forest, when at a distance, to the right, I saw two fellows with muskets crossing with hasty steps to meet us. They soon came up to us, and the driver stopped. These were two beggars, who exacted money from all passengers, under pretence of having protected them from thieves. The account they gave of themselves was, that they were of a family which had been commissioned by Philip V. to guard this dangerous pass; yet, surely if employed by government, they should wear some uniform, or at least have some badge to distinguish them from robbers.

This

This forest is of ilex.

At seven in the evening we arrived at *San Chidrian*, having this day travelled seven Spanish leagues, or, as I imagine, more than five and thirty miles.

In all this country the white wine is excellent, not so sweet and spicy as that of *Foncarral*, near Madrid, but equally delicate in its flavour.

From *San Chidrian* we traversed a vast plain of granite sand, very coarse, loose, and unprofitable, although it would evidently bear good elm and fir. Wherever this sand will pay for tillage, they make it yield wheat and barley. They are now reaping, and as fast as they reap, they tread out the grain with mules, horses, oxen, and the *trillo*.

The *trillo* is made with planks of about three inches in thickness, and is five feet long, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide; the under surface is studded with gun flints, to the number of about two hundred, for the purpose of cutting all the straw to chaff, and disengaging all the grain. The person who drives the horse, ox, or mule, round the floor, either sits or stands upon the *trillo*, and the operation is called *trillar*.

When the corn is cleansed by the wind,

it is immediately put into the granaries, without fear of its heating there, because, when it is reaped, it is as dry as shot, and the country is far from being damp.

The general colour affected by the peasants in this province, as in many other parts of Europe, more especially in Wales, is brown, but the genteel people are fond of black.

Having passed the villages of *Adanaro*, *Hontoria*, and *Gutierre-Munoz*, we arrived about nine in the morning at *Aribalo*, a considerable city, with eight parish churches, besides one in the suburbs, eight convents, two hospitals, two royal granaries, forty-two priests, and sixteen hundred houses.

From hence we passed over a plain of granite sand, and crossing the river *Adaja*, which runs north into the *Düero*, we came through vineyards to *Ataquines*.

Even in the most desolate part of this route, a plantation of firs, and one majestic elm, shew what the country can produce.

Ataquines is a miserable city, and might be easily mistaken for a village. The cottages, low, and badly built of brick, with sheds before them, are in number two hundred and seventy, to lodge eight hundred

dred people. The births, on the average, are forty-five; and the burials, twenty, of which most are children in the small pox. Here are four priests. It is remarkable that they have eight hundred oxen. Bread is sold at four quarts the pound of sixteen ounces; beef, eight quarts, or two pence farthing English; mutton they have none; wine is about one penny the quart. The church is built of brick, supported by granite pillars, and is lighted by massive silver lamps. The gold and silver of Peru and Mexico found their way into this city, but, for want of taste, this unexpected display of wealth excites nothing but disgust.

This country, with industry, good government, and a market for its commodities, might be rendered one of the richest in the world. It stretches, without mountains, far as the eye can reach; it abounds with rivers, and it enjoys the sun; yet, with all these advantages, the farmers, for want of watering their crops, get only ten for one upon the seed. Their plough is antiquated, like that last described. Here flocks of sheep abound.

This morning we traversed the plain

three leagues, to *Medina del Campo*, on the Zapardiel, a little river communicating with the Duero, between Toro and Tordefillas.

Medina has nine parish churches, seventy priests, seventeen convents, two hospitals, and at present only one thousand houses. The collegiate church, built of brick, is much and deservedly admired for its roof. This city seems evidently going to decay. The houses are all of brick, irregular, and low. It was formerly the residence of kings, and contained fourteen thousand families, but during the civil war it was nearly reduced to ashes. It appears that Cardinal Ximenes had made this city one of his principal magazines for military stores, collected with a view to curb the great nobility: but when (A. D. 1520) the commons of Castille sought redress of grievances, they seized this magazine, and defended the city with such obstinacy, that they forced Fonseca to retire and to leave them in quiet possession of the ruins.

The surrounding country is naturally fertile, and it is evident that elms, poplars, mulberries, vines, and olives, if planted, would flourish here.

From

From hence we turned to *Valdeillas*, four leagues, over a most beautiful country abounding with corn and wine, not hilly, but gently swelling; all open, and destitute of trees, yet able to bear the most lofty elms. The soil is still granite sand, mixed with smooth round gravel, such as may be well expected near the conflux of so many rivers here assembling from three points of the compass, from the east, from the north, and from the south.

Valladolid was fixed upon as our resting place in the middle of our journey, and I was not displeas'd with the arrangement, because this venerable city is highly interesting to a traveller.

Here I was so happy as to meet the marquis de Mos, a nobleman of Galicia, grandee of Spain, and colonel in the army, who had done me the honour to notice me at court, and now took me under his protection. He had taken a house here only for the sake of being present to prosecute a suit in chancery.

Valladolid is a considerable city, having an university, colleges, cathedral, palace, courts of justice, and one of the two high courts

of chancery. Upon passing the first gate, you find a spacious area, bounded by seventeen convents; from hence, entering through the second gate, the city strikes you with every appearance of antiquity. The Plaza Mayor, or great square, is spacious and venerable; yet, compared with the great body of the city, it is evidently modern. The cathedral, built by Juan de Herrera, is massive, heavy, and, in my mind, far from elegant. It has the Grecian arch, and the pillars in front are Doric. The treasures of this church are great; the *Custodia*, by Juan de Arfe, is of solid silver, and more than six feet high; the other ornaments and jewels are innumerable, and the whole together is inestimable; yet the bishop has not more than five thousand pounds a year. This city has fifteen parish churches, with five annexed, forty-six convents, two hundred and twenty-seven priests, six hospitals for the sick, for infants, and for lunatics, five thousand families, and twenty thousand souls.

The university has more than two thousand students, forty-two professors, and fifty doctors, distributed in seven colleges. In
the

the year 1346, this seminary was instituted by D. Alonzo XI.; and A. D. 1784 to 1785, there entered and were matriculated, 1299 students.

They have here as in other cities a free school for drawing.

The church and convent of St. Benito are worthy of attention; but the public edifice, in my opinion, most to be admired, is the church of San Pablo, near the palace, whether we consider the elegance of the whole, or the high finishing of the basso relievo figures and ornaments, which, after a lapse of three hundred years, seem to have suffered little by their exposure to the weather. In this building the quadrangle of the novices deserves the highest praise.

The king's palace, rather elegant than grand, is still preserved; but all the palaces of the great nobility are going to decay.

Here Charles V. received the news, that his victorious troops had taken Rome, and made the pope his prisoner; and from hence he ordered prayers to be offered up in all the churches of Spain for the deliverance of the sovereign pontiff. In this city his successors kept their court, till Philip IV. removed it to Madrid.

The

The buildings are chiefly brick; but some are of limestone. Among the materials, no inconsiderable quantity of granite, brought from the neighbourhood of Villacastin, at the distance of thirteen leagues; with many hundred pillars of the same; remain as monuments of ancient splendour.

All the public walks are lined with trees.

The country round this city is a perfect garden, watered by norias. It produces white wine of a good quality, excellent madder, some silk, and a few olives. All these productions will increase, when they shall obtain a vent in foreign markets.

At present the poor are numerous, fed by the convents, and manifest the wretchedness of this once flourishing metropolis.

It is fallen indeed, but on the projected canal we may evidently read *resurgam*. This undertaking, once regarded like the wild projects of the giants, will, in all probability, and at no distant period, be accomplished, provided Spain has the wisdom not to be engaged in war.

The

The canal begins at Segovia, sixteen leagues north of Madrid, and is separated from the southern canal by the chain of mountains which we passed at Guadarama. From Segovia, quitting the Eresma, it crosses the Pisuerga, near Valladolid, at the junction of that river with the Duero, then leaving Palencia, with the Carrion to the right, till it has crossed that river below Herrera, it approaches once more the Pisuerga, and near Herrera, twelve leagues from Reinosa, receiving water from that river in its course, it arrives at Golmir, from whence, in less than a quarter of a league, to Reinosa, there is a fall of a thousand Spanish feet. At Reinosa is the communication with the canal of Arragon, which unites the Mediterranean to the Bay of Biscay; and from Reinosa to the Suanzes, which is three leagues, there is a fall of three thousand feet.

Above Palencia is a branch going westward, through Beceril de Campos, Rio Seco, and Benevente, to Zamora, making this canal of Castille, in its whole extent, one hundred and forty leagues.

They have already completed twenty leagues

leagues of it, from Reinosa to Rio Seco; which, with twenty - four locks, three bridges for aqueducts, and one league and an half of open cast through a high mountain, has cost thirty-eight millions of reales, or three hundred and eighty thousand pounds sterling; and this, supposing the twenty leagues equal to eighty-eight miles, is £. 4,318 per mile. For work executed in so complete a manner, this certainly is not extravagant.

To expedite this arduous undertaking, they employ two thousand soldiers, and as many peasants. The former receive three reales a day, besides their usual pay, that is when they work by the day; but they work mostly by the piece. To regulate the prices, they have three tables, 1st, for the quality; 2d, the depth; 3d, the distance; all founded on experiments. The qualities are, 1st, sand; 2d, soft clay; 3d, hard clay; 4th. loose schist; 5th, hard schist, and solid rock; of which, they make three distinctions, viz. such as can be worked, 1st, by the pick and shovel; 2d, by wedges and sledges; 3d, by boring and by blast. This last again is subject to distinctions.

The

The canal is nine feet deep, twenty feet wide at bottom, and fifty-six at top.

When this canal is perfected, which may be in less than thirty years, the world, perhaps, will have nothing of the kind to be compared with it, either in point of workmanship, of extent, or of utility. The two first speak for themselves; the last can be obvious only to those who have seen this country. To say nothing of coals, to be carried from the Asturias to the south, and of manufactures which might then be established in Castille, and find a ready market by the Bay of Biscay, the excellent wines of that sandy province, now scarcely paying for cultivation, would not only find a ready sale, but would be in the highest estimation; the oils would fetch their price, both for the table and for soap; and the corn, which in abundant seasons proves the ruin of the farmer, would be a source of opulence, and stimulate his industry to fresh exertions.

For want of such an outlet, provinces designed by nature to rejoice in plenty, and to furnish abundance for exportation, are often reduced to famine, and obliged to purchase

corn from the surrounding nations. Considering such undertakings, and seeing them either languish for want of men and money, or not carried on with a spirit answerable to their vast importance, how natural is it to execrate the madness and folly of mankind, so often engaged in prosecuting unprofitable wars, from motives of covetousness, or from the most idle jealousy and groundless apprehensions; spending those treasures for the molestation and abasement of their neighbours, which might be more profitably employed for their own emolument and exaltation, if expended in agricultural improvements, and the general fomentation of their industry. The whole annual expence of this canal is not equal to the construction of one ship of the line. Nay, we may venture to assert, that the men and money absurdly spent by Spain in the prosecution of the last war, would have finished forty canals equal to that I have been describing. The discussion would be long, but the proof is easy. Money is soon reckoned, if we omit the multiplied calculations needful to estimate its value according to the various channels in which it flows,

flows, and the purposes for which it is employed; but men are easily overlooked; yet not one of these who falls in the vigour of his age, can be reckoned, even in the first instance, at less than forty pounds, without taking into consideration the contingent injury in the loss of a subject, who might have lived to become the parent of a numerous offspring.

Before I left Valladolid I enquired into the price of provisions. In this city, beef and mutton are twelve quarts the pound of sixteen ounces; and bread is five quarts; wine is about a halfpenny the English pint. It must always be remembered, that eight quarts and an half make a real.

I cannot quit this city without making mention of a practice which the marquis de Mos assures me is common in Galicia. He tells me, that in pleurifies they give the seeds of ivy, bruised, to the quantity of two tea spoonfulls, repeated every eight hours, and that this simple medicine has been found to be infallible. I report it upon his authority, having never since had occasion to prescribe it.

Thursday, *July 27*, we left Valladolid at

five in the morning, and ascending gradually a limestone hill for about half a league, we came to an extensive plain, fertile in corn, but not well cultivated; yet some of the farmers upon this rich loomy soil, this mixture of clay, sand, and calcareous earth, have most luxuriant crops. The thistles are rampant, more than eight feet high. The country is open, and void of trees; excepting near one little convent, which enjoys the extensive shade of a few lofty elms.

Before noon, we came to a village, comprising seventy miserable cottages, called *la Mudarra*, built upon a fine limestone rock. Its situation is healthy; yet these seventy families contain only one hundred and twenty souls.

As we advance along the plain, towards Medina de Rio Seco, at the distance of about seven or eight leagues, the limestone rock becomes more destitute of soil.

Medina de Rio Seco already feels the influence of the canal, for though it still wears the face of misery in its buildings, yet the people seem more alert, and farther removed from that torpid indolence so visible

ble in other villages of Old and New Castille. Trade is increasing, and manufactures begin to flourish, particularly those of serge. It is to be lamented, that the silk ribbon weavers should waste their labour, by not adopting the modern improvement of the loom. The surrounding country abounds with corn and wine, and improves in the cultivation of the olive. All these commodities, with the manufactures, and the easy transport by the canal, have invited merchants to open houses, and to bring new capitals into circulation here.

Medina had formerly seven thousand houses; it has now only twelve hundred; but, as these contain more than eight thousand souls, it is evident that trade is brisk. Here are four convents for men, two for women, three parish churches, with forty priests. The churches are all good; that of S. Maria is elegant, with a lofty roof, highly finished, and supported by well proportioned pillars. In this church the *Custodia* is solid silver, and weighs more than one hundred weight. The church of *St. Francisco* is rich in relics; but this, it must be confessed, is a perishable commodity.

From hence to *Manfilla*, eleven leagues and an half, the country is all level, open, rich, and productive of both corn and wine; abounding in villages, and occupied by husbandmen. The route we took was through *Cedinos*, *Vecilla*, *Alvires*, *Matallana*, and *Santas Martas*. The former of these includes an hundred mud-wall cottages, and two churches; *Vecilla*, one hundred and sixty such miserable habitations, with two churches, and six priests. This belongs to the Count of Altamira, a grandee of Spain. *Mayorga* has now only six hundred and fifty such cottages; and although formerly it numbered seventeen thousand, no traces of these remain. It is divided into eight parishes, and maintains twenty-four priests. Here are three convents, and one hospital. This town belongs to the young dutchess de Benevente. *Alvires* is wretched; *Matallana*, more so; *Santas Martas*, but little better; and *Manfilla* has no room to boast. All are equally of mud wall, and mouldering away.

The *trillo* is every where at work, some with oxen, others with mules. The plough resembles the last mentioned, and exhibits
a want

a want of intercourse with more enlightened provinces. The cart wheels have neither nave, nor spokes, nor felloes; but are only planks fastened together, and turning with the axis. This usually is eight inches in diameter. About Manfilla the wheels are bound with iron. We see only oxen in the teams.

Manfilla was once fortified, as may be seen by the round towers still remaining. It contains four hundred families, one convent, and one hermitage. Here the dutchess of Alba appoints the magistrates.

From *Manfilla* the face of the country changes. On crossing the *Ezla* we find meadows, inclosures, and a variety of trees, chiefly poplars, elms, and walnuts; then passing among hills composed of sand, clay, and gravel, rounded by fluctuating waters, we fall down upon a rich valley, at the head of which stands *Leon*, protected by high mountains from the north.

We went immediately to the house of don Felix Getino, a canon of the cathedral, nearly related to my young friend, where we met with a most hospitable reception.

Leon contains fifteen hundred families, with six thousand one hundred and seventy souls, distributed in thirteen parishes, with four hundred and twenty priests, a cathedral, two royal foundations of S. Isidro and S. Marcos, besides nine convents, with a *Beateria* for nuns who are not subjected to vows, a few hermitages, and some hospitals.

The cathedral is deservedly admired for its lightness and elegance. It is a gothic structure, with a lofty spire, highly finished, not only with basso relievo ornaments, but with open work transmitting light, and beautiful in its kind, resembling the finest point lace or filigree. The windows are all of painted glass. In the sacristy is a silver crucifix, with its canopy supported by four Corinthian pillars, near seven feet high, the whole of silver. The silver mount on which it stands is divided into compartments, each exhibiting some representation of the Passion in basso relievo. The custodia is more than six feet high, made of silver, and elegantly wrought with images. The bishop's revenue is 30,000 ducats, or about £. 3,295 sterling, per annum. The

canons

canons are forty, including always the king and the counts of Altamira.

When I came back from viewing the cathedral, I saw clearly that I had done something wrong, because our old canon, who had received me with a smile, now regarded me with horror, and even my young friend looked frightened. The fact was briefly this: having slit my nail, I inadvertently took out my knife, as I was walking, and pared it even. Had I been conscious of what I did, I should never have conceived that they, who spit in their churches without reserve, could have been offended. But before my return, the report had reached the good old man, and made him tremble; yet, upon my solemn declaration that I meant no insult, he became gradually calm, and, after some time, resumed his wonted smile.

The religious house, or, *Casa real de San Isidro*, has sixteen canons regular of St. Augustin. In their church are deposited the bones of the patron saint, in a large silver urn, and the bodies of all the kings of Leon, from Alfonzo IV. surnamed the Monk, to Bermudo III, the last king of
Leon,

Leon, together with the ashes of Ferdinand I. in whom the crowns of Castille and Leon were first united, and who died in the year 1067. Their library contains many valuable manuscripts.

The *Casa real de San Marcos* has a prior and sixteen canons, supported by a revenue of eighty thousand ducats, or about £. 8,789, per annum. The front of this religious house merits particular attention by all who visit Leon. Various pieces of sculpture in basso relievo are elegant, and highly finished. Two of these represent the Crucifixion, and the Taking down from the Cross. But one of the most striking figures, with respect to design, execution, and expression, is San Jago on horseback.

All the churches in this city, like those of Arragon, are crowded with pillars, and these pillars, nearly hid with most preposterous ornaments, such as vines, cherubs, angels, and birds, which are covered entirely with gold.

Leon, destitute of commerce, is supported by the church. Beggars abound in every street, fed by the convents, and at the bishop's palace. Here they get their
 § breakfast,

breakfast, there they dine. Besides food, at San Marcos they receive every other day, the men a farthing, the women and children half as much. On this provision they live, they marry, and they perpetuate a miserable race. An *hospicio*, or general workhouse, is almost ready to receive them; but should alms continue to be thus distributed, precisely the same number of lazy wretches will in time rise up to occupy the place of those, who shall be sent into confinement.

The surrounding country is bold and beautiful, but ill cultivated. It is watered by the Torio and Verneſga, two little streams, which unite below the city. These in summer might be called brooks, in winter they are torrents.

With the rolling stones, hurried down from the mountains by the impetuous raging of these torrents on the sudden melting of the winter's snow, a considerable part of the wall is built; forming a valuable collection for the naturalist, who wishes without labour to investigate the nature of the country. Among these are found limestone, schist, and grit. All these
prove,

prove, by their extraneous fossils, that the hills, from whence they come, were once in a state of dissolution, and covered by the sea. The best marble is brought from Nozedo, Robles, and Lillo. The two first are distant five, the latter eleven leagues from Leon.

All the corn mills of this country have horizontal water wheels.

Butchers meat is nearly half the price which is given at Madrid.

Beef sells for nine quarts the pound, of twenty ounces; which is a fraction under two pence sterling the pound of sixteen ounces.

Mutton, ten quarts ditto.

Bread, four quarts (or $1\frac{1}{2}$ penny) the pound of sixteen ounces; ditto mixed with rye, $2\frac{1}{4}$ quarts, or $\frac{4}{5}$ of a penny ditto.

Labour is three reales, or a small fraction more than seven pence a day; but artificers get double.

Tuesday, 1st *August*, having spent three days with our hospitable canon, we left Leon; my young friend and his attendant mounted on horses sent for him by his father, I on a good hired mule. We were escorted

escorted by some gentlemen who were related to my friend.

Our intention was to sleep at a convent, in a little village five leagues from Leon, called *Terras de las Dueñas*. For this purpose we began our journey at four in the afternoon, passing along the valley by the side of the Verneſga, and ascending towards the mountains, yet meeting nothing remarkable but large tumblers of grit or sandstone, till eleven in the evening, when, after riding smartly seven hours, we fell down upon our destined village.

Unfortunately for us, the nuns were gone to bed, and the porter would neither give us admittance, nor assist us with provisions. Having counted upon being, as usual, entertained for money at the convent, we had brought nothing with us; and instead of lively conversation with the lady abbess, who is famed for the sprightly sallies of her wit, instead of good wine, preceded by a good supper, and followed by good beds, we were obliged to retire without any thing to eat or drink but chocolate, to a miserable hovel in the village,
called

called a *posada*, where we however found two beds.

This adventure, from one circumstance, gave me peculiar pleasure, as thereby I had occasion to admire the generosity of my Spanish friends, who all occupied one bed, and left the other wholly to the stranger.

Early the next morning we took our chocolate, and pursued our journey, winding through the gorges of the mountains, and descending with the *Luna*, a little river famous for its trout.

These mountains are of schist, capped with marble.

As we advance, the rocks become more bold, the schist disappears, and the marble rises to the height of three or four hundred feet, often perpendicular, but sometimes overhanging to a considerable extent.

In every little opening of the mountains, wherever a valley spreads wide enough to afford pasture for some cows, we find a village of ten, fifteen, or twenty houses; their numbers always bearing proportion to the quantity of food; and as the human race every where makes strong efforts to increase, we find the inhabitants climbing the

the steep ascent, to cultivate every spot where the plough can pass.

Here most evidently their numbers must be limited, because their food is so; and were they to establish a community of goods, they must either cast lots who should emigrate, or they must all starve together; unless they chose rather to agree that two only in every family should marry, and when a cottage became vacant, could find means to settle, which of the expectants should unite to take possession of it.

This subject will be renewed whenever occasion shall present; but I have chosen thus briefly to discuss it in this place, because it is here confined within narrow limits; and being, like the first elements of every science, easily comprehended, may assist us in pursuing our researches on the extent of population, where its combinations are not quite so obvious.

In these little vallies flocks of goats shew the nature of the adjacent country.

After winding among these bare and rugged mountains nearly five leagues, exposed to a scorching sun, almost suffocated
with

with heat, weary, and ready to faint for want of air, we came under the shadow of a great rock, which, on account of its reviving freshness, we quitted with reluctance, and called to mind a poetic image, the force of which I had never felt before. The deepness of the shade, its vast extent, the distance from reflected heat, together with that degree of humidity which is needful to absorb and make latent the heat of the surrounding atmosphere, all this, and more than this, we find in one poetic image, "The shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

In more ways than one this rock gave employment to my thoughts. It was a grit or sandstone, remarkable for whiteness and the fineness of its grain. Had it been either schist or limestone, or had I found granite in the vicinity, I should not have been particularly struck with this rock; but upon finding grit, a wish arises in the mind to know from whence it came. That grit originates in decomposed granite I have no doubt; but then near to these mountains I can find no granite. This difficulty is not confined to the rock, under
 whose

whose shade these reflections rose up in my mind; it equally occurs in every country, but in no one is more striking than upon the Wiltshire downs, more especially near Aubury and Kennet, in the neighbourhood of Marlborough, where the great rolling stones of grit, called *sarcen* and *greywhethers*, cover the chalk to a great extent. Such phænomena will be the subject of a future discussion; but, for the present, it is time to turn our back upon this rock.

About the middle of the day we came to a village called *Truovana*, consisting of twenty-two miserable cottages, belonging to the monks of the *Escorial*. We dined at their farm-house, where bread is provided for their shepherds. The flock consists of twenty-eight thousand sheep, which in the summer feed upon these mountains, but in the winter travel to the south. To tend this flock they employ two hundred shepherds; and for the purpose of feeding these they have a little mill with an horizontal water-wheel, working day and night, and an oven which is never cold, baking bread

in the morning for the shepherds, and in the evening for their dogs.

The situation of this village is most romantic. It is a plain of no great extent, well wooded, well watered, and shut in by high mountains of marble, whose bare and rugged cliffs form a striking contrast with the rich verdure of the meadows, and of luxuriant crops of corn, whilst the images reflected from the smooth surface of a river, gliding near the village, give a brilliancy and perfection to the whole.

The elm, the ash, the poplar, and wild berberries, appear to be the trees most suited to the soil.

The natural beauties of the place made amends for the coarseness of our fare. Had we proceeded, half a mile, to Villafetano, we should have been not only received with hospitality, but entertained with elegance, by don Ignatio Horenzano, lord of the village.

His habitation is rather neat than magnificent, but the situation is perfectly enchanting; much resembling Truovana, only it is upon a larger scale. It is not possible

to see meadows better watered, or richer than those of this delightful vale.

Notwithstanding we had so lately dined, we were compelled to eat some cakes, with sweetmeats, and to drink some wine. When we had finished our refreshment, we found it difficult to get away without taking up our lodging for the night; but, as it was not consistent with our plan to stay, we hastened our departure, and proceeding along a valley, which is no where wider than four hundred yards, and shut in by high mountains, we followed the winding of a river to Piedrafita, where, in the house of don Cortheca Garcia de Atocha, we had no reason to repent our having declined the pressing invitations at Villafetano.

Piedrafita, a little village containing forty-six houses, is fed by a little valley, and surrounded on every side by mountains. The shepherds dogs are large and strong, well qualified to engage the wolves, which are here in great abundance. They wear a spiked collar to protect the neck, and to prevent the wolf from fixing on that mortal part.

It is curious to see the women churning

as they walk along, or stand chatting with a neighbour, each with a leather bag, in which they shake the cream till the butter is completely formed.

From this village we did not take the direct road to Oviedo, being diverted from the usual route by a work of piety, to be performed in compliance with a vow made by the mother of my friend with her departing breath. This son, her first born, was then at Barcelona with his regiment, but although absent she bound him with a solemn vow, that before he should return into his native province, he should prostrate himself before the altar of *nostra Señora de Carrasconte*, where he should pay four reales for a mass, and give twenty to the poor. To fulfil this intention, we ascended many miles among the mountains, till we reached a little village almost lost in clouds, from whence, having accomplished the fond parent's vow, we returned by the same way, about one league, to find the proper road.

Among these mountains I was exceedingly surpris'd to see, on the third of August, snow still remaining undissolved, and
not

not far removed from luxuriant crops of corn then fully ripe, and bending to the sickle.

All the dogs in the little villages through which we pass have spiked collars. These are absolutely needful, because wolves abound in these elevated regions. In winter they become ravenous and bold; but even in summer they commit frequent ravages among the flocks by night, if either the shepherd or his dog are sleeping soundly.

The basis of all these mountains is schist, every where covered with limestone, chiefly blue. The rocks are wonderfully rent; the strata are inclined in every possible direction; and the whole country appears to have been convulsed. Sometimes the schist appears elevated above the level of the adjacent mountains, still capped with its limestone; at other times the inferior mountains seem to be all of limestone, yet in the deep ravins they discover schist; but upon none of them do we find the least trace of granite.

At the Puerto de Somiedo, where the

waters part, are a few miserable cottages, which give name to the pass.

From this we descend by a deep ravin, which discovers its native schist, but hurries down from a higher level vast rocks of limestone charged with fossil shells. Here we find ourselves engulfed, as it were, by stupendous rocks; but where the country opens to the north, we look down upon mountains beyond mountains, to the distance of many miles, so astonishingly numerous, that the whole bears a perfect resemblance to the ocean when it is vexed with a furious storm. Immediately before us, where the little village of Gua appears as if ready to be swallowed up and buried by the waves, the impending rocks are magnificent beyond description.

Lower down, at the distance of a mile, is *la Pola de Somiedo*, a village of one and twenty cottages, occupying a small eminence, surrounded by about fourscore acres of well watered meadows, and shut in by limestone rocks of a most stupendous height. Had Shakespeare ever passed this way, his imagination would never have looked towards

Dover

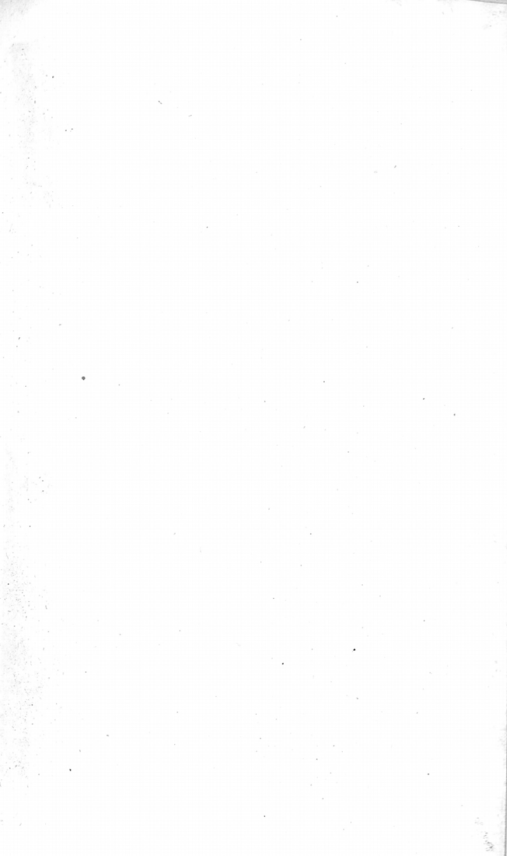
Dover cliff. This village, with its meadows, the little river, and high mountains, either naked and almost perpendicular, or covered with hanging woods, the goats leaping from rock to rock, and the cattle feeding peaceably below; these altogether make a pleasing picture.

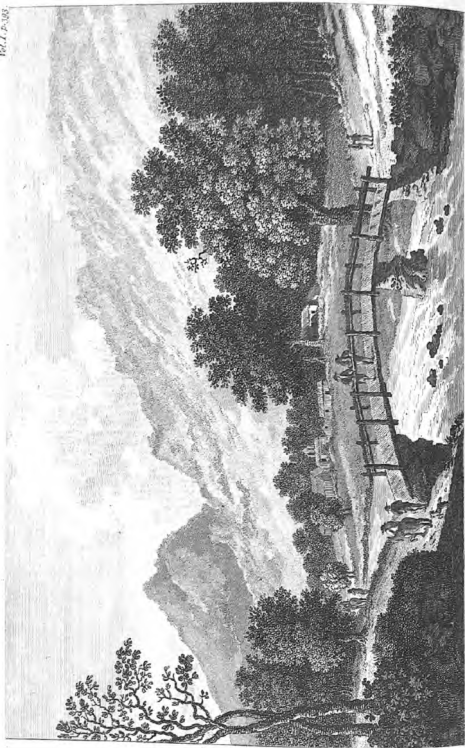
I had sufficient time to exercise both my imagination and my pencil, for in this charming village we could get neither bread nor meat, nor eggs nor wine: as for meat and wine, these are delicacies they seldom taste.

The ravin, through which our little river winds its course, alternately widens and contracts, being sometimes not more than two yards across, but, even where it is widest, never more than six hundred feet; sometimes sloping, and leaving a few acres for cultivation; at other times steep, and inaccessible, except to goats; often rugged and bare, but not unfrequently covered thick with a variety of trees, such as oak, ash, beech, filberts, walnuts, chesnuts, and that even where they have no visible soil in which to fix their roots. The rocks themselves are beautiful, more especially when

the smooth white marble is almost hid by foliage. Nearer to the water's edge, plumbs, mulberries, and figs, vary the scene, and mark the vicinity to some little village. The way among these rocks is wild beyond all imagination: sometimes in the bottom and by the river's side, at other times climbing the steep ascent, or descending from the heights, having on one hand a precipice of two or three hundred feet beneath, and on the other impending rocks, which threaten destruction to the traveller. Sometimes the river is pinched in between two rocks, and is out of sight; at other times a man looks down, and catches a glimpse of it sparkling among the branches; but, whether visible or invisible, it is always heard roaring in the bottom. The way being rugged, and so narrow as to admit only of one mule, occasions the apprehension of danger to be often more than a balance for the pleasure, which would otherwise arise from these wild and most romantic views.

Near the level of the river, at the distance of two leagues from the Pola de Somiedo, the marble is charged with belemnites;





nites; but soon after the limestone disappears, being succeeded by the grit, or sandstone, some finely granulated, and almost equal to the Turkey stone for smoothness; other coarse, and evidently composed of fragments, being a species of pudding-stone with both cement and charge filicious.

At the end of four leagues, or a little more than four hours riding, we came to *S. Andres de Aguera*, being still in the same ravin, which here expands, and admits of more extensive villages.

To descend into the Asturias, from the kingdoms of Castille and Leon, there are other passes; but, I apprehend, every one of them is strong.

From this circumstance we may readily conceive, not only why the Moors, who, in three years, had subdued the rest of Spain, could penetrate no further to the north, but why, upon the turning of the tide, the vanquished never failed to make an impression, and to push forward their conquests to the south. The jealousy of two weak and vicious princes had disarmed the nation, and left nothing to resist the impetuosity of its

A. D. 700
and 711.

its

its fierce invaders, who, with their light cavalry, scoured all the open country, and displayed their victorious banners on the banks of all the principal rivers in the kingdom. But when they came to this chain of mountains, which, stretching east and west, and separating the north of Galicia, with the Asturias, Biscay, and Guipuscoa, from the rest of Spain, had impeded the progress of nations equally warlike, of the Carthaginians, the Romans, and the Goths, their light horse became absolutely useless, and the Moors were obliged to set bounds to their ambition.

Here they were opposed by the infant don Palayo, On the death of Rodrigo, who was slain in battle before A. D. 714. Xeres, not far from Cadiz, this prince had retired to the mountains, and by his valour secured the small remains of a vast empire for his posterity. And here the hardy race was formed, which, in succeeding ages, descending on the degenerate offspring of the Moors, drove them from the plains, and, in process of time, that is, after a contest of seven hundred

dred and eighty years, expelled them from every fortress in the kingdom.

When we came to *S. Andres de Aguera*, we took up our lodging at the parsonage, where the good *Padre Cura* gave us a most hospitable reception. This living was given him by the bishop of Oviedo, and is reckoned one of the best in his disposal. The parsonage is a tolerable cottage, built and fitted up with little regard to comfort, and less to appearance. Ascending five steps of unhewn stone, you enter a dark vestibule of about three feet square, which leads to the little kitchen on the left, or, if turning to the right, it conducts you to the hall. The former needs no description; the latter is fourteen feet by twelve, with a rough floor, white walls, no ceiling; the furniture is an oak table, and two benches. This hall communicates with the study, a little room of six feet by five; and with the bed chamber, which is six feet square, but this has no window, being placed between the study and the vestibule. Under the study is a cellar, well stored with bags of wine, to which you descend through a trap door of small dimensions. The two maids sleep in
a little

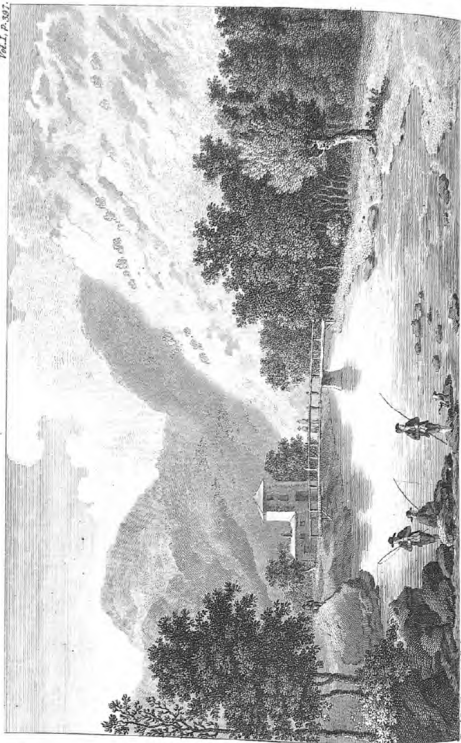
a little bed-room joining to their kitchen, and the assistant priest, in a little hovel out of the house, that, if sent for in the night, he may rise without disturbing the good rector.

As soon as we arrived, we had chocolate and biscuits. At night, some fat fowls, with plenty of good wine, made us amends for our sufferings at noon. The best bed was given to the stranger, and the hospitable priest contrived some how or other to lodge all the rest.

The day following was Friday, and therefore a fast; but that made no difference to me, for this young priest was so polite and attentive as to provide a fowl. At dinner he gave me occasion to admire his discretion: he wished me to taste the trout, as being the produce of the Luna, a river remarkable for trout; but the *homme d'affaire* of my young friend pulled away the dish, and said, "He can not eat fish, because he has been eating flesh." "True," said the priest, "we catholics must not touch fish on a fast day, if we have been eating flesh, but your friend is under no such obligation."

This





View of the University at Bonn

Aguerina, & the habitation of Cardin. Cuyfeger.

Source of the Rhine

This parish contains one hundred and fifty families, consisting of seven hundred communicants, besides children under ten years old, scattered in nine little villages, of which seven are on the mountains, and two in this valley. With so many villages, the occasional duty is exceedingly severe in winter, when the whole country is covered deep with snow. The births are thirty, and the burials twenty-five, upon the average.

A little lower down the valley stands *Aguerina*, where we see the habitation of cardinal Cienfuegos, with the little cottage in which he was born; but no modern cardinal would pass a day in either.

Upon all these mountains the people affect brown cloth, and the women spin with a distaff. Their industry is most striking; not as the offspring of luxury, as in more favoured regions, but as the child of poverty and of severe necessity. Not one accessible spot is left uncultivated, and even the most ungrateful soil is forced to pay some tribute. The higher lands are sown with wheat, the lower lands with Indian corn. The rock here is limestone, and, when burnt, is their principal manure.

In

In this country as much land as a pair of oxen can plough in a day, or about half an acre, is worth one hundred ducats, or £.11 sterling, nearly; and the rent of this they reckon should be one fanega of wheat, or fifty-six pounds of bread, of twenty-four ounces to the pound.

Having nothing else to do, I amused myself with making drawings of Aguera and of Aguerina; after which I went with our good rector to his church, to view the body of S. Fructuoso. It is to this body that thieves and murderers fly for protection from the avenging sword; and should they even reach the porch before they are taken, justice is disarmed, and they may here dwell in safety. The church, indeed, may give them up, but not to death. Such an asylum in the Asturias does little harm, because the inhabitants excel in gentleness and simplicity of manners; but, in other provinces, this privilege is attended with the most fatal consequences.

On the mountains, I am told, are not only wolves, but bears, and a species of the tiger; all which, in the winter, are exceedingly ferocious. From the dread of these,
the

the shepherds constantly drive their flocks, consisting of sheep and goats, into the villages by night; and when they are feeding on the mountains, they are attended by strong dogs with spiked collars.

The price of provisions:

Beef, eight quarts a pound of twenty-four ounces, which is three halfpence for sixteen ounces.

Mutton, ten quarts, or $1\frac{1}{8}$ penny for sixteen ounces.

Bread, five quarts, or $\frac{3}{4}$ penny ditto.

Labour, four reales, or $9\frac{1}{8}$ penny a day.

Saturday, 5 *August*, we left Aguera at four in the morning, and continued to descend three leagues in the same ravin, which might here be called a valley, and by the side of the same rapid stream, which we had traced from its origin near the summit of this vast chain of mountains. At a most romantic spot, called *Belmonte*, we passed over to the east, quitted the ravin, and began crossing all the masures of the country. Here we found nearly the same trees

as in the few preceding days; the filbert, chefnut, walnut, and the oak.

Ascending for near an hour, we reached the summit of a mountain, which commands a vast extent of country. This sudden change, after having been so long confined within the precincts of a deep ravin, was like a resurrection from the dead. We began to breathe more freely, and looked round with pleasure to contemplate a new world before us; the whole country, with its verdure, its inclosures, and its produce, resembled some of the richest parishes of England, and the little hills clothed with corn, or covered with wood, seemed to rejoice on every side.

The prevailing rock is limestone; yet we find schist even on the highest of these hills.

About the middle of the day we descended to a circular plain of considerable extent, every where shut in by mountains, and watered by a little stream, on the banks of which, nearly in the centre of the plain, is the village of *Grado*. From hence, after dinner, passing with the river between two high

high rocks, we pursued our way for some time along contracted vallies, then climbing from hill to hill we entered the fertile plain, at the head of which stands the city of Oviedo, and about sun-set arrived at the bishop's palace, the place of our destination.

The expences of this journey were as follow:

A calasine to Valladolid, being thirty-two leagues, or about one hundred and sixty miles, reckoned at five days out, one for rest, and four for return, in all ten days; with fee to the driver, two hundred and eighty-four reales.

Ditto to Leon, for half a calash, one hundred reales.

A mule to Oviedo, five days, and return, one hundred and twenty reales.

Provisions from Madrid to Oviedo, one-third, being my proportion, two hundred and seventy-two reales. The whole expence therefore in sterling was £.7. 14s. 7½d. for a journey, which, if direct, would have been eighty-two leagues, but which, as I suppose, we made more than ninety leagues, or about four hundred and fifty miles, and

in which, as we travelled, we employed fifteen days. The common expence, in this part of Spain, may be reckoned, for a calafine, 5s. 6d. a day, allowing as much for the return, and about five shillings a day for living, not including the califero, who pays for himself.

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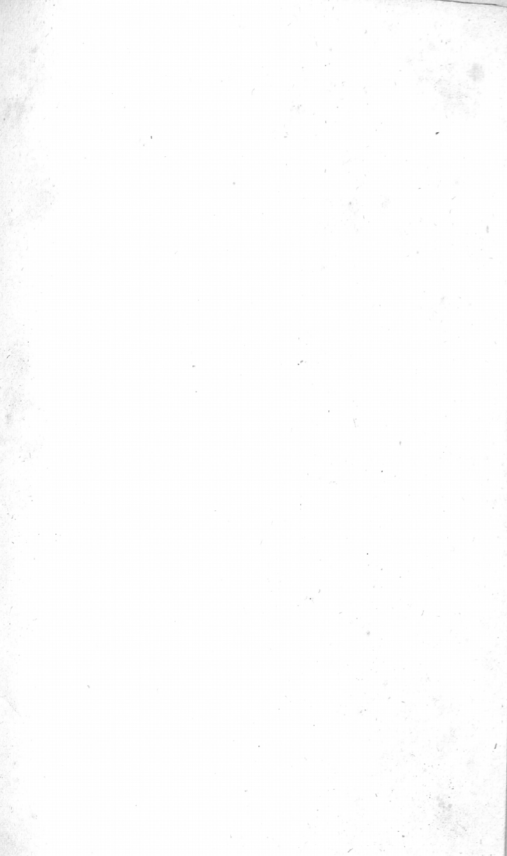
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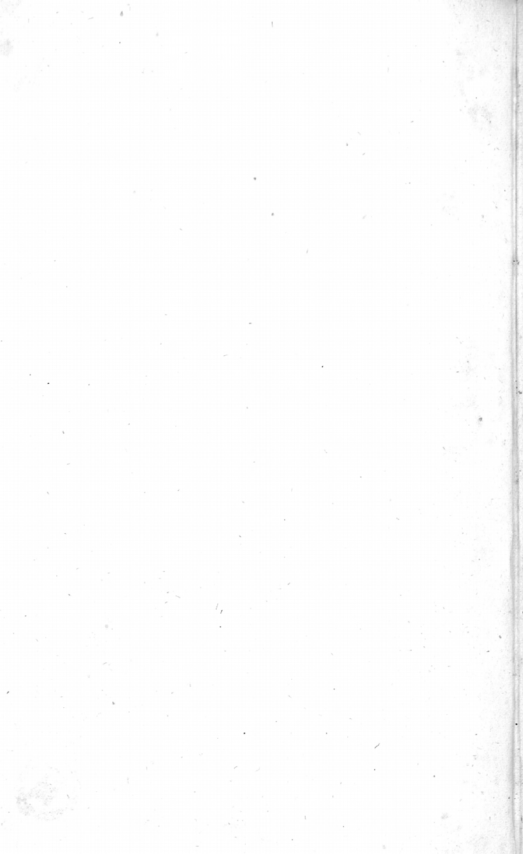
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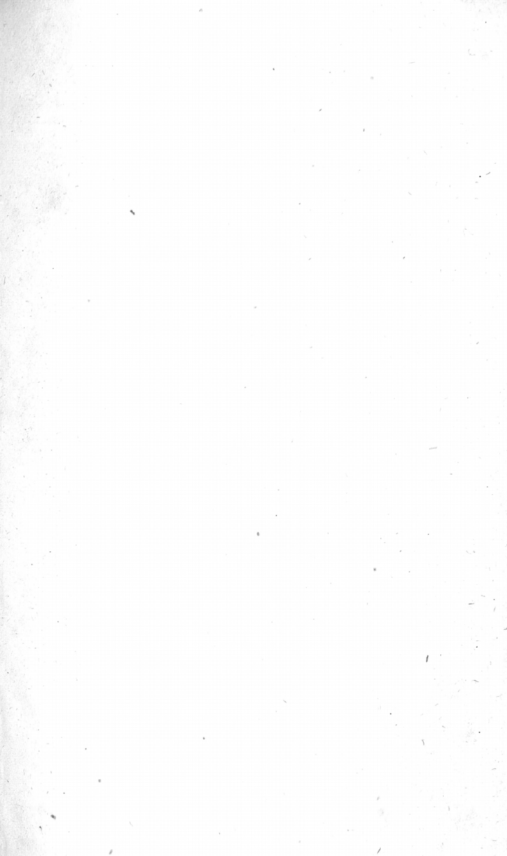
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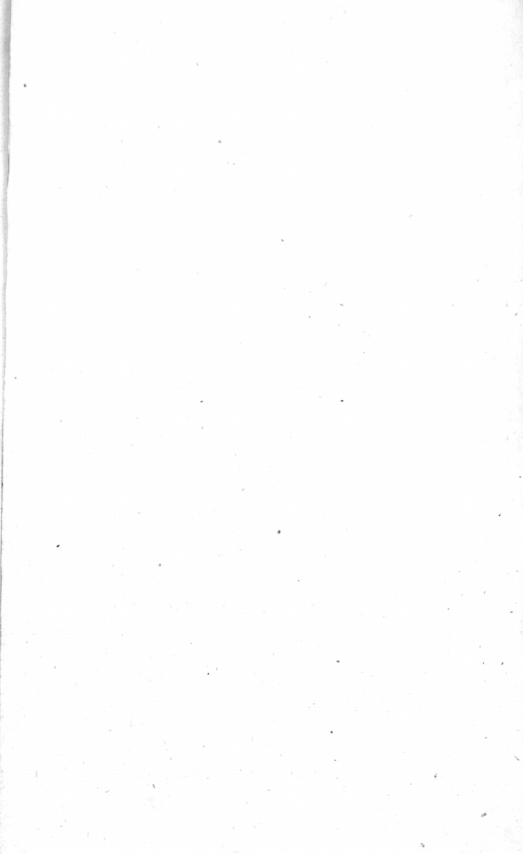
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